

= The Hardest Part (Coldplay song) =

" The Hardest Part " is a song by British alternative rock band Coldplay . It was written by all four members of the band for their third album , X & Y. A piano @-@ based ballad song , it begins with a piano melody , followed with electric guitar lines , that accompanies slow @-@ tempo drumming . It was released on 3 April 2006 as the fourth single from X & Y. The song was released as a radio @-@ only song on United Kingdom radio stations . It appeared on the United States Billboard Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks chart and peaked at number 37 , making it Coldplay 's first appearance on that chart and helping establish moderate success at AC radio for future singles like " Viva la Vida " , " Paradise " , and " Every Teardrop Is a Waterfall " . " The Hardest Part " also charted in Australia , Italy and New Zealand .

The song was well received by critics . The track was complimented for its musical style . Regional singles were released in Canada , Europe , and Australia ; a different version was released in Taiwan . Promo singles were released for the UK and US . The international version of the single was made available in the UK on 19 June 2006 .

= = Production and composition = =

The previous single from X & Y , " Talk " , was a tribute to the German band Kraftwerk ; similarly , " The Hardest Part " was intended by Coldplay to acknowledge American band R.E.M. When asked why the song paid a tribute to R.E.M. ' s lead singer , Michael Stipe , Chris Martin said : " I 've lost all respect for fame , but I haven 't lost all respect for respect . So the one great thing about being famous is that I get to meet people who I respect . Our relationship is akin to a dog and its master . I 'll always look up to him . " The band felt the track resembled R.E.M. ' s 1991 single , " Losing My Religion " . " The Hardest Part " was left out of the album track list when the band sent an early version of X & Y to their record label , Parlophone , but was included when the album was finalised .

= = Release and reception = =

Coldplay released " The Hardest Part " in the US and UK on 3 April 2006 as the fourth single of their third album . The single was pressed with a B @-@ side , " How You See the World " , recorded live at Earls Court . The international version of the single was made available in the UK on 19 June 2006 . Regional singles were released for Canada , Europe , Australia , and a different version for Taiwan . Promotional singles were released in the UK and US . The track peaked at number 37 on Billboard 's Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks chart . Although the song did not chart on the UK Singles Chart , as the song was released as a radio @-@ only song , the single peaked on the Italian charts on 11 May 2006 at number 19 and spent a week in the chart . Afterward , the song peaked on the New Zealand Singles Chart at number 34 on 21 August 2006 . A live piano version of " The Hardest Part " appeared on Coldplay 's 2009 live album LeftRightLeftRightLeft .

Critics were positive towards the song . In the Entertainment Weekly review of the album , music contributor David Browne wrote that the song " is imbued with the sense of regret and letting go that we 've heard from the band before , but with added musical muscle . " Michael Hubbard of MusicOMH wrote : " ' A Message ' and ' The Hardest Part ' sound like companion pieces , both big songs . " Critic Kelefa Sanneh of Rolling Stone noted that the song gets " less catchy as it goes along " . Adrien Bégard from PopMatters wrote that " The Hardest Part " is a " pleasant slice of R.E.M. style pop . " Cameron Adams of the Herald Sun reported that the song sounded " like the Smiths meets REM . " David Cheal of The Daily Telegraph noted , " ... ' The Hardest Part ' is lovely , straightforward , instantly accessible pop @-@ rock " .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " The Hardest Part " was shot on 3 March 2006 in St. Petersburg , Florida . The

video uses footage from the television series Attitudes , a series aired on the Lifetime television network , from 1985 ? 1991 . The video is digitally enhanced to appear as though Coldplay is performing the music alongside the act appearing on stage . American actress Linda Dano , who played Felicia Gallant on the US soap opera Another World , is also featured . The dancers on the stage are 84 years old Barbara Moseley and 25 years old Gene Spencer whose performance was actually filmed in 1990 . The music video was directed by Mary Wigmore .

= = Personnel = =

Chris Martin - vocals , piano
Guy Berryman - bass guitar
Jonny Buckland - guitars
Will Champion - drums , backing vocals
Brian Eno - keyboards , synthesizer

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =