

= I Miss You (Beyoncé song) =

" I Miss You " is a song by American recording artist Beyoncé , taken from her fourth studio album , 4 (2011) . It was written by Beyoncé , Frank Ocean and Shea Taylor while production was handled by Beyoncé and Taylor . The song 's development was motivated the fact that Beyoncé wanted to focus on songs being classics , songs that would last , and songs that she could sing when she becomes old . A mid @-@ paced R & B ballad , " I Miss You " is influenced by the ballads of the 1980s . Its instrumentation consists essentially of synthesizers and keyboards . " I Miss You " finds Beyoncé , as the protagonist , thinking deeply over her relationship with her love interest from whom she parted ; however , she still pines for him and feels self @-@ conscious for doing so .

" I Miss You " was generally praised by music critics who complimented its very sparse production as well as its aurally remarkable 1980s influence . Some of them also described the song as a " haunting " ballad and called it the highlight of the record . Critics also complimented how Beyoncé 's vocals keep on alternating from desperate and calm throughout the song , and highlighted the vulnerability in her voice . Following the release of 4 in early July 2011 , " I Miss You " charted at number 184 on the UK Singles Chart and at number 34 on the South Korea Gaon International Singles Chart , based on downloads alone . The song was part of Beyoncé 's set list for her 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé , held in Roseland Ballroom , New York City in August 2011 .

= = Background and development = =

" I Miss You " was written by Beyoncé , Odd Future collective member Frank Ocean , and Shea Taylor while production was handled by Beyoncé and Taylor themselves . In early March 2011 , Ocean made known that Beyoncé was back in the studio working on her then upcoming fourth studio album , 4 . Ocean posted a snap of Beyoncé in his studio on Twitter , fuelling reports that he had worked with Beyoncé on the new record . As well as posting a picture of Beyoncé recording new material , he also accompanied the image with the comment : " This is the room i am working in this day. not to brag but man , this is surreal. like [...] she is singing my songs . If time were to stop right now , the past couple weeks would be near the top of the highlight reel for my short time on earth [sic] . "

In July 2011 , Beyoncé sat for an interview with Gabriel Alvarez of Complex magazine , where she elaborated on how she came to know about Ocean : " Jay [-Z] had a CD playing in the car one Sunday when we were driving to Brooklyn . I noticed his tone , his arrangements , and his storytelling . I immediately reached out to him ? literally the next morning . I asked him to fly to New York and work on my record . " In this way , Ocean ended up co @-@ writing " I Miss You " . Beginning on June 16 to June 27 , 2011 , the songs from 4 were available to listen to in full each day on Beyoncé 's official website , paired with its accompanying photo spread from the album packaging and an insightful quote . On June 18 , 2011 , " I Miss You " " was the third song to be chosen . The quote found Beyoncé elaborating on what motivated her to record a song like " I Miss You " :

[4] is definitely an evolution . It is bolder than the music on my previous albums because I ? m bolder . The more mature I become and the more life experiences I have , the more I have to talk about . I really focused on songs being classics , songs that would last , songs that I could sing when I ? m 40 and when I ? m 60 .

= = Composition = =

" I Miss You " is a mid @-@ tempo ballad that draws from the genres of R & B and contains elements of pop music and trip hop . Michael Cragg , writing for both The Guardian and The Observer , noted that it is heavily influenced by the 1980s ballads . This was further noted by Charles Ubaghs of The Quietus and Priya Elan of NME , who commented that " I Miss You " is influenced by the 1980s electro soul and neo soul music styles respectively . A generally low @-@ key song , " I Miss You " is built on a simple pattering metronomic beat , which has been further

described as a " minimal , geiger @-@ counter @-@ sounding click @-@ pop [one] " . " I Miss You " feels " light and understated " , sparing the musical histrionics of " Dangerously in Love " (2003) or " If I Were a Boy " (2008) , according to Andrew Unterberger of PopCrush . The song 's instrumentation consists of " layers of atmospheric keyboards " , ambient synthesizers , and tinny 808 drums The synthesizers expand and contract as they progress through their chords , maintaining an even level of intensity throughout .

As stated by Unterberger , owing to its " same kind of vocal longing , late @-@ night desperation lyrics , and most importantly , thick , moody synth [esizers] " , " I Miss You " bears resemblance to a mid @-@ 1980s Foreigner ballad . Additionally , Rich Juzwiak of The Village Voice commented that Martika 's 1991 song " Love ... Thy Will Be Done " is conjured in " I Miss You " . Matthew Horton of BBC felt that " I Miss You " features " the kind of subtle tension " achieved by Alicia Keys ' Try Sleeping with a Broken Heart (2010) . Jim Farber of Daily News added that " ' I Miss You ' contrasts a soft bed of synth [esizers] and heavily echoed drums " in a way similar to Phil Collins ' 1981 song " In the Air Tonight " .

Described by Matthew Horton as a song that " tug [s] heartstrings " , " I Miss You " finds Beyoncé , as the female protagonist , ruminating over her relationship with her ex @-@ love interest without firm verdicts ; she is " confused , conflicted , very human " , as stated by the Chicago Sun @-@ Times 's Thomas Conner . Even though they have parted , Beyoncé " still cannot let go and her needs are vexing her " , according to Melinda Newman of HitFix . Also , Matthew Perpetua of Rolling Stone added that the song features Beyoncé " at her most understated " . Throughout the song , her phrasing is " cool , calm and collected " . Ian Walker of AbsolutePunk stated that the lyrics of " I Miss You " are a mixture of " hopeful longing and loneliness . "

Beyoncé begins the first verse of the song in a near @-@ whisper , " I thought that things like this get better with time / But I still need you / Why is that ? " The latter rhetorical question reappears throughout the song . In the chorus lines , she questions herself , " I miss you / But if I got with you , could it feel the same ? " From the second verse and onwards , the song finds Beyoncé " vocalizing an internal battle , alternately desperate and calm " , as stated by Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle . She starts to sing in a double voice ; her lower vocal notes are set as the song 's base , while her voice in a heightened key is played over it . In the second verse , she sings , " The words don ' t ever seem to come out right / But I still mean [th] em " , pining for her ex @-@ love interest and feeling self @-@ conscious for doing so , " It hurts my pride to tell you how I feel , but I still need to " before asking again , " Why is that ? " . The bridge features Beyoncé chanting , " No matter who you are / It is so simple / A feeling / But it ? s everything . "

= = Critical reception = =

" I Miss You " received generally positive reviews . David Amidon of PopMatters who stated that " 1 + 1 provides Beyoncé a song that " can compete with the favorites of this generation ? s parents " , came to the conclusion that " 1 + 1 " and " I Miss You " are " equally competent , if safer , attempts at the same formula " . He concluded that these songs make it clear that Beyoncé is " head and shoulders above her Clear Channel competition in R & B " . Joanne Dorken of MTV UK who described " I Miss You " as " heartfelt ballad " with her vocals being " on point " , as she delivers the song with " raw emotion " . Ben Cardew of Music Week appreciated " the influence of Frank Ocean " , which according to him , made it feel like " the first track on the album to have a modern feel " . He went on praising the fact that the ballad is constructed from " a stripped down beat and washes of synth , making a very simple track but one that benefits from its simplicity " . Describing " I Miss You " as a " gently pulsing , sci @-@ fi ballad " , Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle called the song " one of the most fascinating moments amid a dozen tracks " . Cameron Adams of the Herald Sun wrote that " I Miss You " is a nocturnal and experimental ballad due to its synth washes . Michael Cragg of The Observer called " the minimal ' I Miss You ' the highlight [of 4] " . Brandon Lewis of Blogcritics found " I Miss You " both " haunting and gorgeous , with an ominous vocal and very sparse production " . Showing high favoritism for " I Miss You " , Roberts Randall of Los Angeles Times wrote :

Beyoncé Knowles is not worried chasing fads , though she is well aware of them . Over the years , she has learned how to harness them so effortlessly that they seem like her ideas . Take the standout track on her new album , 4 , ' I Miss You ' , a slow @-@ burn jam of desire co @-@ written by Odd Future @-@ affiliated crooner Frank Ocean . In its beginning moments , the song draws on the sparse wave of recent music by British band The xx by using silence as a weapon , a notion that extends across the 12 @-@ song album .

Adam Markovitz of Entertainment Weekly was also positive , writing that Beyoncé " pants and sweats and grunts (except , you know , sexy @-@ like) , her voice climbing ever higher in search of an octave big enough to hold it " . Embling of Tiny Mix Tapes wrote that " [...] " if sung by anyone else , ' I Miss You ' would be a thin wisp of a ballad , but Beyoncé allows her voice to crack at the right moments , moving tenuously , self @-@ consciously through the soft , circular melody . " He concluded that songs like " I Miss You " and " Start Over " would earn deserved spots in " the Beyoncé pantheon " once fans take the time to grow attached to them . Andrew Unterberger of PopCrush praised the way Beyoncé delivers the line " Why is that ? " , writing that it is " a nice little nod to the confusion of heartbreak , and a rare , welcome glimpse of vulnerability for an artist who too often seems to have all of the answers . " Referring to " I Miss You " , Alexis Petridis of The Guardian wrote that " the [19] 80s influence is not always a bad thing . " He considered the song to be " a woozy update of an old @-@ fashioned slow jam " , further stating that " it is probably pushing it a bit to call it an R & B equivalent of Ariel Pink 's hypnagogic pop , but there 's something enveloping and dream @-@ like about it . " Ian Walker of AbsolutePunk commented that the " [the] hollow beat and dismal synthesizers , allow [ed] Beyoncé and her morosely beautiful voice center stage . [...] Beyoncé delivers a believable performance effortlessly . " By contrast , Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune was negative , writing that " [' I Miss You ' is] easily overlooked with its forlorn keyboard and beat @-@ box chintziness . " Similarly , Consequence of Sound writer Chris Coplan felt that the ballad is " too @-@ saccharine @-@ for @-@ its @-@ own @-@ good . " The Guardian 's critics Ben Beaumont Thomas and Rebecca Nicholson ranked " I Miss You " at numbers four and nine respectively on their lists of The 10 Best Tracks of 2011 .

= = Live performances = =

Beyoncé performed " I Miss You " live for first time on August 14 , 2011 during her 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé in Roseland Ballroom , New York City . She performed the song in front of 3 @,@ 500 people wearing a gold dress and backed by her all @-@ female band and her backing singers , called the Mamas . During the ITV special A Night With Beyoncé which aired on December 4 in the United Kingdom , Beyoncé performed " I Miss You " to a selected crowd of fans .

In May , 2012 , Beyoncé performed " I Miss You " during her Revel Presents : Beyoncé Live revue in Atlantic City , New Jersey , United States ' entertainment resort , hotel , casino and spa , Revel . An electronic backdrop behind Beyoncé and a male dancer in kinetic , black @-@ and @-@ white stripes accompanied Beyoncé on stage . Dan DeLuca of The Philadelphia Inquirer noted that " the set list tipped too heavily at times toward bombastic balladry like ' I Care ' and ' I Miss You ' " . Jim Farber of Daily News commented that the song was sung with " precision and sweep , she tipped the balance decidedly softer , giving her power grounding " . Tris McCall of New Jersey On @-@ Line wrote , " Even ' I Miss You , ' perhaps the least flashy song in her catalog , felt like a necessary breather , and an occasion for her to break out her conversational lower register . "

= = Cover versions = =

On November 5 , 2011 , Ocean performed " I Miss You " at the House of Blues in New Orleans . Dressed in a black suit with a red @-@ and @-@ white bandana around his head , he sat down at an electric piano to perform it live to end the evening . The crowd also sang along . Alex Rawls of Rolling Stone found his performance to be " warm and soulful " . British indie pop band The xx covered the song on February 14 , 2013 during their concert in Austin , Texas and later posted the cover on their official blog . Their cover of the song was a duet between Romy Madley Croft and

Oliver Sim accompanied by spare guitar and bass . Their cover of the song was described as " great " by Jenn Pelly of Pitchfork Media , while Sam Weiss of Complex magazine praised the performance saying that the band made the song sound similar to their own material from the album Coexist (2012) . Chris Martins of Spin magazine commented that " It 's exactly what you 'd expect to hear , and it 's exactly as beautiful as you 'd hope it would be . "

= = Chart performance = =

Selling 16 @, @ 032 digital downloads , " I Miss You " opened at number 34 on the South Korea Gaon International Singles Chart for the week ending July 2 , 2011 . Following the release of 4 , " I Miss You " also charted at number 184 on the UK Singles Chart on July 9 , 2011 , based on downloads alone .