

= Tonight , Tonight ( The Smashing Pumpkins song ) =

" Tonight , Tonight " is a song by American alternative rock band The Smashing Pumpkins , written by the band 's frontman , Billy Corgan . It was the third single and second track on the first disc from their third album , Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness , and was released in April 1996 in Europe and later in June 1996 in the United States . " Tonight , Tonight " was critically acclaimed and commercially well @-@ received upon its release . The music video accompanying the song was also successful and won several awards .

A shorter acoustic version of the song , titled " Tonite Reprise " , was included as a B @-@ side to the single and on the triple LP version of Mellon Collie . This single also later appeared in an extended form on the box set The Aeroplane Flies High . Additionally , the song appears on the band 's greatest hits release , Rotten Apples .

= = Song history = =

Billy Corgan began writing for the follow @-@ up to Siamese Dream after the tour in support of that album ; however , the recording of " Tonight , Tonight " first began while the Pumpkins were still on the Siamese Dream tour when Corgan booked the band into a local Chicago studio to record all of their song ideas on tape .

On The Howard Stern Show , Corgan has said that the song pays homage to Cheap Trick , with its black humoresque lyrics and theme , and that the song is addressed to himself , who escaped from an abusive childhood against all odds , so as to keep him believing in himself .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Tonight , Tonight " is written in the key of G , performed on instruments tuned down a half @-@ step so the actual pitch is G ? . In the original recording sessions , " Tonight , Tonight " was initially written in the key of C instead of G. However , since Corgan was unable to sing the song in C , he wrote a version during the Mellon Collie recording sessions to suit his range . The strings for the song were arranged by Billy Corgan & Audrey Riley , and recorded with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra . Corgan said that recording with a 30 @-@ piece string @-@ section for the song " was probably one of the most exciting recording experiences I have ever had . "

Lyrically , " Tonight , Tonight " hangs together with the rest of the Mellon Collie . The lyrics of the song have been compared to Robert Herrick 's poem " To the Virgins , to Make Much of Time " .

= = Reception = =

" Tonight , Tonight " was met with critical acclaim . Allmusic reviewer Amy Hanson stated that the song " packs an emotional punch " . Jim Alexander of NME regarded the song as " swirling [ and ] grand " . Time 's reviewer Christopher John Farley called the song " an expansive rock anthem , complete with soaring guitars and a 30 @-@ piece string section . " Entertainment Weekly 's reviewer David Browne praised the use of strings in the song , saying that it was " whipped into a frenzy by hurricane @-@ like strings " . On Mellon Collie 's entry in Rolling Stone 's The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time , " Tonight , Tonight " was praised as " the Pumpkins at their finest " .

While " Tonight , Tonight " never approached the chart success of " 1979 " , it was among the most successful singles from Mellon Collie . Its highest position on any national chart was a number two peak on the New Zealand Singles Chart . Its highest position in the United States was at number four on Billboard Mainstream Rock Tracks . It also achieved number five on the Modern Rock Tracks and number 36 on The Billboard Hot 100 . The song also charted in other countries , peaking at number 21 on the Australian Singles Chart on June 9 , 1996 . It placed at 50th in a list of best rock songs of all time broadcast by Kerrang ! TV .

= = Music video = =

The music video was directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris and starred Tom Kenny and Jill Talley . The original idea for the music video was for a Busby Berkeley @-@ style video , complete with " people diving into champagne glasses " . The band was set to begin production on the video when they discovered that the Red Hot Chili Peppers had done a similarly styled video for their song " Aeroplane " , which was almost identical to what they had wanted to do . The second idea for the video was that as the band played on a surreal stage , the camera would go into audience members ' eyes and the viewer would see that person 's vision of the song . The third and final concept , inspired by Georges Méliès 's silent film A Trip to the Moon , came from directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris , who got the idea for the video because the album cover for Mellon Collie reminded them of early silent films . Hence , the video was filmed in the style of a turn @-@ of @-@ the @-@ century silent film using theater @-@ style backdrops and primitive special effects . Most of the video 's backdrops and puppetwork were created by artist Wayne White .

Dayton and the production crew initially had problems locating costumes for the video because the movie Titanic was being shot at the same time in Los Angeles . Titanic director James Cameron rented nearly every turn @-@ of @-@ the @-@ century prop and costume in the city , leaving the " Tonight , Tonight " production crew little to work with . Directors Dayton and Faris compromised by renting the leftover costumes and hiring designers to remake them into the elaborate period clothing seen in the video . The video took three days to shoot .

