

= Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home =

" Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " is the opening track on the Scottish post @-@ rock band Mogwai 's 1997 debut album , Mogwai Young Team . It was primarily composed by the band 's bassist , Dominic Aitchison , prior to the 1997 Mogwai Young Team recording sessions .

The song features electric guitar , bass guitar , drum kit , organ , and glockenspiel , bookended by sampled monologues from friends of the band . It is an example of the predominantly electric guitar @-@ based genre the band employed at the time ; featuring quiet , clean sections contrasting with loud , distorted sections , sometimes connected with crescendos and diminuendos . This dynamic contrast was referred to by the band as " serious guitar music . "

" Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " received a positive reception from music journalists , with album reviews focusing mainly on the effectiveness of the dynamic contrast featured within the song , the band 's usage of instrumentation , and the track 's overall representation of the band 's genre at the time .

= = Origins and recording = =

The first live performance documented of " Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " was on 6 April 1997 at Highbury Garage in London ? the band 's first show promoting the Ten Rapid (Collected Recordings 1996 ? 1997) compilation album . This performance , as well as several other performances of the track throughout 1997 , was instrumental . During this period , " Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " sometimes went under the title of " New Dom " .

The song took its title from an exclamation from Lee Cohen , a Chicagoan friend of the band , at Brighton in May 1997 . The band recorded " Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " during the Mogwai Young Team sessions from July to August 1997 at MCM Studios in Hamilton , South Lanarkshire , Scotland , where the band had previously recorded the majority of their earlier material . The song was produced by Mogwai and Paul Savage , who handled production and mixing duties on the bulk of the band 's previous recordings .

= = Musical composition = =

" Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " is 5 minutes 58 seconds long , in the key of A major , in 4 / 4 time .

The song begins with an organ pedal point of an A note , accompanied by a recording of a monologue passage from a Bergen Student Newspaper , being recited by Mari Myren , referring to when Mogwai played a show on 15 March 1997 at the Hulen , in Bergen , Norway . Myren describes the band 's music as " bigger than words and wider than pictures " and states that " If the stars had a sound , it would sound like this . " The sound of clapping is heard , followed at (0 : 54) , by a bassline . This is joined at (1 : 09) by a soft drumbeat and a clean , two @-@ note guitar melody , based around the chord of A major . At (1 : 31) , the guitars and bass guitar modulate to the relative minor chord , F ? minor , and D major , and play alternate melody , before returning to the main melody .

This is repeated until (2 : 32) , when the drumbeat gradually fades out , leaving only the ride cymbal keeping the beat , and the guitars , which repeat a melody based around the chord of A major , using harmonics . At (3 : 11) , the bass guitar joins in , followed by the drum kit , building to a gradual crescendo , eventually climaxing at (3 : 42) into a distortion @-@ laden chord progression , using the chords F ? minor , D major , and A major . At (3 : 46) , a guitar solo is played over these chords . This continues until (5 : 09) , after all instruments have faded out except for the tremolo @-@ laden feedback of the guitar .

= = Release and reception = =

During professional reviews , " Yes ! I Am a Long Way from Home " received largely positive

reception . Ian Mathers of Stylus Magazine described the song as " gorgeous , moving from a gentle beginning to a series of shattering crescendos " , also noting that it " describes almost all of Mogwai ' s music at this stage of their career . " David Wilson of The Daily Nebraskan described the song as having " low @-@ key harmonics and [a] delicate melody " , followed by " a blistering shard of explosive distortion [bursting] out of nowhere " , noting that the dynamic contrast within the song , " sets the seesaw pace for the whole record . "

Lee Harvey of Vox also referred to the dynamic contrast , noting that it " [goads] and [entices] you with gentle percussion , leaving you helpless before the surge of sky @-@ swallowing guitars that follows " . Scott Irvine of UpBeetMusic described it as a " standout track " , also noting " [the] track alone is worth checking out 1997 ' s best bet for an instrumental tour de force " .

Christopher Jackson of Fluffhouse described the track as a " to @-@ the @-@ point introduction to the classic Mogwai sound - elegant musings on a web of bass @-@ heavy guitars , growing patiently to a peak filled out with massive distorted chords and fat drum fills " . Brandon Wu of Ground and Sky described the song 's progression , " [starting] with a quietly pretty melody . . . [building] to a massive climax of guitar and bass noise . " and " woven through [the] crescendo is a beautiful , lyrical guitar line . . . simply stunning . "

= = Personnel and credits = =