

= Wings (Little Mix song) =

" Wings " is a song by British girl group Little Mix . It was co -@-@ written by the group in collaboration with Iain James , Erika Nuri , Michelle Lewis , Mischke , Heidi Rojas and the song 's producers , TMS . It was released as their second single after winning the eighth series of The X Factor in 2011 , and the lead single from their debut studio album DNA (2012) . Syco Music serviced the single to BBC Radio 1 in the United Kingdom on 2 July 2012 and it was released for digital download on 24 August 2012 . The uptempo song , which features modern beats , drums , horns and clapping , is a pop arrangement with elements of R & B and old school . Lyrically , the song has themes of girl power , maternal advice and individuality .

" Wings " was well received by contemporary music critics , who praised its lyrical message , upbeat sound and vocals . " Wings " was the group 's most successful single to date , until they released " Black Magic " in 2015 . It topped the UK Singles Chart with sales of 107 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . The single also reached number one in Ireland and Scotland and number three in Australia , where it was certified triple platinum . It charted in the top 40 in three other countries , peaking at number 79 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and number 26 on the US Billboard Pop Songs chart .

The accompanying music video was directed by Max and Dania at an abandoned warehouse . The clip shows the group dancing and singing in front of colourful backdrops and a pink Union Jack flag , wearing urban @-@ styled outfits corresponding to the backdrops . The video received favorable reviews from critics , who praised the group 's fashion sense , dancing and confidence . Little Mix promoted the song by performing it live on a number of television shows (including Red or Black ? and The X Factor Australia) and during their 2013 DNA Tour .

= = Inspiration and writing = =

In December 2011 , Little Mix won the eighth series of The X Factor (UK) , becoming the first group to do so and subsequently signing a recording deal with Syco Music . A cover of Damien Rice 's 2002 single " Cannonball " was released as the group 's debut single and winner 's single that month . Although " Cannonball " became their first number one single in the UK and Ireland , the group were adamant on writing an original single to follow it up . " Wings " was primarily written by Little Mix , Iain James , and TMS members Thomas Barnes , Peter Kelleher and Ben Kohn . However , Little Mix continued to collaborate with other writers until they felt the song was complete , including Erika Nuri of The Writing Camp , singer Michelle Lewis , Mischke , and Heidi Rojas . It was the first song written for the group 's debut studio album , DNA .

According to group member Leigh @-@ Anne Pinnock , the line " Mama told me not to waste my time " was considered an important part during the development of " Wings " ; the song was in part based on the group 's personal experiences of overcoming bullying . Little Mix wanted the single to be something listeners could relate to without sounding cheesy . The lyrics were written as an uplifting message for both the group and their fans . Group member Jesy Nelson said : " There 's nothing wrong with writing songs about clubs and partying but I think it 's cool to do a song with meaning . " The song specifically drew inspiration from the group 's experience on The X Factor where they felt discouraged , being the favourites to be eliminated after the competition 's first live show . Nelson explained : " On our first week on X Factor the paps were all shouting ' See you on This Morning on Monday ' because that 's where all the losers go . I was like : ' Oh , right , thanks ! ' "

Other inspiration came from a time when Nelson aspired to be a singer as a teenager , but was discouraged by her teachers who told her she needed a back @-@ up plan or she would end up working at the retailer Tesco . The song in turn has a theme of maternal advice ; Nelson advised that listeners of " Wings " should listen to their mothers " because they 're always right " . Group member Jade Thirlwall stated that they also wanted the song to promote girl power and to return girl groups to prominence , inspired by 1990s girl groups such as the Spice Girls . " Wings " was further inspired by songs by Beyoncé and Michael Jackson .

= = Production and recording = =

Little Mix immediately began recording after taking a short break to spend time with their families , following their win on The X Factor . During the early stages of the song 's development in January 2012 , group member Perrie Edwards revealed : " We 're going a bit urban , old school with a bit of pop . We wanna bring back old school harmonies . And Jesy beat @-@ boxes and Leigh Anne raps , so we 're trying out different things . " The recording of " Wings " continued while the group were embarking on The X Factor Live Tour (25 February ? 4 April 2012) . Recording took place at The Music Shed in London . The group knew on first @-@ listen that " Wings " had to be a single . In March 2012 , Little Mix played a demo to Syco owner Simon Cowell who was impressed , believing the group 's input bettered the quality of their music .

The song was produced by TMS with vocal production by James F. Reynolds . While oldschool @-@ sounding , the song was developed with a modern beat , so listeners could also dance to it . The group envisioned " Wings " to be " a bit different " from other singles released at the time , and a combination of pop , hip hop and R & B. The track was also composed with an American audience in mind .

= = Composition and structure = =

" Wings " is an upbeat , bubblegum pop and R & B song with elements of 1990s music and a length of 3 : 39 (3 minutes and 39 seconds) . It is composed in simple time and in the key of E minor with a fast tempo of 112 beats per minute . The song has a minimal beat . It contains a varying kick and snare drum arrangement throughout , pertaining to a sound reminiscent of a marching band . A number of other instruments are also used , including : an alto saxophone , a Baritone saxophone , guitar , keyboards , a tenor saxophone , a trombone and trumpet . Little Mix 's vocals span the notes B3 to E5 .

The track opens with a brief instrumental introduction comprising rhythmic clapping and a brass backbeat . Before leading into the first verse , the group chant the chorus : " Mama told me not to waste my life / She said spread your wings my little butterfly / Don 't let what they say keep you up at night / And if they give you shhhh / Then they can walk on by . " The arrangement is primarily four @-@ on @-@ the @-@ floor during this segment (0 : 03 ? 0 : 17) , leading to a sparser sound than that on the later double @-@ chorus . The lyric " shhhh " is sung as a replacement for the word " shit " . A bass synthesizer plays on the lyric " running up your mouth " (0 : 26) in the first verse .

Halfway on the double chorus ? on the lyric " fly " (1 : 01) ? the group harmonize altogether and a major chord substitution takes place . This is preceded by a build @-@ up of a variety of transition effects and a brief return to the four @-@ on @-@ the @-@ floor kick drum sequence . When the substitution takes place , Little Mix 's vocals (along with the backing vocals by James and singer Carmen Reece) become more sustained and melismatic as the stereo widens and their pitch increases .

The second verse is introduced with eighth note delay taps (1 : 20 ? 1 : 22) on the verse 's first lyric " I 'm " which gradually increases until properly sung . The lyric features an A ? B pitch change which increases harmonic momentum for the second verse by implying a return to the cadential D chord in the chorus , instead of a continuation of the tonic E. The second verse is shorter than the first , although it also features bass synthesizer , on " ready steady go , no " (1 : 29) . A dubstep @-@ influenced breakdown occurs after the second double chorus during which the group chant the lyric " hey " repeatedly at the end of each line . Following the breakdown and a third double chorus , the song ends in an outro harmony .

= = Release = =

" Wings " served as the lead single from DNA . Little Mix first announced the single 's title during a live Twitcam with their fans on 30 May 2012 , and shared the single 's cover art on Facebook the

following day . It features them against a sky @-@ blue background , as well as a new logo comprising four icons (one for each member) . The cover art was designed by Studio Output . The group previewed a short snippet of " Wings " during an interview on Alan Carr : Chatty Man on 1 June 2012 . The same day , the single was made available for pre @-@ order with a release date of 22 July 2012 . However , it was announced on 11 June 2012 that the single 's release was postponed to 19 August 2012 . " Wings " received its radio premiere on BBC Radio 1 on 2 July 2012 . An accompanying lyric video was posted on the group 's Vevo channel the same day .

Syco first released " Wings " for digital download in Ireland on 24 August 2012 , and in the UK on 26 August 2012 , after being pushed back a second time . The single was later made available in New Zealand on 4 October 2012 , and in Australia on 5 October 2012 . It was also released as a CD single in the UK on 26 August 2012 , and in Australia on 30 October 2012 . In January 2013 , Little Mix signed to Columbia Records ; " Wings " was released by the label for digital download on 5 February 2013 as the group 's debut single in Canada and the US . The single impacted contemporary hit radio in the US on 19 February 2013 . The group recorded a Korean version of " Wings " featuring verses mainly sung in Korean ; it was released in South Korea on 19 August 2013 .

= = Critical reception = =

= = = Reviews = = =

" Wings " received acclaim from critics . Joe Rivers of No Ripcord gave the song a rating of nine out of ten , describing it as " vivacious , fun , brash and confident " , and praising its " absolute belter of a chorus " . Rivers concluded : " ' Wings ' is really pretty darn good . Not just good @-@ for @-@ X @-@ Factor good , but good @-@ in @-@ the @-@ context @-@ of @-@ all @-@ pop @-@ music good . " Robert Copsey from Digital Spy gave the song four out of five stars , and said it resoundingly lived up to expectations and was " a seriously promising start " for the group . John Earls of the Daily Star rated the track eight out of ten , writing : " Their modern , confident attitude fits in nicely with the song , while the military drums and lairy vocals show Little Mix have big ideas . " Daniella Graham from Metro found the inspirational lyrics to be a good fit for the group who she believed " were styled as perfect role models for teenage girls during their time on X Factor " .

Michael Cragg of The Guardian said the group were poised to succeed " where other X Factor winners have failed by releasing a great single at the right time " . Cragg wrote that the song 's production made it " brilliant " and had " everything you 'd want to hear in a pop song in 2012 " , and likened Little Mix 's " ridiculous vocal runs " to those of Christina Aguilera . Gordon Smart from The Sun regarded the track as a " polished slice of pop " and its lyrics " straight from the Spice Girls ' book of inspirational girl power lines " , comparing it to Aguilera 's 2007 single " Candyman " . Popjustice also compared " Wings " to songs by Aguilera , and praised its outro as " so astounding that it will probably be the best outro of any song to be released this summer " . They complimented the track 's " really breezily defiant and carefree " take on anti @-@ bullying lyrics , and opined : " There 's enough intense greatness in this song to launch Little Mix in at least eight countries that aren 't the UK . " The website went on to deem " Wings " the best girl group single since Girls Aloud 's " Call the Shots " (2007) .

Elizabeth Thompson of Paper magazine called it " an effervescent single with a debt to En Vogue " . Similarly , Bill Lamb from About.com likened the group 's vocal style to that of En Vogue , and deemed the track " irresistibly catchy " , concluding : " it 's impossible to dismiss the pop power of a record like ' Wings ' " . Ailbhe Malone of The Irish Times commented that " Wings " was " a stomper " reminiscent of a combination of Beyoncé 's " Get Me Bodied " and Lisa Lopes ' " The Block Party " , explaining : " Basically , this means hand claps , vocal harmonies and an X Factor 's worth of attitude . " Ian Gittins from Virgin Media described " Wings " as a " swoon of pop bliss suggestive of Sugababes rulin Tamla Motown . " James Robertson of the Daily Mirror cited the track as " exactly what made the girls so popular " , and in his opinion , Little Mix " made history " by becoming the

first winner from The X Factor to release a second single that was a vast improvement on their first . Al Fox from BBC Music deemed the song " addictive " , while Vicki Newman of the Shields Gazette wrote that it " firmly cemented the girls ' signature sound " . Joey Guerra from the Houston Chronicle viewed it as " ridiculously catchy " , and quipped , " All hail the Spice Girls 2 @.@ 0 ! "

