

= The 2nd Law =

The 2nd Law is the sixth studio album by English rock band Muse . It was released on 1 October 2012 in the United Kingdom and elsewhere on 28 September , 2 and 3 October under Warner Bros. Records and the band 's own Helium @-@ 3 imprint . The title of the album refers to the second law of thermodynamics and the album 's cover art features a map of the human brain 's pathways , which was taken from the Human Connectome Project . Recording of the album took place in four different studios , began in October 2011 , and ended in August 2012 . Mainly self @-@ produced by the band , with the exception of the song " Follow Me " which was co @-@ produced by English electronic music trio Nero , The 2nd Law features multiple styles of music and was influenced by acts such as Queen , David Bowie , and Skrillex .

Upon release , the album received generally favourable reviews from music critics , holding a 70 / 100 score on review aggregator site Metacritic , and had a very positive commercial performance . It was a top ten @-@ charting album in thirty @-@ one countries and a number one album in thirteen countries . The album has been certified platinum by the BPI in England , the FIMI in Italy , the IFPI in Switzerland , and the MC in Canada . It has also been certified triple @-@ platinum by the SNEP in France . At the 55th Annual Grammy Awards , the album was nominated for Best Rock Album and the album 's second track " Madness " was nominated for Best Rock Song . The album 's third track " Panic Station " was also nominated for Best Rock Song at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards the following year .

A total of five official singles were released from the album . " Survival " , released on 27 June , and " Madness " , released on 20 August , were released as the album 's two lead singles . " Survival " was notable for being chosen as the official song for the 2012 Summer Olympics , while " Madness " was notable for its positive commercial performance , as well for topping the Billboard Alternative Songs chart for a record nineteen weeks , beating out the previous record set by " The Pretender " by Foo Fighters . Three singles were released after the release of the album : " Follow Me " , released on 7 December , " Supremacy " , released on 20 February 2013 , and , " Panic Station " , released on 31 May .

= = Background and recording = =

The 2nd Law was primarily recorded at AIR Studios in London , England and Eastwest Studios in Los Angeles , California , with additional recording taking place at Shangri La Studios in Malibu , California and Capitol Studios in Los Angeles . In an interview with Billboard on 18 October 2011 , the band 's manager Anthony Addis revealed that Muse had begun recording their sixth album in London and that he expected it to be released by October 2012 . Muse bassist Christopher Wolstenholme had stated in an interview with BBC Radio 1 that they had aimed to begin recording The 2nd Law in either September or October 2011 . During the recording of the album , band frontman Matt Bellamy jokingly described the album as a " christian gangsta rap jazz odyssey , with some ambient rebellious dubstep and face @-@ melting metal flamenco cowboy psychedelia " on his Twitter account . In an interview with Kerrang ! on 14 December 2011 , Wolstenholme stated that the next Muse album would be " something radically different " from their prior releases . He also said that it felt as if the band were " drawing a line under a certain period " of their career with their sixth album . In another interview Chris mentioned that the band had experimented with music and sounds in particular . It was revealed via Muse 's publicist Tom Kirk on his Twitter account that composer David Campbell was helping the band compose the album . In an interview in the April 2012 issue of NME , Bellamy said that the band were set to include elements of electronic music , with influences coming from acts such as French house duo Justice and UK dance @-@ punk group Does It Offend You , Yeah ? .

= = Composition = =

The 2nd Law features art rock , progressive rock , and electronic music . The album 's first track , "

Supremacy ", has been compared to James Bond theme songs such as the song " Live and Let Die " by Paul McCartney and Wings . " Madness ", according to NME , features influences which draw from Queen 's " I Want to Break Free " and David Bowie 's Scary Monsters album . " Panic Station " , the third track , has been noted as a funk rock song and features collaborations from people who had worked on Stevie Wonder 's " Superstition " . It also includes explicit lyrics , making The 2nd Law Muse 's first album to feature the Parental Advisory label . Bellamy has stated that dubstep producer Skrillex was an influence when writing one of the final two tracks on the album ? " The 2nd Law : Unsustainable " . He also stated that the song " Follow Me " was written about his newborn son , Bingham Bellamy . The song was produced by electronic music trio Nero . Bassist Chris Wolstenholme wrote two songs for the album about his battle with alcoholism ? " Save Me " and " Liquid State " ? and provided lead vocals on both tracks . Bellamy revealed that during the recording of The 2nd Law he was reading the novel World War Z , which became a major influence on the album , especially the tracks " The 2nd Law : Isolated System " and " Survival . " " The 2nd Law : Isolated System " was featured in the film adaptation of the novel .

= = Packaging = =

The name " The 2nd Law " references the second law of thermodynamics , which is quoted in the track " Unsustainable " as follows :

All natural and technological processes proceed in such a way that the availability of the remaining energy decreases . In all energy exchanges , if no energy enters or leaves an isolated system , the entropy of that system increases . Energy continuously flows from being concentrated , to becoming dispersed , spread out , wasted , and useless . New energy cannot be created and high @-@ grade energy is being destroyed . An economy based on endless growth is unsustainable .

The album 's cover art , taken from the Human Connectome Project , represents the map of the human brain 's pathways , " tracking the circuits in our heads and how we process information with bright , neon colors . " The artwork was subsequently used by Muse in a social Connectome Project on 21 September 2012 . As more fans joined the online project , the album art was built , representing the network of the neurons within the brain . As the album art branched and more fans joined the network , incremental segments of the album track " The 2nd Law : Isolated System " were released .

The album was released as a digital download , CD , CD + DVD (with The Making of The 2nd Law and bonus feature) , and vinyl . A deluxe edition box set of The 2nd Law included a CD , DVD , double vinyl and three posters .

= = Promotion = =

On 6 June 2012 , Muse released a trailer for The 2nd Law with a countdown on the band 's website suggesting a 17 September release date . The trailer , which included dubstep elements , was met with mixed reactions from fans . Muse made the album track " The 2nd Law : Unsustainable " available to fans who pre @-@ ordered the album from their online store , and then uploaded the video for the track onto their YouTube channel on 10 August .

The band conducted a competition to produce a music video for " Animals " . The winning video was created by Inês Freitas and Miguel Mendes (Oneness Team) from Portugal . The winning entry was released on 20 March 2013 .

= = = Singles = = =

= = = = Lead singles = = = =

Two singles were released prior to the release of The 2nd Law . " Survival " was released as the album 's first single on 27 June 2012 and premiered on BBC Radio 1 's Zane Lowe show , along

with the song 's counterpart intro , " Prelude " . The song served as the official song of the London 2012 Olympics Games and peaked at number 22 on the UK Singles Chart .

It was revealed by the band in an interview with NME magazine that " Madness " would be released as the second single . Released on 20 August , it was announced that the song would make its world premiere on BBC Radio 1 at 19 : 30 BST , but the track was leaked online beforehand , due to an unintentional early release in South Korea . The official music video for the song was uploaded on 5 September to the band 's YouTube channel . The song had significant chart performance by peaking in the top 40 in several countries . It has peaked at number 25 in the UK , as well as number 45 in the Billboard Hot 100 , making " Madness " the band 's second @-@ highest charting song in the US , behind " Uprising " . The song was also notable for topping the Billboard Alternative Songs chart for a cumulative amount of nineteen weeks , making it the longest @-@ running number @-@ one song on the chart . The previous record was eighteen weeks , held by the Foo Fighters with their song " The Pretender " . The song has been certified platinum by the FIMI in Italy and the MC in Canada . The song has also been certified double @-@ platinum by the RIAA in the US for 2 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 copies of the song sold .

= = = = Post ? album singles = = = =

Three singles followed the release of The 2nd Law . " Follow Me " was revealed as the third single when several promo CD 's allegedly sent to radio stations appeared on eBay . The official lyric video was released on 1 November and the official music video was released on 11 December , both on the band 's official YouTube channel . The song failed to chart in the UK , but it ended up charting in Belgium , France , Italy , and Japan .

" Supremacy " was released as the fourth single from the album on 25 February 2013 . The song gained popularity when it was performed at the beginning of the 2013 Brit Awards . Due to this performance , the song charted and peaked at number 58 on the UK singles chart .

" Panic Station " was released as a promotional single from the album in the days leading up to its release on 24 September 2012 . Its first airplay occurred on British alternative music station XFM . The band performed this track , as well as " Madness " , on the 6 October 2012 episode of Saturday Night Live . Panic Station was released as the fifth single on 31 May 2013 , accompanied by a music video shot during the Japanese dates of The 2nd Law Tour . The music video was released on 22 April 2013 at 10 : 00 am . PDT on the official Muse YouTube channel . An interactive lyric video for the song was released , as well . The song failed to chart in the UK , but it peaked at number two on the Billboard Alternative Songs chart . Furthermore , " Big Freeze " was released in April 2013 , but only for French radios and without a commercial release .

= = = Tour = = =

On 7 June 2012 , Muse announced a European Arena tour ; the first leg of The 2nd Law World Tour . The leg included dates in France , Italy , Ireland , Spain , Finland and the United Kingdom as well as other countries . They had also added North American dates to the tour .

= = Critical reception = =

The 2nd Law received generally positive reviews upon release . On Metacritic , which assigns a normalised rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 70 based on 30 reviews , indicating " generally favorable reviews " . BBC music critic Ian Winwood also gave the album a positive review , highlighting " Supremacy " , " Liquid State " and " The 2nd Law : Isolated System " , saying that Muse " present themselves in any guise they please " . The Telegraph 's Helen Brown rated the album four out of five stars , noting the album 's eclectic influences and reserving praise for " Madness " in particular . The Observer 's Kitty Empire also alluded to Muse 's bombastic tendencies , saying " Bellamy is not blind to the contradictions of his band 's attempts continually to ramp the ludicrousness up to 11 ; endless growth is , of course ,

unsustainable . But for now they remain pretty comfortable with the idea of obscure over @-@ inflation . So should we . "

AllMusic rated the album three out of five stars , noting " their excursions into dubstep and dance music on tracks like " Madness " and " Follow Me " feel more like remixes than original songs . Songs like these definitely have the spine of Muse tracks , but the production that 's built up around them feels almost alien . " Kyle Anderson of Entertainment Weekly gave the album a grade of C + , claiming that " the band goes overboard with Queen @-@ isms " and expressing disappointment at the lack of electronic music elements compared to the band 's expectations that the album would be a departure from previous releases . The Guardian 's Alexis Petridis rated the album four out of five stars , complimenting the band 's ambition but finding fault with the album 's bombastic tendencies which were also present on their previous albums , stating " no one goes to see a blockbuster for its profundity and deep characterisation . They go for the stunts and the special effects , both of which The 2nd Law delivers . "

The album was a nominee for Best Rock Album at the 2013 Grammy Awards . The song " Madness " was also nominated for Best Rock Song .

The album was listed at number 46 on Rolling Stone 's list of the top 50 albums of 2012 , saying " In an era of diminished expectations , Muse make stadium @-@ crushing songs that mix the legacies of Queen , King Crimson , Led Zeppelin and Radiohead while making almost every other current band seem tiny . "

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Matthew Bellamy , except " Save Me " and " Liquid State " by Chris Wolstenholme .

= = Personnel = =

Personnel adapted from album liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Commercial performance = = =

The 2nd Law had a very positive commercial performance , selling around 475 @,@ 000 copies worldwide on its release . It debuted at number 2 on the Billboard 200 with 102 @,@ 000 copies sold in its first week , giving Muse the highest charting debut of their career in the US , although it sold fewer copies than the debut of their previous album The Resistance , which debuted at number three with 128 @,@ 000 copies . It has sold 485 @,@ 000 copies in the US as of May 2015 . It also debuted at number 2 in Australia , Germany , Ireland , Korea and Spain . The album gave Muse their fourth number 1 debut in the UK with first week sales of 108 @,@ 536 copies , while also debuting at number 1 in 13 other countries . It has sold 255 @,@ 000 copies in the UK in 2012 alone .

= = = Certifications = = =

= = Release history = =