

= Another Suitcase in Another Hall =

" Another Suitcase in Another Hall " is a song recorded by Scottish singer Barbara Dickson , for the 1976 concept album , *Evita* , which contains songs from the musical of the same name . The musical was based on the life of Argentinian leader Eva Perón . Written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber , the song is presented during a sequence where Eva throws out her husband 's mistress on the streets . The latter sings the track , wondering about her future and coming to the conclusion that she would be fine . Dickson was enlisted by the songwriters to record the track after hearing her previous work .

Rice and Webber asked her to record the song using a higher than usual pitch , so that she sounded younger like her character . Featuring instrumentation from guitar , marimba , harp and keyboard , " Another Suitcase in Another Hall " finds Dickson singing in a soprano voice . Critically appreciated , the song was released as a single on 7 February 1977 , and reached number 18 on the UK Singles Chart . Dickson has stated that she did not like her recorded version of the track and employed a different arrangement during her future live renditions .

The song has been covered and performed many times by other artists , namely Elaine Paige , Marti Webb , Kimberley Walsh from British girl group Girls Aloud , as well as actress Samantha Barks . Another notable version was recorded by American singer Madonna who played the part of Eva for the 1996 film adaptation of the musical . It was released on 3 March 1997 , by Warner Bros. as the third and final single from the film 's soundtrack . Unlike the musical , in the film the track was sung by Madonna 's character instead of the mistress . Upon its release , the song garnered positive response from music critics and reached the top @-@ ten of the charts in Italy and the United Kingdom .

= = Background and recording = =

" Another Suitcase in Another Hall " was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice while they were developing the *Evita* for Broadway in 1976 . Both were extremely intrigued by the stories surrounding the life of Eva Perón while researching about her during the mid @-@ 1970s . They came to know about her husband Juan Perón , and his affinity for young women , and Rice and Webber decided to use it as one of the backstories behind Eva and Juan 's rise to power . In the original musical , the song is performed by the character of Juan 's teenage mistress (played by Siobhán McCarthy) after she is " kicked out " by his future wife , Eva . According to director Michael Grandage , the story took the " edge off " a supposed fairy tale like interpretation of Eva and Juan , unveiling their ambitions and cut @-@ throat personality . From a production point @-@ of @-@ view , it also allowed Grandage to show ruthlessness of Eva , when Juan allows her to throw his " mistress " away . The girl is ultimately left on the streets with nowhere to go , and there she sings the song .

It is a particularly poignant melody that should play with an audience 's emotions . The mistress clearly knew what she was doing sleeping with an older man , and yet there is something expletive about it as well . Eva 's bitchiness should be enjoyed by an audience , but they should also be investing in the plight of a young girl 's eviction . The narrative of this section is so well structured that it is obvious the journey of the mistress is complete by her exit . This allows the audience to invest in a single moment while also learning more about Eva and Peron 's character as they move forward in the story .

" Another Suitcase in Another Hall " was first recorded by singer Barbara Dickson in 1976 for the *Evita* concept album that eventually became the stage musical ; Dickson did not appear in the musical itself . Rice and Webber had already enlisted actress Julie Covington to sing the part of Eva , hence they were on the look @-@ out for other supporting vocal personnel . They found about Dickson who had recently starred in the Willy Russell musical , *John , Paul , George , Ringo ... and Bert* , and had charted on the UK Singles Chart with her cover version of the David Whitfield and Frankie Laine song , " Answer Me " (1976) . Dickson and her manager , Bernard Theobald , had a discussion with Rice and Webber about starring in the musical , but her voice was declared " too

delicate " for singing the numbers on Evita . So they offered her one song which was not sung by Eva 's character , and that was " Another Suitcase in Another Hall " .

= = Music composition = =

Dickson recalled that during the recording sessions , Webber asked her to sing in a higher range than her usual , since the " mistress " character was a teenager , and should have sounded younger . Before the sequence of the eviction of the mistress occurs in Act I of the musical , Eva 's character sings the song " Hello and goodbye " and then " Another Suitcase in Another Hall " begins . A soft strummed guitar in broken chord patterns heralds the introductory music . Dickson sings the opening verse , and the chorus which is repeated twice as she asks , " So , what happens now ? " and wonders about her immediate future , ultimately concluding that she would survive . For the second verse , the lyrics reflect on this recurring pattern of being evicted out of men 's lives , and the final verses have a more positive outlook toward 's the subject 's life . The song finishes with the mistress asking the question , " Where am I going to ? " as a male voice pacifies by saying , " Don 't ask , anymore " . In 2004 , author Rikky Rooksby released the book , The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , where he wrote his thoughts about the popularity of the song :

Eva is the center of attention [in the song] but the lyric does not allow a transfer of meaning outside of the context of her story . Part of the song 's popularity lies in the way it finds an image ? the suitcase in the hall ? to express the nomadic nature of modern civilization , the feeling of urban rootlessness that many people experience . The theme of constant moving strikes a resonant note .

" Another Suitcase in Another Hall " features instrumentation from guitar , marimba , harp and keyboard , with Dickson singing in a soprano voice . Author Mark Ross Clark noted in his book , The Broadway Song : A Singer 's Guide , that her vocals portrayed different kind of emotions , with standard pitch correction in the lower middle C. Her vocals contrast the lyrics with an " underlying coolness " , while the light voice enabled Dickson to sing the lines " So , what happens now ? " in sixteenth note , E ? major . The song is high @-@ pitched to make its syllables appear as difficult to sing .

= = Release and reception = =

After the first single from the Evita album , " Don 't Cry for Me Argentina " , achieved commercial success , " Another Suitcase in Another Hall " was released as the second single on 7 February 1977 . A reviewer from Melody Maker complimented the song , saying that without the context of Evita , the song was more acceptable and was " poignant and lovely . How lucky Lloyd Webber and Rice are to have Julie Covington and now Dickson , to add the flesh and bones to songs which might otherwise be wrecks of soppy melodrama . A smash hit . " It was Dickson 's second single to chart on the UK Singles Chart , following " Answer Me " in 1976 , and entered the chart at number 44 in its first week and peaked at number 18 in its fifth week . It was present for a total of seven weeks on the chart .

Due to the high @-@ pitch employed in the recording , Dickson reflected in later years that she " never liked the original [track] for that reason . The song has seasoned over the years with my singing of it . " Dickson believed that she did not sound like herself on the song . While performing it later point of time on her concerts , Dickson sang it in her actual tone , saying that although the track " might have been written for a teenage girl , but the experience of being abandoned by a man is one , women of all ages can relate to . I think you have to be honest with songs and with yourself . " The singer 's music director Ian Lynn arranged the track differently which she performs currently .

= = Track listing = =

7 " Single , Company Sleeve

" Another Suitcase in Another Hall " (Album version) ? 3 : 00

" Requiem For Evita " (Choir and London Philharmonic Orchestra) ? 3 : 05

= = Personnel = =

Barbara Dickson ? vocals

Tim Rice ? writer

Andrew Lloyd Webber ? writer , producer , orchestra

Nigel Wright ? producer , mixing

Denis Blackham ? mixing , mastering at Master Room Studios

Credits adapted from the single 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Other versions = =

English singer Elaine Paige recorded the song for her 1983 album *Stages* . Sarah Brightman , who was married to Webber from 1984 to 1990 , included the song on her album *The Andrew Lloyd Webber Collection* . Marti Webb 's version of the song was included in the 1995 album *Music & Songs From Evita* . English musician Hank Marvin included an instrumental version of the song on his 1997 tribute album *Hank Marvin and the Shadows Play the Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice* . Kimberley Walsh , from British girl group *Girls Aloud* , covered the song for her debut studio album *Centre Stage* (2013) . Singer Hayley Westenra included the song on her 2000 album *Walking in the Air* . On the tribute show *Andrew Lloyd Webber : 40 Musical Years* , the song was performed by actress Samantha Barks .

= = Madonna version = =

= = = Background and development = = =

In 1996 , Madonna starred in the film adaptation of the musical , titled *Evita* , playing the role of Eva ; she had desired to play the part for a long time and even wrote to director Alan Parker , explaining how she would be perfect for the part . After securing the role , she underwent vocal training with coach Joan Layder since *Evita* required the actors to sing their own parts . Layder noted that the singer " had to use her voice in a way she 's never used it before . *Evita* is real musical theater ? its operatic , in a sense . Madonna developed an upper register that she didn 't know she had . " Unlike the musical , in the film the song is performed by Eva after ending her relationship with Agustín Magaldi , deciding she wants to improve her life . The song was not promoted and only a video was created using footage and scenes from the film .

= = = Recording and composition = = =

Recording sessions for the film 's songs and soundtrack began in September 1995 , and took place at the CTS Studios in London with Madonna accompanied by co @-@ actors Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce . However , trouble arose as Madonna was not comfortable with laying down a " guide vocal " simultaneously with an 84 piece orchestra inside the studio . She was used to singing over a pre @-@ recorded track and not have musicians listen to her . Also , unlike her previous soundtrack releases , she had little to no control over the project . An emergency meeting was held between Parker , Webber and Madonna where it was decided that the singer would record her part in a more contemporary studio while the orchestration would take place somewhere else . She also had alternate days off from the recording .

Madonna 's version of the song begins with the same soft strummed guitar in broken chords . Madonna sings in a breathy voice , giving her character more vulnerability . The first vocal entrance

leads into an engaging melody with the opening phrase , " so what happens now ? " , being repeated twice . According to the sheet music published by Musicnotes.com , the song is set in common time , with a slow tempo of 50 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of C ? major , with Madonna 's vocals spanning from A3 to E ? 5 . The song has a sequence of C ? ? F ? when Madonna sings the opening verse " I don 't expect my love affairs to last for long " .

= = = Release and reception = = =

The song was officially released as the soundtrack 's third single on 3 March 1997 . Originally , there were talks about releasing an *Evita* EP , containing remixed versions of " Buenos Aires " , " Don 't Cry for Me Argentina " and " Another Suitcase in Another Hall " . As it was not given a commercial release in the United States , it was ineligible to enter the Billboard Hot 100 . In the United Kingdom , the song peaked at number 7 on the UK Singles Chart , the week of 29 March 1997 , and was present on the top 100 for a total of 8 weeks . According to the Official Charts Company , the single had sold 75 @, @ 233 copies in the United Kingdom as of August 2008 . In Italy , it reached the fourth position of the FIMI Singles Chart . The song also reached a peak of number 23 on the Irish Singles Chart , where it remained for 3 weeks . Elsewhere , it had a relatively poor chart performance ; in Sweden it peaked at number 60 , while in the Netherlands it peaked at number 91 . " Another Suitcase in Another Hall " was Madonna 's first single released in Australia to miss the ARIA top 100 .

AllMusic 's Jose F. Promis , wrote that " the song finds Madonna giving an understated and inspired performance [...] One hopes that this overlooked gem might find its way onto future [Madonna] hits collections , because it is truly a wonderful song " . Author Thomas S. Hischak called it " plaintive " . Billboard 's Geoff Burpee called it " A sterling , intimate moment from the *Evita* soundtrack . Yes kids , she [Madonna] can sing " . Writing for Los Angeles Times , David Gritten opined Madonna 's voice sounded " pitch @-@ perfect and clear as a bell " . Greg Morago , from the Hartford Courant , felt that " By giving her ' Another Suitcase ' with its heartbreaking ' Where am I going to ? ' refrain , Madonna adds a necessary , fragile vulnerability to her ambitious , rags- to @-@ riches *Eva Peron* " . Neil Strauss from The Herald Journal , said that " Madonna radiates on ' Another Suitcase in Another Hall ' " . Peter Keough , from the Boston Phoenix , described the track as " a poignant , winsome exploration of pathos , defilement , and resolution sung by a young , struggling *Eva* forced into prostitution with a series of drab johns " .

= = = Track listing and formats = = =

= = = Credits and personnel = = =

Madonna ? vocals , mixing
Tim Rice ? writer
Andrew Lloyd Webber ? writer , producer
Alan Parker ? producer
Nigel Wright ? producer , mixing
David Reitzas ? mixing
John Mauceri ? conductor
David Caddick and Mike Dixon ? additional conductors
Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = = Charts = = =