

= Call the Shots =

" Call the Shots " is a song by British girl group Girls Aloud from their fourth studio album , Tangled Up ( 2007 ) . The song was written by Miranda Cooper , with inspiration from an article about the advance of women in business , and Brian Higgins , Tim Powell , Lisa Cowling , and Giselle Somerville also received songwriting credits . Polydor Records originally intended to release it as a single for The Sound of Girls Aloud : The Greatest Hits ( 2006 ) ; however , " Something Kinda Ooooh " was selected instead . In September 2007 , " Call the Shots " leaked online , and on 26 November of the same year , it was released as the second single from Tangled Up through Fascination Records , a week after the album 's release .

Produced by Xenomania , the dance @-@ pop and pop rock song showcases a more mature side from Girls Aloud , and received positive reviews from music critics , with one deeming it as the " greatest pop song of the 21st century " . In 2008 , the song 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 . " Call the Shots " proved to be commercially successful upon its release , charting at number three on the UK Singles Chart , continuing the band 's string of hits by becoming their sixteenth consecutive single to chart within the top ten , and being later certified Silver by the British Phonographic Industry . The song also peaked at number nine on the Irish Singles Chart .

The accompanying music video was directed by Sean de Sparenego , and features the girls in purple dresses performing on Malibu Beach at night with flames and white fabric surrounding them . Each member of the band is also shown other locations , following several story lines . " Call the Shots " was promoted through numerous live appearances , including a high @-@ profile performance on The X Factor , and has since been performed on three of Girls Aloud 's subsequent concert tours . Several artists and bands including Coldplay and Mark Morriss have covered the song .

= = Background and release = =

The first part of " Call the Shots " to be composed was the instrumentation , which was done by Xenomania in 2005 . The lyrics of the song were written in 2006 , when songwriter Miranda Cooper was " inspired by an article she read on something called ( coincidentally ) the Miranda Complex , named after the ambitious lawyer in Sex and the City , about how women are earning more than men and pushing ahead . " Polydor Records originally intended to release it as a single for The Sound of Girls Aloud : The Greatest Hits ( 2006 ) the same year , but was deemed " too downbeat , when a greatest hits single needs to be a celebration . " Nicola Roberts , Cheryl Cole , Sarah Harding and Kimberley Walsh recorded vocals for the song in London , England , while Nadine Coyle recorded her vocals in Los Angeles . Cole deemed the song her favourite from Tangled Up , adding that it gave her " goosebumps " . An early version of " Call the Shots " leaked online in September 2007 . On 16 November 2007 , Tangled Up was released , with " Call the Shots " being released for digital download on 26 November 2007 , through Polydor Records , while it was also made available on two different CD single formats the same day . The first disc included a live cover version of Amy Winehouse 's 2007 single " Rehab " , as performed on the BBC Radio 1 programme Jo Whiley 's Live Lounge . The second CD format featured an original composition entitled " Blow Your Cover " , co @-@ written by Girls Aloud with Xenomania . The Tony Lamenza Remix of " Call the Shots " was being included on the CD single also at first , however , the Xenomania Club Mix was selected instead . The Tony Lamenza Remix was then included on the Singles Box Set , released in 2009 .

= = Composition = =

" Call the Shots " is a dance @-@ pop and pop rock track written in the key of D major and with a moderate tempo of 126 beats per minute . Unlike previous singles released by the band , the song

follows the verse ? chorus form . The lyrics are concerned with the ending of a relationship , and opens with a repetitive melody followed by Coyle singing , " Static tone on the phone , I 'll be breaking again / Must be something better babe " . As the chorus begins , the five members of the group trade lines and sing , " Just ' cause you 're raising the bet and call the shots now on me / It really doesn 't faze me how you spend your time " , with Alexis Petridis of The Guardian stating that " only anterograde amnesia could wipe [ this part ] from your brain " . During the middle @-@ eight , Roberts sings lyrics that were the inspiration for Girls Aloud 's autobiography Dreams that Glitter ? Our Story , released in 2008 : " I 've seen life burn bright , seen it shimmer / Then fade like starlight to a glimmer , oh no / I 've seen life flow by like a river / So full of twilight , dreams that glitter " . Alex Fletcher of Digital Spy said that the instrumentation of " Call the Shots " was based on 1990s dance productions , and added that it incorporated " oohs " and " ah ah ahs " that " reverberate around an infectious chorus , " while John Lucas of Allmusic wrote that the song showcased a more mature side from Girls Aloud .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Call the Shots " received positive reviews from music critics . Alex Fletcher of Digital Spy rated the song four out of five stars , writing that it is " more tasteful " than few of Girls Aloud 's previous releases . Daily Star journalist Kim Dawson said " Call the Shots " is one of the band 's best singles , while another reviewer for the same newspaper deemed the song " classy electronic Euro @-@ pop with real edge . " Jennie McNulty of Marie Claire said that the song " has a wonderfully ambient feel , echoing an arty electro band " , while Alexis Petridis of The Guardian wrote that Tangled Up " begins disappointingly " with " Call the Shots " as the opening track because the song 's structure is " a bit commonplace " compared to Girls Aloud 's previous singles such as " Biology " ( 2005 ) . On the countdown of the top singles of 2007 , Digital Spy placed " Call the Shots " at number 17 , commenting that the band had not lost " their knack for making supremely catchy pop hits . " In 2008 , the song won the Popjustice £ 20 Music Prize ? Girls Aloud 's fourth win . Popjustice writer Peter Robinson deemed it as the " greatest pop song of the 21st century . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

Following the availability of " Call the Shots " due to the release of Tangled Up , the song entered the UK Singles Chart at number nine . The following week , " Call the Shots " rose six places to peak at number three . It managed to stay at number three the following week , but slipped to number five in its fourth week . Through the Christmas week chart , the single managed to stay in the top ten , returning to its debut position of number nine . " Call the Shots " was certified Silver by the British Phonographic Industry . On the chart issue of 22 November 2007 , the song debuted at number 44 in Ireland , reaching a new peak at number 9 the following week . It attained the same peak on the European Hot 100 Singles chart .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Call the Shots " was directed by Sean de Sparenego , and filmed in October 2007 in Malibu , California , while Girls Aloud were filming The Passions of Girls Aloud . The video features the girls in purple dresses performing on Malibu Beach at night with flames and white fabric surrounding them . The girls are also shown in different locations with individual story lines . Cole is simply seen looking out of a sunny window . Walsh is sat in front of a mirror , putting on make @-@ up ; her fictional boyfriend comes to get her and they hug , though she appears to be sad . Coyle is seated on a couch , flipping through photographs featuring her and a man . She takes a lighter to the photos and sets them alight . Roberts is lying down by a swimming

pool , running her fingers through the water . A young man walks up to her with a bouquet of flowers and tosses them into the water . Harding watches her boyfriend in the shower and goes through his phone . The video premiered on 17 October 2007 .

= = Live performances and covers = =

Girls Aloud first performed " Call the Shots " at a charity ball in aid of children 's charity UNICEF on 10 November 2007 . The band also performed the song on The X Factor on 17 November 2007 , on The Paul O 'Grady Show on 21 November 2007 , on This Morning on 27 November 2007 , and on Top of the Pops on 25 December 2007 . " Call the Shots " was performed on 2008 's Tangled Up Tour , and , later that year , at The Girls Aloud Party TV special held by ITV1 , and at the V Festival . For 2009 's Out of Control Tour , the band began the performance on a smaller , specially @-@ constructed stage in the centre of the arena , and flew back to the main stage before it ended . The same year , Bloc Party covered the song for BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge . In 2013 , the song was performed during the second act of the Ten : The Hits Tour . " Call the Shots " was also covered by several artists and bands such as Coldplay , David Jordan , Fyfe Dangerfield , Malcolm Middleton , and Mark Morriss .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " Call the Shots " .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Guitar ? Nick Coler , Owen Parker

Keyboard ? Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Matt Gray , Tim Powell , Toby Scott

Mastering ? Dick Beetham for 360 Mastering

Mixing ? Jeremy Wheatley

Production ? Brian Higgins , Xenomania

Programming ? Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Matt Gray , Tim Powell , Toby Scott

Songwriting ? Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Tim Powell , Lisa Cowling , Giselle Somerville

Vocals ? Girls Aloud

Published by Warner / Chappell Music and Xenomania Music

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Tangled Up .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =

= Árpád =

Árpád ( Hungarian pronunciation : [ ʔaʔrpaʔd ] ; c . 845 ? c . 907 ) was the head of the confederation of the Hungarian tribes at the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries . He may have been either the sacred ruler or kende of the Hungarians , or their military leader or gyula , although most details of his life are debated by historians , because different sources contain contradictory information . Despite this , many Hungarians refer to him as the " founder of our country " , and Árpád 's preeminent role in the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin has been emphasized by some later chronicles . The dynasty descending from Árpád ruled the Kingdom of Hungary until 1301 .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Árpád was the son of Álmos who is mentioned as the first head of the confederation of the Hungarian tribes by all Hungarian chronicles . His mother 's name and family are unknown . According to historian Gyula Kristó , Árpád was born around 845 . His name derived from the Hungarian word for barley ( árpa ) .