= = = Recognition = = =

" Wings " placed at number 21 on Popjustice 's list of The Top 45 Singles of 2012 . It was ranked at number 35 on No Ripcord 's Top 40 Tracks of 2012 list . The song was nominated for the 2012 Popjustice £ 20 Music Prize , but lost to Will Young 's " Jealousy " . The single also placed at number three on About.com 's list of Top 100 Pop Songs of 2013 . It received a nomination for Best Song to Dance To at the 2014 Radio Disney Music Awards , losing to Selena Gomez 's " Birthday " . In 2015 , " Wings " was voted the favourite girl group single by Billboard magazine readers , ahead of the Spice Girls ' " Wannabe " and T.A.T.u 's " All the Things She Said " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Wings " debuted at number one on the UK Singles Chart ? for the week ending 8 September 2012 ? with first @-@ week sales of 106 @,@ 766 copies , becoming Little Mix 's second consecutive number @-@ one single on the chart after 2011 's " Cannonball " . The single fell to number four in its second week , selling 59 @,@ 355 copies . The group became only the third winner from The X Factor (UK) , after Leona Lewis and Alexandra Burke , to follow up their winner 's single with a second number one single . By the end of 2012 , " Wings " had sold more than 380 @,@ 000 copies , placing at number 40 on the year @-@ end chart . It spent a total of 25 weeks on the chart . On 22 July 2013 , the single was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , denoting sales in excess of 400 @,@ 000 copies in the UK . As of 24 July 2015 , " Wings " has sold 526 @,@ 717 units in the UK .

The track had similar success in Ireland where it bowed at number one on the Irish Singles Chart . It marked Little Mix 's second consecutive number @-@ one single and accumulated a total of 25 weeks on the chart . The song became the group 's highest @-@ charting single in Australia , debuting at number 34 and peaking at number three on the ARIA Singles Chart in its fourth week . " Wings " is among the best @-@ selling girl group singles in Australia , having been certified triple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for sales of 210 @,@ 000 copies . The track entered at number 17 on the New Zealand Singles Chart , and reached a peak of number 15 in its third week . It received a gold certification from Recorded Music NZ (RMNZ) , denoting sales of 7 @,@ 500 copies .

" Wings " debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 98 for the week ending 11 April 2013 . According to Nielsen SoundScan , the single had already sold 97 @,@ 000 copies prior to its chart debut . Brian Mansfield of USA Today wrote that " Wings " was poised to become " [2013 's] ' What Makes You Beautiful ' " in the US . However , it stalled at number 79 and spent a total of nine weeks on the chart . The single fared better on the US Mainstream Top 40 chart where it reached number 26 . On 16 August 2013 , " Wings " received a gold certification from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting sales in excess of 500 @,@ 000 copies . In Canada , the song peaked at number 69 on the Canadian Hot 100 , and was certified gold by Music Canada for sales of 40 @,@ 000 copies . " Wings " became Little Mix 's highest @-@ charting single in Japan where it climbed as high as number seven on the Japan Hot 100 .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and synopsis = = =

The accompanying music video for " Wings " was directed by Max & Dania . The group began

rehearsing choreography for the video on 3 May 2012 . It was filmed at Elstree Studios on 6 ? 7 June 2012 . As a result of several re @-@ takes of the group 's dance routine , the video was shot over a 22 @-@ hour period from 04 : 00 to 02 : 00 BST . The group 's wardrobe included outfits from Topshop , American Apparel and Dr. Martens . The set used was an abandoned warehouse . The group regard " Wings " as their " first proper video " ; their previous music video for " Cannonball " was a montage of scenes from their experiences on The X Factor . The music video premiered on The Box on 25 July 2012 .

The music video follows no storyline . Each group member wears three different outfits throughout , all of which portray their individual styles . The video is introduced with a screen split into four in which each member is shown singing to the camera . They then dance separately in front of different , brightly @-@ coloured backdrops which manifest their individual personalities : a flower and gramophone record backdrop (Edwards) , a bow tie backdrop (Thirlwall) , graffiti @-@ decorated (Pinnock) , and boomboxes (Nelson) . Near the end of the video , the group are accompanied by male backing dancers for a hip hop and chair @-@ dance dance routine in front of a large Union Jack .

= = = Reception = = =

Newman opined that the visual had viral video popularity and poised " Wings " for commercial success . The video was accidentally released on the iTunes Store in the US the same day as its premiere to instant sales success , before being promptly taken down . When released in December 2012 , Gary Trust of Billboard magazine noted that the video was a consistent seller for the group ahead of the US debut of " Wings " in February 2013 .

The music video was well received among critics . Sam Lansky from MTV News called it dazzling and colourful , and cited the chair @-@ dancing sequence as his favourite since that of Britney Spears ' " Stronger " (2000) . Lansky concluded : " Who needs to be high @-@ concept when you have this much attitude ? " Similarly , Lewis Corner from Digital Spy highlighted the group 's " sassy poses , on @-@ point strutting and [...] whole lot of attitude . " Rebecca Martin of Sky Living complimented their " quirky outfits " and " fun dance moves " , concluding that the video " proves [Little Mix are] ready to give other girlbands on the scene a serious run for their money . " Sarah Deen of Metro wrote that the visual demonstrated the group 's dancing abilities and " truly shows off their individual style " . Deen said it made sure the song " leaves a lasting impression " , describing it as " eye @-@ catching " and a " vibrant and attitude @-@ packed pop video " . Ellie Ross from The Sun deemed the video " sassy " and felt it portrayed Little Mix as " fully grown up " , noting that " they 've stepped up their game even more since [The X Factor] " .

= = Live performances = =

Little Mix gave their first live performance of " Wings " at T4 on the Beach on 1 July 2012 . The group promoted the single in the UK with televised performances of it on This Morning on 20 August 2012 , Red or Black ? on 25 August 2012 , and Daybreak on 3 September 2012 . They also performed the song along with " DNA " at the BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards on 7 October 2012 . In Australia , Little Mix promoted " Wings " with live performances of the track on Sunrise and the fourth series of The X Factor (Australia) on 30 October 2012 . In the US , the group performed the song on Good Morning America on 7 June 2013 , and twice on The Today Show (17 June 2014 and 19 August 2015) .

" Wings " was the sixth song , and encore reprise on the setlist for Little Mix 's 2013 DNA Tour . The group sported 1990s style outfits for the renditions with each member wearing baggy jeans and personalised crop tops with their names printed in graffiti font . For 2014 's The Salute Tour , " Wings " was also the setlist 's encore closer . Performances of the song ended in confetti showers .

= = Usage in the media = =

English pop @-@ rock band Scouting for Girls performed a cover of the song for BBC 's Live Lounge on 30 August 2012 . On 1 May 2013 , American Idol (season 12) finalists Candice Glover , Angie Miller , Kree Harrison and Amber Holcomb performed " Wings " during the quarterfinal round of the live shows . The dance troupe of Lancaster , Lancashire performed a routine to " Wings " joint appearance with the dance troupe of York in the 2013 Roses Tournament . Many of the group 's fans designed tattoos based on the song 's inspirational message . Leigh @-@ Anne Pinnock later inked a tattoo featuring a musical note and four butterflies as a tribute to Little Mix fans and " Wings " . The song was performed by Jessica Sanchez in the fourth @-@ season finale of Glee , " All or Nothing " , which aired on 9 May 2013 . " Wings " was featured twice during the 21st episode of the third season of Hawaii Five @-@ 0 .

It was also featured in Baggage Claim (film) movie in 2013 . In 2014 , the song was covered on the television series Rising Star by contestant Alice Lee .

== Formats and track listings ==

== Credits and personnel ==

Credits adapted from the album liner notes of DNA , and the single liner notes of " Wings " .

== Charts ==

== Certifications ==

== Release history ==