

= Frozen (Madonna song) =

" Frozen " is a song by American singer Madonna from her seventh studio album Ray of Light (1998) . It was released as the lead single from the album on February 23 , 1998 , by Maverick Records . The song was also included on the compilation albums GHV2 (2001) and Celebration (2009) . " Frozen " was written by Madonna and Patrick Leonard , and it was produced in collaboration with William Orbit . Musically constructed as a mid @-@ tempo electronic ballad , " Frozen " talks about a cold and emotionless human being . In 2005 , a judge in Belgium ruled that " Frozen " was plagiarized from a song by Salvatore Acquaviva , and it was banned from the region . This ruling was overturned in 2014 , lifting the Belgium ban on the song .

" Frozen " received acclaim from music critics , some of whom deemed it an album standout . It was described as being a masterpiece , and its melodic beat and sound were defined as " cinematic " . The song was a worldwide chart success , peaking at number two on the US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming Madonna 's sixth number @-@ two single and the artist with most number @-@ two hits in the history of that chart , while it reached number one on the Hot Dance Club Play chart . It ultimately peaked at number one in the United Kingdom , Italy , Spain and Finland , and also within the top @-@ five in other countries , such as Australia , Italy , Sweden and Switzerland .

The accompanying music video for " Frozen " was directed by Chris Cunningham in a desert in California , portraying Madonna as an ethereal , witchy , melancholy persona , shapeshifting into a flock of birds and a black dog . The music video received a MTV Video Music Award for " Best Special Effects " in 1998 . To promote Ray of Light , the singer performed the song in several occasions including on Wetten dass .. ? . Additionally , it was included in three of Madonna 's concert tours . " Frozen " has been covered by a number of artists , such as Talisman and Thy Disease .

= = Background = =

After Madonna gave birth to her daughter Lourdes , in 1996 , she enrolled in Kabbalah and started studying Hinduism and yoga , all of which helped her " step outside [myself] and see the world from a different perspective . " The singer was inspired by these activities , as she began introspecting herself . " That was a big catalyst for me . It took me on a search for answers to questions I 'd never asked myself before " , she said to Q magazine . During the same year , Madonna began writing and producing Ray of Light with British electronic musician William Orbit . " I was a huge fan of William 's earlier records . [...] I also loved all the remixes he did for me and I was interested in fusing a kind of futuristic sound but also using lots of Indian and Moroccan influences and things like that , and I wanted it to sound old and new at the same time " , Madonna said . When asked about its producing process , she said ,

I was so obsessed with the movie The Sheltering Sky and that whole Moroccan / orchestral / super @-@ romantic / man @-@ carrying @-@ the @-@ woman @-@ he @-@ loves @-@ across @-@ the @-@ desert vibe . So I told [Patrick Leonard] that I wanted something with a tribal feel , something really lush and romantic . When he started playing some music , I just turned the [digital audio tape] on and started free @-@ associating and came up with the melody .

A low quality snippet of " Frozen " was leaked by fans on January 23 , 1998 , after it debuted on radio in Singapore , and posted it on the Internet . They said they knew what they were doing was wrong , but that they hoped it would simply generate interest from Madonna . The song was played on the US radios , including the WKTU New York radio . Warner Bros. Records enlisted the Recording Industry Association of America 's Anti @-@ Piracy Unit to delete the Internet downloads to the song . Erik Bradley , musical director of Chicago B96 , classified " Frozen " as a " the mark of a smash . Clearly , American pop radio needs Madonna " , after his station leaked it in the United States . According to Jon Uren , marketing director of Warner Music Europe , the song also had " fantastic " early support across Europe . Shortly after the song leaked , a remix version of " Frozen " was broadcast by the BBC website , and also was previewed on the soundtrack at the 1998 Versace fashion spring parade .

= = Composition = =

" Frozen " is a mid @-@ tempo electronic ballad which has a layered sound enhanced by synthesizers and strings , arranged by Craig Armstrong . It was composed using common time in the key of F minor , with a moderate tempo of 102 beats per minute . " Frozen " has a basic sequence of Fm ? E ? ? D ? ? E ? as its chord progression . The chorus , however , has the chord progression of Fm ? B ? m ? D ? ? A ? . Madonna 's vocals range from the lower octave of F3 to the higher note of A ? 4 .

The song begins with austere , classical strings while the chord progression emphasizes tonic , submediant and flattened leading @-@ tone chords . For the second phrase , which includes a dramatic crescendo , rhythm and ambient electronic effects are added gradually . Santiago Fouz @-@ Hernández and Freya Jarman @-@ Ivens , authors from Madonna 's Drowned Worlds , commented that the song is strongly inspired by different forms of classical music , notably contemporary classical music such as neoromanticism , as well as Italian opera composers and pieces such as Puccini 's Madama Butterfly and Verdi 's Aïda . Madonna 's vocals throughout the song lack vibrato , and have drawn comparisons to medieval music .

Lyrically , the song is about a cold and emotionless man . In the first verse , Madonna enters in a medium range , ' You only see what your eyes want to see ' . In the chorus , dance rhythm and ambient sounds are added . In the second verse , more visceral lyrics are added , like ' Love is a bird , she needs to fly ' . During the bridge , a broad , string lines provide instrumental commentary on the lyrics . The song ends with a string ostinato that simply fades away , without fully resolving to the tonic chord . In an interview with The New York Times , Madonna commented that the lyrics to " Frozen " is built around " Retaliation , revenge , hate , regret , that 's what I deal with in " Frozen " . Everyone 's going to say , ' That 's a song about Carlos ' [her ex @-@ boyfriend] , but it 's not really ; it 's just about people in general " .

= = Plagiarism case = =

In November 2005 , a Belgian judge seated in Mons ruled that the opening four @-@ bar theme to " Frozen " was plagiarized from the song " Ma vie fout le camp " (" My Life 's Getting Nowhere ") , composed by Salvatore Acquaviva . The judge subsequently ordered the withdrawal from sales of all remaining discs , and forbade any further playing of the song on Belgian TV and radio . The judge also ordered Warner Bros. , EMI and Sony to spread the decision within fifteen days to media outlets on pain of a penalty of ? 125 @,@ 000 for non @-@ compliance with the court order . Acquaviva 's lawyer , Victor Vicent Dehin , said : " We tried to reach a friendly agreement ... but they didn 't want to negotiate so I sued for plagiarism . They have stolen a song , so they have to pay the value of the song . " No award damages for the song were granted . Salvatore Acquaviva had explained to the court that Madonna heard " Ma vie fout l 'camp " during a trip to Mouscron in the late 1970s . She had been recruited to be a dancer during a tour with French singer Patrick Hernandez , whose discs were produced in Mouscron . Dehin also stated that the lawsuit was just the first step , and the next discussion would be about the copyright gains Madonna obtained with " Frozen " . Subsequently , the song was omitted from the track listing on the Belgian pressings of Celebration in 2009 . However , Madonna performed the song during the Sticky & Sweet Tour in Werchter , with Bert Bieseman , marketing manager of Belgian branch of Warner Bros. stating that " Madonna is not afraid of a more or less riot " . Acquaviva commented about the case :

Madonna planning to perform " Frozen " in Werchter ? I didn 't expect anything else , you know . I don 't even mind . It just would be nice because I would finally get some money after all these years , because the case is still going on . I 'm certainly not going to the concert . My lawyer is following the case . I 'm really going to follow Madonna 's concert with interest , because she really can 't perform the song . Yet , I think we won 't immediately take steps . The court 's decision is subject to various interpretations . The song can 't be played on the radio or be sold , but have we arguments enough for the concert to be over ? We won 't bring additional spectacle to the show . Unnecessary

scandals , with Madonna it 's guaranteed .

In February 2014 , a Belgian court revealed the verdict on the case and proclaimed that Madonna did not plagiarize Acquaviva 's work for " Frozen " . The court spoke of a " new capital offense " in the file : composer Edouard Scotto Di Suoccio and societies Tabata Atoll Music and Music in Paris had also filed a complaint for plagiarism . According to them , both " Ma vie fout le camp " and " Frozen " originated in the song " Blood Night " which they composed in 1983 . After all three tracks in the case were compared , the final ruling was that the songs were " not sufficiently ' original ' to claim " that any plagiarism had taken place . This ruling ended the eight @-@ year ban of the song that was in place in Belgium since 2005 .

= = Critical reception = =

" Frozen " was generally acclaimed by music critics . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine gave the song a positive review , praising its production and claiming it was " one of the great pop masterpieces of the 1990s . Its lyrics are uncomplicated but its statement is grand . " David Browne from Entertainment Weekly had said the song was a " wuthering @-@ beats melodrama that 's often breathtaking . " Billboard 's Paul Verna described the song as " smashing " . In a separate review , Larry Flick called it a " stunning foray into the realm of electronica [which] [...] underground purists and unwavering popstars will equally applaud " . Rob Sheffield from Rolling Stone commented positively about the " arctic melancholy " of the song . Stephen Thompson from the The A.V. Club approved the song 's melodic beat and the sound , but he did dismiss the lyrics . The Baltimore Sun 's J.D. Considine called it a word @-@ focused , emotionally nuanced ballad . Jon Pareles from The New York Times was impressed how Madonna , dulcet and careful , performed the song . Joan Anderman from The Boston Globe said that on Ray of Light , only " Frozen " achieves a " state of divine balladry " , recalls the " emotional pitch " and simmers the " beauty of 1986 's ' Live to Tell ' with a dark , lush string section , the smash and patter of a lone drum , and an ominous , pulsing buzz " .

Bryan Lark , writing for The Michigan Daily , called the song " gorgeous " and one of the album 's best tracks , along with " The Power of Good @-@ Bye " . He further commented that both songs prove that she still likes to get into the groove , and explain why this is a techno album and not part of the " Moods " series . Sputnikmusic gave the song a positive review , impressed by how " interesting percussion backing , beautiful use of strings with techno effects and Madonna at her soothing best " . Stephen Sears from Idolator noted that Madonna has a history of releasing albums with " killer singles " as " Frozen " , and commented that " Not since ' Live To Tell ' had a Madonna ballad carried such emotional weight ? and this time it was done with a new level of sonic grandeur " . Jose F. Thomas from Allmusic rated the song two stars out of five , describing the song as " chilly " .

In 2003 , Madonna fans were asked to vote for their " Top 20 Madonna singles of all @-@ time " , by Q magazine . " Frozen " was allocated the number ten spot on the list . Billboard also allocated " Frozen " at number 25 on a list containing Madonna 's 40 hits , stating that the song marked a sonic change in Madonna 's career . Rolling Stone also ranked the song as Madonna 's sixth best song of all time according to a readers ' poll , saying that the song is " striking the perfect balance of pop accessibility , sophisticated balladry and cutting @-@ edge electronic textures " . VH1 's Mark Graham included " Frozen " on his list of his favorite songs from Madonna at number 36 .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , " Frozen " debuted at number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 , and reached the second position of the chart on the issue dated April 4 , 1998 , behind the K @-@ Ci & JoJo song " All My Life " . The song became the sixth single by Madonna to peak at the two position , surpassing Elvis Presley for the most number @-@ two songs . " Frozen " topped the Hot Dance Music / Club Play chart , while reaching number eight on the Hot Adult Contemporary chart . " Frozen " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in April 1998 ,

and was ranked at number 32 on the Hot 100 year @-@ end chart of the same year . According to Billboard , the song was played 99 @,@ 000 times in the United States . In Canada , the song reached a peak of number two on the RPM Singles Chart in its seventh week , being held off from the top position by Natalie Imbruglia 's " Torn " .

In the United Kingdom , " Frozen " entered the UK Singles Chart at number one on March 7 , 1998 . It was later certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) . According to Official Charts Company , the song has sold 525 @,@ 000 copies . In Belgium 's region of Flanders , the song debuted at number 23 on February 22 , 1998 , and reached a peak of number three . Similarly in Wallonia , " Frozen " debuted at number 29 and later reached number two . In the Netherlands , the track debuted at number 27 on the Dutch Top 40 , and reached a peak of two on March 7 , 1998 . The song reached a peak of number two in Germany , where it remained for six weeks , before spending a total of nineteen weeks on the chart . On the Swiss Singles Chart , " Frozen " debuted at number four on the issue dated March 1 , 1998 . After one week , the song reached number two , remaining there for eight weeks . The song peaked at number one in Spain .

In Australia , " Frozen " debuted on the ARIA Singles Chart at its peak of number five on March 1 , 1998 . The next week it descended at number nine , returning at its peak on March 15 , 1998 , and stayed there for another three weeks . It was present for a total of 16 weeks on the chart , and was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) . In New Zealand , the song had a similar run as in Australia , by debuting at its peak of number five on the RIANZ Singles Chart . It was present for a total of 12 weeks on the chart .