The Byzantine Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus ( r . 913 ? 959 ) states that the Hungarians " had never at any time had any other prince " before Árpád , which is in sharp contrast to the Hungarian chronicles ' report of the position of Árpád 's father . In Porphyrogenitus 's narration , the Khazar khagan initiated the centralization of the command of the Hungarian tribes in order to strengthen his own suzerainty over them . The khagan initially wanted to appoint a chieftain named Levedi to lead the Hungarians . However , Levedi did not accept this offer and suggested that either Álmos or Árpád should be promoted instead of him . The khagan approached the Hungarians with this new proposal . They preferred Árpád to his father , because he was " greatly admired for wisdom and counsel and valour , and capable of this rule " . Thereafter , Árpád was made " prince according to the custom ... of the Chazars , by lifting him upon a shield . " Constantine Porphyrogenitus refers to Árpád as " great prince of Hungary " ( Greek : ????? ??????? ) .

The reliability of the Byzantine emperor 's report of Árpád 's election is debated by modern historians : for instance , Victor Spinei states that it is " rather vague and scarcely credible " , but András Róna @-@ Tas writes that its core is reliable . The latter historian adds that Árpád 's election was promoted by Álmos who forced Levedi kende to renounce . Accordingly , in Róna @-@ Tas 's view , Árpád succeeded Levedi as sacred ruler or kende , which enabled his father to preserve his own position of the actual leader of the Hungarians or gyula .

= = = Towards the Hungarian Conquest = = =

The earliest reliable source of Árpád 's life is an early 10th @-@ century document , the Continuation of the Chronicle by George the Monk . It narrates that the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise ( r . 886 ? 912 ) sent his envoy Nicetas Sclerus to the Hungarians in 894 or 895 " to give presents " and incite them against the Bulgarian Empire . Sclerus met with their two leaders , Árpád and Kurszán , at the Lower Danube . Sclerus 's mission succeeded : a Hungarian army soon crossed the Danube on Byzantine ships against Bulgaria . An interpolation in Porphyrogenitus 's text suggests that the invading Hungarians were under the command of Árpád 's son , Liüntika .

The positions held by Árpád and Kurszán at the time of their negotiations with Sclerus are debated by historians . Spinei wrote that Árpád was the gyula , and Kurszán was the kende . In contrast , Kristó said that Kurszán was the gyula and Árpád represented his father , Álmos kende .

At that time , the Bulgarians had disregarded the peace treaty and were raiding through the Thracian countryside . Justice pursued them for breaking their oath to Christ our God , the emperor of all , and they quickly met up with their punishment . While our forces were engaged against the Saracens , divine Providence led the [ Hungarians ] , in place of the Romans , to campaign against the Bulgarians . Our Majesty 's fleet of ships supported them and ferried them across the Danube . [ Providence ] sent them out against the army of the Bulgarians that had so wickedly taken up arms against Christians and , as though they were public executioners , they decisively defeated them in three engagements , so that the Christian Romans might not willingly stain themselves with the blood of the Christian Bulgarians .

The Hungarian army defeated the Bulgarians , but the latter hired the Pechenegs against them . The Bulgarians and Pechenegs simultaneously invaded the Hungarians ' territories in the western regions of the Pontic steppes in 895 or 896 . The destruction of their dwelling places by the Pechenegs forced the Hungarians to leave for a new homeland across the Carpathian Mountains towards the Pannonian Plain .

