

= Whatever It Takes (Leona Lewis song) =

" Whatever It Takes " is a song by British singer @-@ songwriter Leona Lewis from her debut studio album , Spirit (2007) . Lewis co @-@ wrote it with Tony Reyes and Novel ; the latter also co @-@ produced it with Dallas Austin . It was the first song to be written for Spirit and one of only two songs on the album to involve Lewis in the writing process . It is a gospel @-@ pop @-@ influenced track . The song garnered a mixed response from music critics ; it was praised for its upbeat instrumentation but criticised for lacking any " kick " . Upon the release of Spirit , the song debuted at number 61 on the UK Singles Chart due to strong digital download sales . Lewis has performed the song at the 2010 Rock in Rio and on her debut concert tour , The Labyrinth . It was later included on the subsequent DVD release called The Labyrinth Tour : Live from the O2 .

= = Recording and production = =

Co @-@ written by Lewis with Novel and Tony Reyes , " Whatever It Takes " was recorded at DARP Studios and Doppler Studios , both located in Atlanta , Georgia and at Battery Studios in New York City , by Carlton Lynn . Lynn was assisted in the recording process by Lloyd Cooper (at Doppler Studios) and Tim Sturges (at Battery Studios) . It was also mixed by Lynn at DARP Studios ; Josh Houghkirk served as the assistant mixer . The song was produced by Novel and Dallas Austin . A variety of instrumentalists were enlisted for the production of " Whatever It Takes " : Eddie Horst was the string arranger , while Kenn Wagner , Olga Shiptko , Amy Chang and William Pu performed violins , Karen Freer and Daniel Laufer provided cello and co @-@ writer Reyes played the guitar . Stephen Lowman and Stephen Ferrera performed drums , while Novel played the keyboard . " Whatever It Takes " makes use of a choir , which consists of Tawatha Agee , Vanesse Thomas , Cindy Mizelle , Michelle Cobbs , Robin Clark , " Bibi " Straughn , Tammy Lucas , Billy Porter , Bennie Diggs and Fonzi Thornton ; Thornton was enlisted as the vocal contractor . Lewis provides background vocals on the track , and the production process was overseen by Kimberly L. Smith . As she introduced the track before performing it on her debut concert tour The Labyrinth (2010) , Lewis revealed that " Whatever It Takes " was the first song to be written for Spirit .

= = Composition and critical reception = =

" Whatever It Takes " is an upbeat , midtempo gospel @-@ pop song which lasts for a duration of 3 : 27 . The song was composed in the key of Eb major using common time at 96 beats per minute . Lewis ' vocal range spans over two octaves from low note of Bb3 to the high note of Bb5 . The song garnered a mixed response from music critics . Nate Chinen for The New York Times was complimentary of " Whatever It Takes " , writing that it is an " upbeat anthem . " A reviewer for The Sun also described the song as a " soaring anthem . " Sarah @-@ Louise James for the Daily Star wrote that although the element of gospel music was has a nice outro , it " lacks real kick " . Nick Levine was for Digital Spy wrote " ' Whatever It Takes ' is anchored by a rhythm track that wouldn 't shame a boy @-@ racer cruising through Harlem in his pimped @-@ up ride . " However , he noted that " Whatever It Takes " and " Best You Never Had " were Spirit 's only uptempo moments , and that Lewis tries to emulate her contemporaries too closely . Kitty Empire for The Guardian was critical of the song , writing that " Not even Dallas Austin - who has worked with Sugababes - can make ' Whatever It Takes ' any fun . "

= = Live performances = =

Lewis performed " Whatever It Takes " at the Rock in Rio festival held in Lisbon on 22 May 2010 . It was also included as the fourth song on the set list of The Labyrinth . It was later included on the DVD release of the tour , called The Labyrinth Tour : Live from the O2 . Lewis performed the song in the first section of the set list , along with " Brave " as the opener , " Don 't Let Me Down " , " Better in Time " and " Take a Bow " . The set was decorated in the style of a castle ; acrobats performed as

they were hanging from the ceiling on large pieces of fabric while Lewis wore a gold sequined dress and thigh @-@ high boots .

= = Track listing = =

Spirit standard / deluxe edition

" Whatever It Takes " ? 3 : 27

Spirit United States standard / deluxe version

" Whatever It Takes " ? 3 : 27

The Labyrinth Tour : Live from the O2

" Whatever It Takes " (Live from the O2) ? 3 : 26

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at DARP Studios , Atlanta , GA ; Doppler Studios , Atlanta , GA ; Battery Studios , NYC .

Mixed at DARP Studios , Atlanta , GA .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Spirit .

= = Charts = =

Upon the release of Spirit , " Whatever It Takes " debuted at number 61 on the strength of digital download sales in the chart issue released on 24 November 2007 .