= = Music video = =

Directed by British artist Chris Cunningham , the music video for " Frozen " was filmed at Cuddeback Lake within the Mojave Desert in California during January 7 ? 11 , 1998 . Madonna thought that there are a lot of magical , mystical powers in the desert and that it is a magical place to be . It was inspired by the film *The English Patient* and Martha Graham 's work . The music video premiered on February 16 , 1998 on MTV at 4 p.m. The black goth gown outfit Madonna wears on the video was designed by Olivier Theyskens , and provided by then @-@ new collaborator , designer Arianne Phillips . In an interview with MTV News , Cunningham stated about his work with Madonna , saying that he thought Madonna became interested to work with him after seeing his Aphex Twin @-@ directed music video , " Come to Daddy " (1997) . Madonna stated that she and her team thought of filming the video in Iceland , as the idea to the video was to go someplace cold and where there is snow , but declined the idea . She thought :

'You know what , I 'm going to be freezing . I 'm going to be miserable , I 'll be complaining all day , I 'll be sorry that I ever chose a cold place . So I said , ' Let 's do it in the desert , it 'll be warm , ' and it would be sort of the opposite , because even though you think of deserts as being hot , they 're still sort of frozen in terms of there 's no vegetation and they 're very desolate . I thought that that would still work as a visual , but then we got there and it was like 20 degrees below zero , it was bitterly cold , and I was barefoot . I was barefoot for the entire video , and then it started pouring rain and everyone got really sick , and it just actually turned out to be a really miserable experience .

The video introduces a sober , contemplative side of Madonna , revealing a mature mysticism . It begins with the camera skimming along a cracked , desiccated desert floor , and within seconds Madonna appears , sprawled on the ground wearing a black dress . Her hands are covered with mehndi and an enigmatic symbol on one palm . In the video she slowly gestures and sways her arms toward the sky in the video , desperately pleading to her cold lover cited in the song . At one point Madonna falls , and as she hits the ground , she transforms into a flock of large , dark birds . Later , she transforms into a black dog . Three Madonnas also appear walking and crawling amid the desert throughout the video . As the song progresses , the sky darkens , and Madonna levitates from the ground . Her form then changes to a shiny black liquid , which runs along the desert floor and appears to be absorbed by the tattooed hands of another Madonna , who is curled up on the crenellated ground . The video ends with a desperate and melancholy Madonna .

Jim Glauner from MTV News commented that from the first scene from the video , the viewer

discovers that this is not " Holiday " (1983) . Matthias Groß of Madonna On the Couch : A psychoanalytic view on Madonna 's music videos , argued that it is interesting to look at the video as a dream , and noted that in the video , Madonna was presented as a witch or an uncanny creature , by the technique of the central perspective . He concluded that the viewers find themselves in control of their view , of the situation in general , and are conveyed the impression to follow a realistic depiction of a mere melancholic woman in the desert , according to him . Henry Keazor and Thorsten Wübbena of Rewind , Play , Fast Forward : The Past , Present and Future of the Music Video said that the large panels of cloth that gather and wind around Madonna gain an even more obvious independent movement quality . Billboard considered it Madonna 's third best video noting that it " conveys the song 's bleak heartbreak perfectly " with Madonna 's persona in the video .

= = Live performances = =

Before the release of Ray of Light , Madonna appeared on several television shows and events to promote the album , and would sometimes perform the song . Madonna first performed " Frozen " on the Sanremo Music Festival on January 24 , 1998 . The following month , on February 21 , she performed the song on the BBC 1 's The National Lottery Show . Additionally , that same month , she appeared and performed the song on the German TV show Wetten dass .. ? . On April 29 , 1998 , Madonna made an unannounced appearance at the 9th annual Rainforest Foundation Benefit Concert at New York City 's Carnegie Hall , where she performed " Frozen " with the East Harlem Violin Project , while wearing a Versace dress . Jon Pareles from The New York Times felt that during this performance Madonna had " turned herself into America 's answer to Björk " . Later that occasion , she wore a cowboy hat and joined various artists in a rendition of The Beatles ' " With A Little Help From My Friends " and " Twist & Shout " .