The Illuminated Chronicle says that Árpád 's father Álmos " could not enter Pannonia , for he was killed in Erdelw " or Transylvania . Engel , Kristó and Molnár , who accept the reliability of this report , wrote that Álmos 's death was a ritual murder , similar to the sacrifice of the Khazar khagans in case of a disaster affecting their people . In contrast with them , Róna @-@ Tas states that even if the report on Álmos 's murder " reflects true event , the only possible explanation would be that Árpád or someone in his entourage " killed the aged prince . Spinei rejects the Illuminated Chronicle 's report on Álmos 's murder in Transylvania , because the last mention of Álmos in the contrasting narration of the Gesta Hungarorum is connected to a siege of Ungvár ( Uzhhorod , Ukraine ) by the Hungarians . The latter chronicle says that Álmos appointed Árpád " as leader and master " of the Hungarians on this occasion .

= = = Reign = = =

Árpád 's name " is completely unknown " to all sources written in East Francia , which was one of the main powers of the Carpathian Basin at the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries . These sources , including the Annales Alamannici and the Annales Eisnidlenses , only mention an other Hungarian leader , Kurszán . According to Kristó and other historians , these sources suggest that Kurszán must have been the gyula commanding the Hungarian forces , while Árpád succeeded his murdered father as the sacred kende . Proposing a contrasting theory , the Romanian historian Curta wrote that Kurszán was the kende and Árpád gyula only succeeded him when Kurszán was murdered by Bavarians in 902 or 904 .

In contrast to nearly contemporaneous sources , Hungarian chronicles written centuries after the events ? for instance , the Gesta Hungarorum and the Illuminated Chronicle ? emphasize Árpád 's pre @-@ eminent role in the conquest of the Carpathian Basin . The Gesta Hungarorum also highlights Árpád 's military skills and his generosity . This chronicle also emphasizes that Tétény , one of the heads of the seven Hungarian tribes , acquired " the land of Transylvania for himself and his posterity " only after Árpád had authorized him to conquer it .

Having crossed the Danube , they encamped beside the Danube as far as Budafelrhévíz . Hearing this , all the Romans living throughout the land of Pannonia , saved their lives by flight . Next day , Prince Árpád and all his leading men with all the warriors of Hungary entered the city of King Attila and they saw all the royal palaces , some ruined to the foundations , others not , and they admired beyond measure the stone buildings and were happier than can be told that they had deserved to take without fighting the city of King Attila , of whose line Prince Árpád descended . They feasted every day with great joy in the palace of King Attila , sitting alongside one another , and all the melodies and sweet sounds of zithers and pipes along with all the songs of minstrels were presented to them ... Prince Árpád gave great lands and properties to the guests staying with them , and , when they heard this , many guests thronged to him and gladly stayed with him .

The Gesta Hungarorum says that Árpád took " an oath of the leading men and warriors of Hungary , " and " had his son , Prince Zoltán elevated " to prince in his life . However , the reliability of this report and the list of the grand princes in the Gesta Hungarorum is dubious . For instance , it ignores Fajsz , who ruled when Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus was completing his De Administrando Imperio around 950 .

= = = Death = = =

The date of Árpád 's death is debated . The Gesta Hungarorum states that he died in 907 . However , Kristó wrote that he actually died in 900 or later because the Gesta says 903 is the starting date of the Hungarian " land @-@ taking " instead of its actual date around 895 . If the Gesta 's report on his funeral is reliable , Árpád was buried " at the head of a small river that flows through a stone culvert to the city of King Attila " where a village , Fehéregyháza , developed near Buda a century later .

= = Legacy = =

The Hungarians arrived in their new homeland within the Carpathians under Árpád . Árpád is the principal actor in the Gesta Hungarorum , which attributes " almost all memorable events " of the " Hungarian land @-@ taking " to him . Furthermore , until the extinction of the male line of his dynasty in 1301 , Hungary was ruled by " a single line of princes " , all descending from Árpád . Árpád is still famed among the Hungarians as honalapító or the " founder of our country " .

= = Family = =

Porphyrogenitus says Árpád " had four sons : first , Tarkatzous ; second , lelech ; third , loutotzas ; fourth , Zaltas " . However , he also refers to one " Liuntikas , son of " Árpád ; Kristó wrote that Liuntikas ( Liüntika ) was an alternative name of Tarkatzous ( Tarhos ) . The name and family of the mother of Árpád 's sons are unknown . The following is a family tree presenting Árpád 's ancestors and his descendants to the end of the 10th century :

\* Liüntika and Tarkatzus are supposed to have been identical . \* \* The father of Tas was one of Árpád 's four or five sons , but his name is unknown . \* \* \* All later grand princes and kings of Hungary descended from Taksony .