

= Team (Lorde song) =

" Team " is a song by New Zealand singer Lorde , taken from her debut studio album , Pure Heroine (2013) . The song was released on 13 September 2013 as the album 's third single in Australia and New Zealand by Universal Music New Zealand , and the second in the United States and the United Kingdom by Lava and Republic Records . The track was written by Lorde and Joel Little and produced by Little , with additional production from Lorde herself . " Team " is a hybrid of alternative pop and electro @-@ hop featuring synthesiser , bass and snare drum instrumentation over a handclap @-@ based beat . Lyrically , the track is a " tribute to her friends and country " .

" Team " was generally well received by most contemporary critics , who praised its musical style , lyrical content and Lorde 's vocal delivery on the track . The single garnered success on charts internationally , peaking at number 6 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and at number 3 on the Canadian Hot 100 chart . In Oceania , it peaked at number 19 in Australia and debuting and debuted at number 3 in New Zealand . " Team " was certified platinum by both the Australian Recording Industry Association and Recorded Music NZ .

A music video for the song was directed by Young Replicant and was released on 4 December 2013 . Filmed in an abandoned building named Red Hook Grain Terminal in Red Hook , Brooklyn , the video 's content was inspired by Lorde 's dream of an own world for teenagers . Upon its release , the clip crashed Vevo 's channel due to a high number of views . To promote " Team " and Pure Heroine , Lorde performed the song on several occasions , including on Late Show with David Letterman and at the ARIA Music Awards of 2013 . It was later featured on a Season 10 episode of Grey 's Anatomy which aired in December 2013 .

= = Background = =

" Team " was written by Lorde and Joel Little while Lorde was travelling the world . The track was recorded , produced and mixed by Little at his Golden Age Studios in Morningside , Auckland , with Lorde providing additional production . The song was produced using the software Pro Tools . On 13 September 2013 " Team " was leaked , justifying an earlier rush out release . Within hours the audio was uploaded on YouTube and Universal Music New Zealand released the digital download single for sale in Australia and New Zealand . On 19 November 2013 , the track was sent to US contemporary hit radio by Lava and Republic Records . " Team " was sent to US rhythmic contemporary radio on 6 January 2014 .

= = Composition = =

" Team " is a hybrid of alternative pop and electro @-@ hop . Written in the key of G @-@ flat major , " Team " features synthesiser , bass , and snare drum instrumentation over a handclap @-@ based beat . Amanda Dobbins of New York magazine and Maura Johnston of Spin likened the chorus of the song to that of Lana Del Rey 's " Born to Die " (2011) , while Drowned in Sound 's Sammy Maine compared the beats to works produced by Timbaland for Missy Elliott . Lorde 's vocal range spans from B ? 2 to D ? 5 . The song moves at a tempo of 100 beats per minute .

Lyrically , " Team " is a " tribute to her friends and country " . During an interview with Billboard , Lorde described the song as " her take on most modern music " and explained , " no one comes to New Zealand , no one knows anything about New Zealand , and here I am , trying to grow up and become a person . " Lorde explained that the line " We live in cities you 'll never see on screen " was " to be speaking for the minority " from small cities . She also expresses distaste in common contemporary popular music lyrics telling listeners to " put your hands in the air " through the verse " I 'm kind of over getting told to throw my hands up in the air " . Writer Lily Rothman for the magazine Time commented that the lyrics " we sure know how to run things " in " Team " were a response to the lyrics " we run things , things don ' t run we " in Miley Cyrus ' " We Can ' t Stop " (2013) .

= = Reception = =

" Team " received critical acclaim from music critics . Brenna Ehrlich from MTV News lauded it as an " insanely catchy jam " . The AV Club critic Kevin McFarland labelled " Team " as a " club @-@ ready " and " sparkly thumper " , while Nathan Jolly from The Music Network simply described it " interesting " . John Murphy , in his review of Pure Heroine for musicOMH , commended the lyrics " I 'm kinda over getting told to throw my hands up in the air " for being catchy . Marlow Stern writing for The Daily Beast listed " Team " as the fifth best song of 2013 .

On 23 September 2013 , " Team " debuted at number three on the New Zealand Singles Chart , becoming Lorde 's third consecutive top @-@ three single in the country following number @-@ one singles " Royals " and " Tennis Court " . Recorded Music NZ certified the single double platinum due to the sales figure of over 30 @,@ 000 copies in the country . " Team " peaked at number nineteen on the Australian Singles Chart , and was certified double platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) .

Following its impact on US radio stations , " Team " debuted at number thirty @-@ two on the Billboard Rock Airplay , and topped the chart on 7 October 2013 . It also topped the Adult Top 40 , and charted at number two on the Mainstream Top 40 , number two on the Hot Rock Songs and number two on the Alternative Songs . On the Billboard Hot 100 , " Team " peaked at number six , becoming her second US top @-@ ten hit (following her debut number @-@ one hit " Royals ") . The song reached over two million in sales in the US by April 2014 . By December 2014 , " Team " has sold 2 @.@ 45 million copies in the US . The single also reached number three on the Canadian Hot 100 , and was certified double @-@ platinum by Music Canada , which denotes 160 @,@ 000 downloads .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Team " was directed by Young Replicant . Filmed the disused Red Hook Grain Terminal in Red Hook , Brooklyn , the video was inspired by Lorde 's dream of " teenagers in their own world , a world with hierarchies and initiations , where the boy who was second in command had acne on his face , and so did the girl who was Queen " . The director explained that Lorde was one of the " kids who have a unique look " , which fitted the clip 's " sad story " concept .

The video begins with shots of the ocean ; The Daily Beast 's editor Marlow Stern draw comparisons between the shots to Paul Thomas Anderson 's drama film The Master (2012) . The scene revealed an unseen city with ruins of factories on an island and full of teens " without any parental guidance " . On Lorde 's Facebook account , she further explained that world was " so different to anything anyone had ever seen , a dark world full of tropical plants and ruins and sweat " . Inside the ruins , she is seen as the " self @-@ anointed " queen of the city 's citizens in a " blue , foliage @-@ filled universe " . Stern compared her image to that of The Hunger Games ' fictional character Katniss Everdeen . A young boy is transported to the island ; following his arrival , he must joust on a motorbike to become a part of Lorde 's " team " . He loses ; Lorde commented that " sometimes the person who loses is stronger " .

On 4 December 2013 , the video was released on Lorde 's official VEVO channel on YouTube at 10 AM (New Zealand time) . Upon its release , the video crashed Vevo 's channel due to a high number of views . Lily Rothman from Time magazine compared the video for " Team " to Miley Cyrus ' " We Can 't Stop " music video for their same " mythical settings " ? a party (" We Can 't Stop ") and an island (" Team ") .

= = Live performances , covers and remixes = =

On 12 November 2013 , Lorde performed several songs from Pure Heroine during the Late Show with David Letterman to promote the album , including " Team " . The track was also performed by Lorde during the ARIA Music Awards of 2013 . At the 2014 MuchMusic Video Awards , Lorde performed a Goth @-@ influenced medley of " Tennis Court " and " Team " .

American alternative rock band Local H recorded a cover version of " Team " at Electrical Audio in

Chicago , Illinois . The Local H version was released as a single on 21 April 2014 .

J Gramm released a remix of " Team " in December of 2013 . Noisey gave the remix a positive review , stating that J Gramm " turns the ballad up a notch ? with some triumphant drums and overall , a more victorious feel for the stories of the cities she 's dreaming up . "

A heavily modified , instrumental version of the song is used towards the end of the season eighteen episode of South Park , entitled Gluten Free Ebola .

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Team " ? 3 : 13

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =