

= Masterpiece (Madonna song) =

" Masterpiece " is a song by American singer Madonna for the soundtrack of the 2011 film W.E. The song was later included on her twelfth studio album MDNA (2012) . It served official radio release in the United Kingdom on April 2 , 2012 , to promote the album . Madonna composed the song alongside Julie Frost and Jimmy Harry , and produced it with William Orbit . " Masterpiece " is a midtempo pop ballad which is reminiscent of her works from the 1990s . The song garnered positive reviews from contemporary critics , who praised its lyrical content and Madonna 's vocal performance .

" Masterpiece " won the Best Original Song category at the 69th Golden Globe Awards , but was deemed ineligible for the similar category at the 84th Academy Awards . Its Golden Globe nomination sparked a red carpet rivalry between Madonna and singer Elton John . " Masterpiece " peaked at number one in Russia , while reaching the lower regions of the charts in the Czech Republic , Japan , South Korea and the United Kingdom . It was performed by Madonna on The MDNA Tour (2012) , where she was accompanied by Basque musicians Kalakan trio . The performance was considered a highlight of the tour .

= = Writing and development = =

" Masterpiece " was composed by Madonna , Julie Frost and Jimmy Harry and produced by Madonna and William Orbit . When Madonna was directing her film W.E. , her manager Guy Oseary persuaded the singer to compose a song for the soundtrack . Frost was living in Los Angeles at that time and was assessing her priorities in the music world , and wanted to collaborate with a number of artists , Madonna being the first . " She is an icon " , Frost said , " But most importantly she has some of the best Pop songs in the history of music ... so yeah it 's always a dream to work with people like her . " Orbit , who was working with Frost and Harry on an assignment , contacted them for collaborating with Madonna on " Masterpiece " . He had heard Frost 's initial composition of the song and knew that Madonna would love it . According to Frost the theme explained to them was about bittersweet love and the hardships felt being in a relationship . Madonna , Frost and Harry sat together with this idea and brainstormed and came up with the lyrics and the melody . Over time , Madonna changed the structure of the song and the final version was ready for recording . Madonna recalled :

" [Guy Oseary] harangued me for the entire time I was filming and editing my movie to write a song . And I said , ' Please , Guy , I 'm trying to focus on being a director and I want people to pay attention to the film and I don 't have time . ' So then I finished the film and I started making my record and somehow magically and miraculously the song emerged , ' Masterpiece , ' so thank you , Guy Oseary , for being so irritating . "

= = Recording and composition = =

" Masterpiece " is a midtempo pop ballad featuring basic recording and production by Orbit . It was recorded in two locations , 3 : 20 Studios , Los Angeles , California and MSR Studios , New York , New York . Madonna reflected on the recording sessions with Orbit : " We 've worked on stuff for so many years that we kind of finish each other 's sentences . He knows my taste and what I like . Magic happens when we get into a recording studio together . " Additional production came from Harry , who also played acoustic guitars , keyboards , vocoder and did the programming for the track . Demacio " Demo " Castellon mixed and engineered the song with help from Frank Filipetti , while Angie Teo did additional engineering and editing . Other personnel working on " Masterpiece " was Ron Taylor who did protocols editing and further editing from Stephen " The Koz " Kozmeniuk .

In " Masterpiece " , Madonna sings about the pain of being in love with someone who is a great work of art , with the lyrics including " If you were the Mona Lisa , You 'd be hanging in the Louvre , Everyone would come to see you , You 'd be impossible to move . " Madonna said the song describes Wallis Simpson and is " about a woman who has fallen in love with this untouchable thing

, this man that was raised to be king . One of the lines of the song ' it must be so hard to always be the chosen one . ' At the end of the day nothing is indestructible , no matter how high you might rise in the world you are still a human being . " Marc Schneider from Billboard described " Masterpiece " as a slowed @-@ down , moody ballad that showcases strong execution of vocals from Madonna . He described the production as " simple , direct and reminiscent of her sound in the 1990s " . The lyrics were described as emotional , and was comparable to the film 's love story , with the chorus as follows : " And I 'm right by your side , Like a thief in the night , I stand in front of a masterpiece . And I can 't tell you why it hurts so much to be in love with a masterpiece . ' Cause after all , nothing 's indestructible " .

= = Critical response = =

" Masterpiece " received generally positive reviews from music critics . Bradley Stern from MTV wrote that " with its poetic lyrics and gorgeous orchestration , " Masterpiece " is an instant classic addition to Madonna 's back catalog of stellar balladry . " Another review from MTV stated that " the song doesn 't follow Madonna 's usual style of sexy , energetic and mischievous [sic] , rather it shows Madge 's wisdom of naked beauty with stripped down vocals , strong penned lyrics and haunting melodies . " Michael Cragg from The Guardian praised the song as one of the best vocal performances on MDNA . Neil McCormick from The Daily Telegraph described the song as " sweet , gentle love song with a Spanish guitar loop , a light beat and flowing melody , filled out by synthetic strings . " Keith Caulfield from Billboard felt that the song is " very pretty " and Madonna vocals are " lovely " .

