

= Love in Motion (Anika Moa album) =

Love in Motion is the fourth studio album by New Zealand singer @-@ songwriter Anika Moa . The album 's underlying theme is love . Moa 's civil partner , Azaria Universe , was her biggest influence when writing the album . With Love in Motion , Moa moved from the folk and country pop influences of In Swings the Tide to a pop rock sound . The album was released by EMI Records internationally on 12 March 2010 , with releases in Moa 's home country and Australia following on 5 April and 10 September , respectively . Moa toured Westfield malls the week of the album 's release , and a concert tour followed in May and June 2010 .

Critical reviews for the album have been mostly positive , with Moa 's lyrical writing received well . It debuted and peaked on the New Zealand Albums Chart at number four . " Running Through the Fire (Storm) " served as the album 's lead single , which peaked at number thirty @-@ eight on the New Zealand Singles Chart . " Blame It on the Rain " , the second single , did not appear on any record chart . Love in Motion Covers was released in October 2011 ; it comprises covers of the songs from Love in Motion by other musicians .

= = Background and recording = =

Moa has said that her partner , burlesque dancer Azaria Universe , with whom she entered into a civil union in February 2010 , was a major inspiration for the album . Love in Motion is dedicated to Universe , with the CD liner bearing the message , " For Azaria , let it be you , I fall into " .

When writing the album , Moa wanted to put the word " love " into the title of every song . Ultimately , four of the ten track titles contain " love " or " loves " , and every song has the word in its lyrics . In interviews , Moa has revealed the inspiration and circumstances around many of its songs . She said that " I Am the Woman Who Loves You " is about when she and Universe first met and that " Love Me Again " is about " taking the piss out of [her] love for Azaria " , calling the latter " a real Anika Moa song . " According to Moa , " Two Hearts " and " Secrets and Lies " were inspired by people who " fucked [her] off " . " Secrets and Lies " was written while Moa says she was " in a really bad mood " , however she asserts that it is her favourite track on the album . Moa said that " Blame It On the Rain " is about a person who Moa " will never ever name because they will be really , really sad if they knew " . " In the Air " is about Moa 's fear of flying , and " Running Through the Fire (Storm) " , originally simply called " Storm " , was prompted by the death of Moa 's father .

After interviewing Moa , The New Zealand Herald 's Scott Kara said that Love in Motion " is about love on all levels " . Moa described love as having " so many aspects to it . " She also said that " all of the songs are about love that 's true . " In an interview with Wendy Nissen from Newstalk ZB , Moa explained , " Most of the songs that I write are based on memories of my life or memories of someone who I know 's life " . She also mentioned that the album was influenced by many types of love ; not only her own , but also the love of her family , and love illustrated on soap operas such as Shortland Street and Grey 's Anatomy .

Moa wrote the songs for Love in Motion in two weeks , and it was recorded in two more weeks . Most of the album was written in Melbourne , while recording took place at three locations : Roundhead Studios , Boatshed Studio and Radio New Zealand . Moa and Andre Upston produced the album .

The writing and recording of Love in Motion was documented in the film In Bed With Anika Moa by filmmaker Justin Pemberton for the TVNZ documentary series Artsville .

= = Composition = =

Moa stated that " this is the first album that I really thought about what I wanted ... I wanted to keep [the songs] simple in structure , concentrating on the layering of vocals and guitars . " With Love in Motion , Moa moved away from her traditional pop and country pop sound to a pop rock environment . She intentionally changed the sound , through alterations in production and engineering , rather than the writing style . Moa told co @-@ producer Andre Upston that she

wanted the album to sound " dirty and gritty . " The album combines the genres of pop rock , " 80s pop " , bubblegum pop , and rock 'n'roll , as well as including both acoustic and electropop , and contains layered harmonies . Comparisons to the work of Ladyhawke , Sharon O 'Neill , Pat Benatar and Bic Runga have been made . The sound of " I Am the Woman Who Loves You " , noted as a standout track by critics , was called " big but not overblown ... stylish and swooning " .

Lyrically , Love in Motion explores a wide variety of the main theme of love . The title track centres around " pure , unguarded joy " , and sexual innuendo exists during " Love Me Again " , while " Two Hearts " contains harsh lines and " Secrets and Lies " includes " don 't @-@ mess @-@ with @-@ me outpourings " . Various songs also examine conflict , and others , the loss of love .

= = Release and promotion = =

Love in Motion was released digitally by the Flightless Birds label internationally on 12 March 2010 . A New Zealand release followed on 5 April , by EMI Records , as both digital download and CD formats . During the week of the album 's release (6 ? 10 April) , Moa toured several Westfield shopping malls in Auckland , Hamilton , Wellington and Christchurch , playing for free to the public . In Australia , EMI released the album on 10 September 2010 . A special edition was released on 18 October 2010 , featuring a second disc of acoustic versions of each track on the album . Moa said that " I 've chosen to record an acoustic version of the album because I believe in the vulnerable , simplistic side of music and writing . The way you connect the songs the first time you hear it , no drums , no effects , no funky bass lines , just your voice and a guitar ... it feels like magic . "

= = = Singles = = =

The lead single from Love in Motion , " Running Through the Fire (Storm) " , was released in New Zealand on 5 April 2010 , the same day as the album . " Running Through the Fire (Storm) " briefly charted on the New Zealand Singles Chart in its week of release , at number thirty @-@ eight . Despite this , the song fell off the chart the next week . " Blame It on the Rain " was released as the Australian single via digital download on 27 August , but it did not appear on any singles chart .

= = = Tour = = =

A concert tour was held in various New Zealand cities in late May and early June 2010 . Chip Matthews , Geoff Maddock and Nick Gaffaney , who all played on the album , joined Moa on the tour .

Karyn Cushen of Undertheradar said " Moa wears her new musical influence well ... featuring less pop , less blues and less country influences , " and called the tour shows " a refreshing change . " The Timaru Herald 's Katarina Filipe praised Moa 's live performing nature , noting that " the radio and CD versions were nothing compared to her on @-@ stage performance " . Vicki Anderson of The Press lauded the accompaniment by Matthews , Maddock and Gaffaney for giving songs " new energy " , while the Waikato Times ' Kate Monahan called the show " a high @-@ energy , emotionally powerful performance " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Reviews for Love in Motion were mostly positive . Tom Cardy of The Dominion Post called the album " near faultless " and gave it a rating of five @-@ out @-@ of @-@ five stars , commenting that " Moa 's risky decision ... to follow her own path ... was the right one . " The Nelson Mail 's Nick Ward praised the " slightly tough " album , putting it " up there with her best work . " Scott Kara of The New Zealand Herald called the album " diverse and interesting , " and gave it four out of five

stars . Amplifier 's Jo Tindling compared the work with that of Ladyhawke , and called it " different from her other work but ... her voice is still as tender and sweet as it ever was " . Simon Sweetman from North & South described the album as " an almost understated collection of love songs ? possibly Moa 's strongest effort . " The Bay of Plenty Times ' Kristin MacFarlane said that " Anika Moa fans ... certainly won 't be disappointed " . Vicki Anderson of The Press complimented Moa 's lyrics , writing , " Whoever coined the phrase ' heart on sleeve ' must have had Moa in mind . " She concluded , " Love in Motion only serves to confirm my belief that Anika Moa is one of New Zealand 's best songwriters . "

However , Graham Reid from Elsewhere wrote that " it is ... a lot of very personal love being revealed and explored here and some will doubtless find that introspective nature and narrow wavelength less appealing than what has preceded it . " The Otago Daily Times ' Shane Gilcrest gave Love in Motion three stars , saying that Moa " ends up playing it a bit too safe . " James Thompson from the Waikato Times commended " the power of the lyrics " , but said that " regrettably , Love in Motion will not be ... a hugely successful album . "

Love in Motion won the Best Female Solo Artist award at the 2010 New Zealand Music Awards , beating Holy Smoke by Gin Wigmore and Humour and the Misfortune of Others by Hollie Smith . It was also nominated for the awards of Album of the Year and Best Pop Album , which were both won by Wigmore 's album .

= = = Commercial reception = = =

Love in Motion peaked at its début position of number four on the RIANZ New Zealand Albums Chart . The album remained on the chart for eleven non @-@ consecutive weeks . This makes it Moa 's second @-@ highest peaking album , behind Thinking Room (2001) , which peaked at number @-@ one on the Albums Chart . It is also her third @-@ longest charting album , behind Thinking Room and In Swings the Tide (2007) , which spent forty @-@ five and thirty @-@ nine weeks on the chart , respectively .

= = Track listing = =

All tracks written by Anika Moa .

" Two Hearts " ? 4 : 03

" Running Through the Fire (Storm) " ? 3 : 49

" I Am the Woman Who Loves You " ? 4 : 57

" Blame It on the Rain " ? 5 : 02

" Secrets and Lies " ? 3 : 49

" Love Me Again " ? 4 : 20

" Flying on the Wings " ? 4 : 22

" Love in Motion " ? 3 : 50

" In the Air " ? 3 : 31

" Burn This Love " ? 3 : 19

New Zealand and Australian iTunes Stores download only

11 . " Running Through the Fire (Storm) " [Acoustic Version] ? 4 : 15

= = Personnel = =

Source : CD liner

= = Release history = =

= = Love in Motion Covers = =

On 31 October 2011 , Moa released Love in Motion Covers , with each of the original album 's ten tracks covered by a different New Zealand artist . " Give My Heart to You " , written by Moa and Geoff Maddock , was also included ; while this song was not included on the original version of Love in Motion , Moa released her recording of it as a single on 11 April 2011 . Nick Ward from The Nelson Mail rated the covers album four stars out of five . Moa had the idea after hearing her friend Tim Guy cover one of her songs . Guy 's cover of " Burn This Love " appears on the album .

= = = Track listing = = =