

= Wigwam ( Bob Dylan song ) =

" Wigwam " is a song by Bob Dylan that was released on his 1970 album Self Portrait . It was a hit single that reached the Top 10 in several countries worldwide . The song 's basic track , including " la @-@ la " vocals , was recorded in early March 1970 in New York City . Later that month , producer Bob Johnston had brass instrument overdubs added to the track ; these were recorded in Nashville , Tennessee at a session without Dylan present .

Critical appraisal of " Wigwam " has been mostly positive , and reviewers have called it a highlight of Self Portrait . Several artists have covered the composition , including Drafï Deutscher , whose version of it was a Top 20 hit in Germany .

= = Recording = =

" Wigwam " was recorded during the sessions for Dylan 's Self Portrait album , and produced by Bob Johnston . The basic track was put on tape on March 4 , 1970 , at Columbia Studio A in New York City , and was labelled " New Song 1 " on the recording sheet . The musicians on the basic track were Dylan , vocals and guitar ; David Bromberg , guitar ; Al Kooper , piano . On April 20 , 2013 , this early version of " Wigwam " was released as a single for Record Store Day , and on August 27 of the same year , it appeared on The Bootleg Series Vol . 10 ? Another Self Portrait ( 1969 ? 1971 ) .

On March 17 , 1970 , at Columbia Recording Studios in Nashville , Tennessee , instrumental overdubs were recorded for " Wigwam " and several other songs . Dylan was not present for the overdubs , and they were overseen by Johnston .

In the song , Dylan sings " la @-@ la " vocals , accompanied by horns , in an arrangement that has been called " mariachi @-@ like " , and " Tex @-@ Mex " . The feeling of the song has also been described as " campfire music " and as having a " hazy glow " .

= = Release = =

" Wigwam " was released on Self Portrait on June 8 , 1970 , and as a single in June or July . The single 's B @-@ side is " Copper Kettle " . The single was a Top 10 hit in Belgium , Denmark ( in 1972 ) , France , Malaysia , the Netherlands , Singapore , and Switzerland , and was a Top 40 hit in Canada and Germany . In the US , the song reached No. 41 on the Billboard Hot 100 , and No. 13 on the Billboard Top 40 Easy Listening chart .

Years later , in the early 2000s , " Wigwam " appeared on the " Limited Tour Edition " of The Essential Bob Dylan . The song was also included on the soundtrack to the film The Royal Tenenbaums ( 2001 ) , as well as on the compilations One Hit Wonders and Hard to Find Classics ( 2003 ) , Radio 2 - De Topcollectie ' 70 Vol . 2 ( 2010 ) , Top 40 Hitarchief - 1970 ( 2011 ) , and Remember the 70s Vol . 5 .

= = Appraisal = =

Reactions to the song have been generally positive . A review in Billboard magazine describes the track as " winning " . Biographer Rober Shelton includes " Wigwam " among the " quality " songs on Self Portrait , describing it as " hard to forget " ; it is also one of the " AllMusic Picks " of the highlights of Self Portrait , and Michael Gray similarly rates it as one of the " best tracks " on the album . Greil Marcus is likewise positive about the track , calling it " a great job of arranging " . PopMatters reviewer Tom Useted calls the song " more than worthy " , while NME writer Paul Stokes qualifies it as " melodious " and as demonstrating Dylan 's " versatility and impact " . In a review of The Royal Tenenbaums soundtrack , critic Heather Phares writes that the " hazy glow " of the song " add [ s ] to the album 's strangely timeless but emotionally direct atmosphere . " Critic Sean Egan writes that " Dylan la @-@ las against a big brass arrangement in a not disagreeable way ? but is ' not disagreeable ' supposed to be what a Dylan track amounts to ? "

On a more negative note , writer Seth Rogovoy describes " Wigwam " as a " bizarre , wordless vocal tune " . Critic Anthony Varesi considers the instrumentation on " Wigwam " to be an example of " horns misplaced " , and " evidence of flaws " in Bob Johnston 's production choices on Self Portrait . Pitchfork writer Rob Mitchum characterizes the song as " moaning along with the brass section " and " rather unpleasant " .

= = Covers = =

Artists who have covered " Wigwam " include the New Christy Minstrels , Sounds Orchestral , and the French orchestra leaders Raymond Lefèvre and Caravelli . Drafi Deutscher released a version with German lyrics , entitled " Weil ich dich lieb " ( " Because I Love You " ) , that was a Top 20 hit in Germany in 1970 .

= = Charts = =