The video , which debuted in May 1996 , begins with a group of people celebrating the launch of a zeppelin to the moon . Tom Kenny 's character kisses Jill Talley 's character 's hand as the two enter the zeppelin , which was being held to the ground by people dressed as sailors using rope . The zeppelin approaches the Moon , which has a face like the Moon 's face in A Trip to the Moon . Shots of the band performing in similar , turn @-@ of @-@ the @-@ century attire using older , acoustic instruments are interspersed . The two characters jump off the zeppelin and fall onto the Moon 's surface . Suddenly , several hostile humanoid aliens appear , surrounding the couple . Tom Kenny 's character is restrained from a fist fight with the creatures , and Jill Talley 's character defends herself by hitting a few of creatures with her umbrella , which vaporizes them , but the two are trapped and tied . The two form a plan , and then break free of the ropes and attack the aliens with their umbrellas . The couple escapes on a rocket similar to the one in A Trip to the Moon and land in the sea , where a merman resembling the sea @-@ god Poseidon puts on a performance for them , including an octopus , singing mermaids , and starfish , before sending them back to the surface in a bubble . In the end they are rescued by a ship called " S.S. Méliès " , in reference to the movie director .

The music video received heavy airplay on MTV and won several awards . Corgan remarked that " I don 't think we 've ever had people react [ like this ] ... it just seemed to touch a nerve . " It won six awards at the MTV Video Music Awards in 1996 : Video of the Year , Best Direction , Best Special Effects , Best Art Direction , Best Cinematography , and Breakthrough Video . " Tonight , Tonight " was nominated for Viewer 's Choice and Best Editing , and was also nominated for Best Short Form Music Video at the 1997 Grammy Awards . It is still considered one of the greatest music videos of all time , ranking number 40 on Stylus Magazine 's list of the top 100 music videos of all time .

Though regular 6 @-@ string acoustic guitars and electric bass guitar was used in the original studio recording of the song , in the music video , in keeping with the turn @-@ of @-@ the @-@ century theme , some interesting instruments were used as ' props ' ; James Iha can be seen using a Gibson harp guitar and D 'arcy Wretzky is seen playing an instrument that resembles the 1924 Gibson mandobass .

MTV Video Music Award

MTV Video Music Award for Best Editing : Alanis Morissette for Ironic ( Editor : Eric Zumbrunnen )

MTV Video Music Award - Viewer 's Choice : Bush for Glycerine

= = Single track listings = =

The Tonight , Tonight single was released with two different versions containing different b @-@

sides , one as a standard single and the other as a CD included in the singles box set , The Aeroplane Flies High . All songs written by Billy Corgan .

US single release

" Tonight , Tonight " - 4 : 15

" Meladori Magpie " - 2 : 41

" Rotten Apples " - 3 : 02

" Medellia of the Gray Skies " - 3 : 11

The Aeroplane Flies High track listing

" Tonight , Tonight " - 4 : 15

" Meladori Magpie " - 2 : 41

" Rotten Apples " - 3 : 02

" Jupiter 's Lament " - 2 : 30

" Medellia of the Gray Skies " - 3 : 11

" Blank " - 2 : 54

" Tonite Reprise " - 2 : 40

= = Chart performance = =

= = Personnel = =

All information taken from Allmusic .

Billy Corgan ? vocals , guitar , producer , artwork

James Iha ? guitar on " Tonight , Tonight " and " Medellia of the Gray Skies "

D 'arcy Wretzky ? bass on " Tonight , Tonight " and " Medellia of the Gray Skies "

Jimmy Chamberlin ? drums on " Tonight , Tonight "

Dennis and Jimmy Flemion ? instrumentation on " Medellia of the Gray Skies "

Jeff Moleski ? engineer

Flood ? producer of " Tonight , Tonight "

Alan Moulder ? producer of " Tonight , Tonight "

Howie Weinberg ? mastering

= = Cover versions = =

" Tonight , " Tonight " has been covered by electropop band Passion Pit , whose version was featured on Levi 's Pioneer Sessions 2010 Revival Recordings and was also featured during the season 1 , episode 3 of MTV 's Teen Wolf ( Pack Mentality . ) ; Their cover plays near the end of the movie 10 Years . Panic ! at the Disco , as a live recording , wherein they replaced the lyrics " The place where you were born " with " The place where Jon Walker [ former Panic ! at the Disco bassist ] was born " , and The Voice U.S contestant Katrina Parker , who covered this song on the show 's first live round .