" Frozen " has also been included on three of Madonna 's concert tours . For the 2001 Drowned World Tour , " Frozen " was included on the show 's second segment known as Geisha @-@ Anime . As the " Paradise (Not for Me) " video interlude ended , Madonna appeared on stage as a kabuki @-@ like figure , wearing a short black wig and dressed in a red and black , hand @-@ painted kimono created by designer Jean @-@ Paul Gaultier , with enormous sleeves creating a span of about fifty feet . As the song progresses , she gradually breaks loose from the sleeves and dances , with synchronized karate moves distributed along all sides of the stage , by herself and with her dancers . A samurai dancer also appeared on a raised platform above her during the performance while the backdrops displayed silhouettes of burning trees against racing , blood @-@ red clouds . MusicOMH praised the performance , for " having a recognisable beat unlike the studio recording " . The performance of the song on August 26 , 2001 , at The Palace of Auburn Hills was recorded and released in the live video album , Drowned World Tour 2001 .

On the Re @-@ Invention World Tour in 2004 , " Frozen " was performed as the last song of the tour 's French Baroque @-@ Marie Antionette Revival opening segment . After an energetic performance of " Nobody Knows Me " , Madonna performed the song standing alone on the middle of the stage , wearing a gold jewel @-@ encrusted corset created by designer Christian Lacroix , as the backdrop screens displayed the video of a naked male and a naked female wrestling , caressing and intertwining in water , with their faces and genitals darkened by shadows so as to preserve their androgyny . Sal Sinquemani from Slant Magazine gave the performance a negative review , commenting that Madonna should never do a performance like this .

For the second European leg of Madonna 's Sticky & Sweet Tour in 2009 , the performance of " Hung Up " was removed from the setlist and was replaced by an up @-@ beat version of " Frozen " . This performance was included on the show 's fourth and final Rave segment , where it was set between the performances of " Like a Prayer " and " Ray of Light " . The video backdrops used for this performance featured outtakes from the song 's original music video directed by Chris Cunningham . Harris praised the version saying , " I never imagined when I made it in my little purple room in Glasgow in my flat that it would reach far and wide as it has ? it ? s always a privilege . " " Frozen " was not performed by Madonna until her Rebel Heart Tour in 2015 , and on October 1 ,

she performed an acoustic version of the song during the Detroit concert at the Joe Louis Arena .
On October 19 , she repeated the performance on the San Jose concert at the SAP Center .

= = Covers and usage in media = =

A rock cover was recorded by Jeff Scott Soto with the Talisman band for their 1998 album Truth . A reviewer from Melodic Rock was positive with the version and called it a " moody version with the backing vocals and accompanying keyboards intact . " Polish industrial metal band Thy Disease used parts of the original strings and vocals in a cover on their 2001 album , Devilsh Act of Creation . German gothic rock / industrial rock band Girls Under Glass released their cover on the Frozen EP in 2001 . The following year , Mad 'House also re @-@ recorded it for the tribute album Absolutely Mad . Gene Loves Jezebel recorded their cover version which appeared on two albums , A Tribute to Madonna : Virgin Voices and Tribute to Madonna : Like a Virgin . Doom Kounty Electric Chair gave the song a " dark rock " feel with their cover , released in 2004 .

Italian rock band Absinth Effect recorded a cover version of " Frozen " for their debut album in 2009 . In May 2013 , contestant Olympe sang the song on the second season of French version of The Voice : la plus belle voix , allowing him to reach the show 's semi @-@ finale . His coach , Jenifer , welcomed the performance warmly . Jérôme Vermelin from Metronews.fr said " Without piano , but in a spectacular setting , the young singer from Amiens shows his pitched voice with disconcerting facility . And his look ? The mixture of great and pure sincerity ? Although the formula may seem repetitive , it is not difficult to be captivated " . Hanane Abdelouahed from TF1 commented that with the rendition , he " has taken the track from the queen of pop " . Although it was not performed by the show 's cast , the song was included on the episode " The Power of Madonna " , on the TV series Glee , in 2010 .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? songwriter , producer

Patrick Leonard ? songwriter , producer , remixer , arranger

William Orbit ? producer

Marius De Vries ? keyboards , programming

Craig Armstrong ? string arrangement

Credits and personnel adapted from Ray of Light album liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =