

= Wake Me Up (Girls Aloud song) =

" Wake Me Up " is a song recorded by British girl group Girls Aloud from their second studio album , What Will the Neighbours Say ? (2004) . It was released by Polydor Records on 21 February 2005 , as the fourth single from the album . The song had been initially considered as the lead single , however , it was deemed as sounding too harsh and the record company did not want to take the risk . The track was written by Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Tim Powell , Shawn Lee , Lisa Cowling , Paul Woods and Yusra Maru 'e . " Wake Me Up " is a pop rock song composed of a " garage rock guitar riff " . It received mixed reviews from music critics . While some described it as predictable , others wrote that it appeared to be an attempt to recapture the sound of some of their previous release . Alex Kapranos , the lead singer of indie rock band Franz Ferdinand , said " Wake Me Up " inspired the band to work with producer Brian Higgins .

" Wake Me Up " debuted and peaked at number 4 on the UK Singles Chart , and became the band 's first single to miss the top three . The song also peaked inside the top ten in Ireland , but missed the top ten in Europe . The accompanying music video was directed by Harvey & Carolyn , and portrays the band as rocker chicks as they ride motorcycles along a desert road . " Wake Me Up " has been performed on all of the group 's concert tours , and also in a few live television appearances , including twice at the Top of the Pops , where Harley Davidson lent motorbikes for the members to use for the first performance , and at Today with Des and Mel . In 2005 , " Wake Me Up " won the award for the Popjustice £ 20 Music Prize , an annual prize awarded by a panel of judges organised by music website Popjustice to the singer (s) of the best British pop single of the past year .

= = Background and release = =

Following a brief hiatus , Polydor Records enlisted Brian Higgins and Xenomania to produce Girls Aloud 's second album in its entirety , following the success of their debut album . Higgins explained that Polydor were not going to continue with the group 's contract unless he produced songs for the album . He continued , saying that his initial reaction was that he thought he would only be required to produce a couple of songs , however Polydor insisted that he produce the album in its entirety and that they thought only he understood what they wanted . The album was recorded from April to September 2004 , with the lead single being released in June 2004 .

For the lead single from What Will the Neighbours Say ? , Polydor presented the band four singles choices , including " The Show " , " Wake Me Up " , " Graffiti My Soul " , and " Androgynous Girls " . Although " Wake Me Up " was the preferred choice , and also Sarah Harding 's favorite from the album , it was deemed as sounding too harsh and the record company didn 't want to take the risk . They also added " Androgynous Girls " as a b @-@ side to the album 's second single three months later . " The pressure to come up with singles was , as always , immense . But [...] we were able to have a lot of fun working on ideas that were maybe a little too odd to be on the radio , " Higgins said . They decided to release " The Show " , which was debuted on 28 June 2004 , less than six months after the release of " Jump " .

" Wake Me Up " was eventually released as the fourth and final single from the album on 21 February 2005 . The first verse was recorded on the last day of sessions for What Will the Neighbours Say ? . Kimberley Walsh 's " dressed up and put on my make up " line was considered a " pivotal " point in the recording process . " Wake Me Up " was released on two CD single formats , as well as an additional 7 " picture disc . The first disc included a remix of Girls Aloud 's previous single , a cover version of The Pretenders ' " I 'll Stand by You " . The second CD format included the Tony Lamezma 's Love Affair remix of " Wake Me Up " , as well as an exclusive b @-@ side : the previously unreleased ballad , entitled " History " , which was co @-@ written by the band . The 7 " picture disc includes the Gravitas Club Mix of " Wake Me Up " and another new b @-@ side : another ballad , " Loving Is Easy " , which was also co @-@ written by Girls Aloud . It only appeared on vinyl until its inclusion on the special edition rarities disc of Girls Aloud 's first greatest hits album , The Sound of Girls Aloud , along with a demo version of " Wake Me Up " , which features an

alternate first verse .

= = Composition and critical reception = =

Described as having a garage rock inspired guitar riff , " Wake Me Up " is a fast @-@ paced pop rock song with a " crunchy electro " sound . MusicOMH reviewer John Murphy said that the song " marries a garage rock guitar sound to strange , almost Aphex Twin @-@ like sound effects . " It was reported that Girls Aloud were going to re @-@ record the song because " ducers are wary of playing the song on children 's TV in its unaltered form . " Alexis Petridis of The Guardian said that the song sounds like what would happen if " you married an alarmingly fast techno thud to an implausibly dumb three @-@ chord garage rock riff . " A BBC Music critic , however , deemed the track , along with " Deadlines & Diets " and " I Say a Prayer for You " , an " afairly predictable mix of well @-@ produced tunes covering the various pop styles and themes . " Reviewing Girls Aloud 's first greatest hits album , Paul Scott of Stylus Magazine said that " Wake Me Up " , " Long Hot Summer " (2005) and " Something Kinda Ooooh " (2006) , " all feel , to varying degrees , like attempts to recapture [the] seductive bludgeoning " of " The Show " . In 2005 , " Wake Me Up " won the award for the Popjustice £ 20 Music Prize , an annual prize awarded by a panel of judges organised by music website Popjustice to the singer (s) of the best British pop single of the past year .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Wake Me Up " was directed by Harvey & Carolyn . It opens with Harding pulling down her bike helmet , followed by the helmeted faces of all five band members being shown with a title screen . The girls ' helmets fly off their heads as they get on their motorcycles . At the front , the girls ' names are on them . In subsequent scenes , the band members are shown racing on motorcycles along a desert road . Following the topic of the song , the members are seen applying fake tattoos , painting their nails , and blow @-@ drying their hair , all still while riding on their motorcycles . At one point , the girls dismount from their bikes to dance , but eventually they return to the motorcycles and ride off into the distance .

= = Live performances = =

Girls Aloud performed " Wake Me Up " on Top of the Pops on 28 January 2005 . Harley Davidson lent motorbikes for the members to use for the performance . The band performed the track on the programme again on 4 March 2005 . It was also performed on Today with Des and Mel , and at V Festival 2008 . Girls Aloud have included " Wake Me Up " in all of their tours . For their debut tour , 2005 's What Will the Neighbours Say ? Live , the group performed the song in schoolgirl uniforms . For 2006 's Chemistry Tour , it was performed as part of a medley alongside Chemistry album track " Wild Horses " . It was also performed during 2007 's The Sound of Girls Aloud : The Greatest Hits Tour . On 2008 's Tangled Up Tour , " Wake Me Up " was performed in a medley with " Walk This Way " , and on 2009 's Out of Control Tour , the song was included in a greatest hits medley which closed the concerts . In 2013 , the song was performed during the Ten : The Hits Tour .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " Wake Me Up " .

= = Personnel = =

Nadine Coyle ? co @-@ lead vocals

Cheryl Fernandez @-@ Versini ? co @-@ lead vocals

Sarah Harding ? co @-@ lead vocals

Nicola Roberts ? co @-@ lead vocals
Kimberley Walsh ? co @-@ lead vocals

= = Chart performance = =

On the week ending on 27 February 2005 , " Wake Me Up " debuted at number four on the UK Singles Chart , becoming Girls Aloud 's first single to miss the top three . It fell to number ten the following week . " Wake Me Up " is Girls Aloud 18th best @-@ selling single in the United Kingdom . In Ireland , the single debuted and peaked at number six , falling to number 11 the following week . " Wake Me Up " failed to debut at the top ten in Europe , peaking at number 13 on the European Hot 100 Singles .

= = Charts = =