Kyle Anderson of Entertainment Weekly described the song as a throwback to Madonna 's mid @-@ 1990s style . Nick Levine from The National felt that the song would slot neatly onto her 1995 ballads compilation Something to Remember . Blogcritics editor Tyrone S. Reid called the song a " slow @-@ burning instant classic , " which recalls Madonna 's Ray of Light era . A writer for Idolator website said that the song 's minimal production " remind [s] us very much of Madge 's American Life days , allowing us to focus on the lovely lyrics and Madonna 's gorgeous vocals . All in all , a terrific effort that bodes well for [MDNA] . " Robert Copsey from Digital Spy felt that the song 's production is more " organic " and " it doesn 't try to be anything other than a solid pop song . "

= = Accolades = =

On January 15 , 2012 , " Masterpiece " won the Best Original Song category at the 69th Golden Globe Awards . Its nomination sparked rivalrous comments on the red carpet from fellow singer Elton John , whose song ? " Hello , Hello " from Gnomeo & Juliet ? was also nominated in the category . John told host Carson Daly that Madonna " hasn 't got a fucking chance " of winning the award . When Madonna later had her red carpet interview with Daly , she took swipes at John 's masculinity first , asking about his wardrobe : " Was he wearing a dress ? " and after being informed of his comments stating , " May the best man win " .

Subsequent to the announcement , John 's husband , David Furnish , opined on his personal Facebook page that " Madonna winning Best Original Song truly shows how these awards have nothing to do with merit " . Madonna commented backstage : " I hope [Elton John] speaks to me for the next couple of years . He 's been known to get mad at me so I don 't know . He 's brilliant and I adore him so he 'll win another award . I don 't feel bad ! " Three days later Furnish recanted his comments saying , " My passion for our film Gnomeo & Juliet and belief in Elton 's song really got my emotional juices going , " and continuing by wishing her well on the premiere of W.E.

" Masterpiece " was ineligible for the Best Original Song category at the 84th Academy Awards , since it was not " used either in the body of the film , or as the ' first music cue ' in the closing credits (i.e. the first song that plays once the screen fades to black) . " It was used too late in the film credits to be eligible . " Masterpiece " was also nominated for Best Original Song Written Directly for a Film at the 2012 World Soundtrack Awards , but lost to Albert Nobbs theme " Lay Your Head Down " by Brian Byrne and Glenn Close .

= = Chart performance = =

" Masterpiece " was released to radio stations the United Kingdom on April 2 , 2012 . The song reached number 25 on the UK Airplay Chart with 26 @.@ 60 million audience impressions and 660 plays on radio during the eleventh week of 2012 . The song later debuted at number 68 on the UK Singles Chart for issue date of April 7 , 2012 , due to digital download of the track from MDNA . The next week was its final appearance on the chart , dropping at number 87 . In Japan , the song debuted at number 77 on the Japan Hot 100 chart on the issue date of February 13 , 2012 and remained on the chart for one week . The song also debuted on the Japanese Hot Top Airplay at number 58 as well as on the Digital and Airplay Overseas at number 19 . In Czech Republic , the song debuted at number 83 on the official airplay chart for the ninth week of 2012 . It peaked at number 58 in its seventh week and stayed on the chart for 12 weeks . In South Korea , the song debuted at number 147 on the Gaon International Downloads Chart with sales of 2 @,@ 516 copies . The song achieved its strongest chart performance in Russia , where it topped the Russian Music Charts in the week of December 2 , 2012 . It became the sixth most successful song of 2012 with 409 @,@ 334 radio plays across Russia .

= = Live performance = =

Madonna performed " Masterpiece " at The MDNA Tour in 2012 . It was a part of the second segment of the concert , titled Prophecy , where a mix of joyful songs that " bring people together " were performed . The wardrobe during the performance included an all @-@ leather look , a custom design by Hervé Léger and Max Azria , with knee @-@ high boots and a mini fur bolero . After finishing an energetic performance of " Open Your Heart " , Madonna is joined by Basque musicians Kalakan trio and they perform a Basque song called " Sagarra Jo " . After that , Madonna sat down to sing an acoustic guitar , fiddle , and beat @-@ based version of " Masterpiece " , as clips from W.E. appeared in the backdrops . The Kalakan trio backed the singer during the performance , while her dancers accompanied Madonna on stage , dressed as soldiers . The performance of the song at the November 19 ? 20 , 2012 , shows in Miami , at the American Airlines Arena were recorded and released in Madonna 's fourth live album , MDNA World Tour .

Sarah Rodman from The Boston Globe felt that the addition of the Kalakan trio " enriched " the song , which was already a stand @-@ out track from MDNA . Journalist Liz Smith wrote in her blog for The Huffington Post that Madonna 's vocals , when she sings live is " effective and moving " , especially in the performance of " Masterpiece " . This view was shared by Dean Piper from Daily Mirror . The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution 's Melissa Ruggieri considered it the show 's highlight , while a writer for The Glasgow Herald felt that the performance invigorated Madonna 's artistic side .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Management

Recorded at 3 : 20 Studios , Los Angeles , California and MSR Studios , New York

Webco Girl Publishing , Inc . (ASCAP) , EMI April Music Inc . , Totally Famous Music and Curvature Music (ASCAP) ,

Personnel

Madonna ? songwriter , producer , vocals

Julie Frost ? songwriter

Jimmy Harry ? songwriter , additional production , acoustic guitars , keyboards , vocoder , programming

William Orbit ? producer

Demacio " Demo " Castellon ? mixing , engineering

Frank Filipetti ? engineering

Angie Teo ? engineering , additional editing
Ron Taylor ? protocols editing
Stephen " The Koz " Kozmeniuk ? additional editing
Credits and personnel adapted from the liner notes of MDNA .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =