

= Open Your Heart (Madonna song) =

" Open Your Heart " is a song by American singer Madonna from her third studio album True Blue (1986) . It was released as the album 's fourth single in November 12 , 1986 by Sire Records . It has since appeared remixed on the compilation albums The Immaculate Collection (1990) and Celebration (2009) . Originally a rock ' n roll song with the title " Follow Your Heart " , it was written for singer Cyndi Lauper by songwriters Gardner Cole and Peter Rafelson , although it was never played to her . Since Madonna 's management was looking for new songs for True Blue , she accepted it . Madonna altered some of the lyrics and changed the composition to suit the dance @-@ pop genre , giving her a co @-@ writer credit for the song . Lyrically " Open Your Heart " is a love song , talking about innocent feelings of boy @-@ meets @-@ girl romance and Madonna expressing her sexual desire .

The song was well received by critics who commended it for being a simple love song . It was also successful commercially , reaching the top @-@ ten of the charts in Belgium , Canada , Ireland , Italy , Netherlands , and the United Kingdom , also reaching the top of Billboard Hot 100 in the United States , thus making it Madonna 's fifth US number @-@ one single . The music video , however , portrayed a different concept of the song . Madonna played an exotic dancer in a peep @-@ show club , who befriends a little boy and subsequently escapes . It was critically acclaimed for portraying a completely opposite perspective of " voyeuristic male gaze and object " , and depicting innocence rather than sexual overtones , although the entry of a child in a strip club was negatively criticized . The video was an homage to actresses Liza Minnelli and Marlene Dietrich .

" Open Your Heart " has been performed by Madonna in three of her world tours ? 1987 's Who 's That Girl World Tour , 1990 's Blond Ambition World Tour , where Madonna wore her infamous conical bra during the song , and 2012 's The MDNA Tour . The performances were included in the respective video release of the tours . " Open Your Heart " has been covered a number of times by different artists , and appeared in the Britney Spears film , Crossroads (2002) .

= = Writing and recording = =

" Open Your Heart " was originally a rock ' n roll song with the title " Follow Your Heart " and had been written for singer Cyndi Lauper by songwriters Gardner Cole and Peter Rafelson , although it was never played to her . The Temptations were also considered for the song . Their manager Benny Medina decided that they wanted to record the song after all , but upon hearing that Madonna had already recorded it , changed their mind . The original title according to Cole , was from a local health food restaurant called Follow Your Heart in Canoga Park , California , where he was in love with a waitress named Lisa and she was the original inspiration for the lyrics . In Fred Bronson 's book The Billboard Book of Number 1 Hits , Cole explained ,

" Peter and I usually write very quickly . It 's usually a day or two a song , but for some reason this didn 't really hit us as a hit song . We didn 't give up on it . We just kept working on it over the course of a year . Thank God we did . [...] It was the first song that was cut on the True Blue album . It made me nervous as a writer , because a lot of times the very first song that gets cut doesn 't make it in the long run . But the song ended up making the album , which really opened up a lot of doors for me . "

Cole 's manager Bennett Freed was working with Madonna 's management and they were looking for new material for her album . Three of Cole 's songs were chosen for reviewing , including " Open Your Heart " . Madonna 's manager Freddy DeMann overheard the song and thought it would be a hit for Madonna and he asked Cole to re @-@ demo a female demo version . Her female backup singer , Donna De Lory was Cole 's girlfriend and he immediately asked her to sing the demo . Despite the fact that it did not fit exactly with the choice and genre of songs Madonna was singing at that time , she nevertheless accepted it . Madonna recorded " Open Your Heart " , altered the lyrics thus earning a co @-@ writing credit , and along with Patrick Leonard added a bassline underneath the song which turned it into a rock @-@ dance track rather than the original rock ' n roll genre . The song was the first recorded cut for the True Blue album in late 1985 and ultimately made it to the

final released tracklist .

= = Composition = =

" Open Your Heart " has a continuous percussion filled structure and a chorus sounding like Belinda Carlisle , according to author Rikky Rooksby in his book *The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna* . Lyrically , " Open Your Heart " is a simple love song . The song speaks of earnest innocent notions of boy meets girl kind of feelings . According to Professor Mavis Tsai , the phrase " Open Your Heart " is a metaphor for the act of being vulnerable that corresponds to the behavior involved in developing an intimate or close relationship . The following lines in the song , " Open Your Heart , I 'll make you love me ; It 's not that hard , if you just turn the key " illustrate this metaphor vividly . The concept of the song places Madonna as a victim of love .

The lyrics puts Madonna in a more direct position expressing her sexual desires for her man according to author Santiago Fouz @-@ Hernández in the line " If you gave me half a chance you 'd see ; My desire burning inside of me . " According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Publishing , " Open Your Heart " is written in the time signature of common time with a medium funk tempo of 112 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of F major with Madonna 's voice spanning from A3 to B ? 4 . The song follows a basic sequence of F ? E ? 9 ? E ? / G ? Gm7 ? F as its chord progression .

= = Critical response = =

Author Susan McClary in *Culture / power / history* reviewed the song saying that , it was more upbeat than previous single " Live to Tell " and " the play with closure in ' Open Your Heart ' creates the image of open ended jouissance ? an erotic energy that continually escapes containment " . Author Taraborrelli called it as one of her most " earnest " songs and compared it with Aretha Franklin 's song " Respect " as well as Barbra Streisand 's " A House is Not a Home " . According to him " it was a tune people could understand and latch on to , which is what makes a pop song memorable " . The New York Times writer Stephen Holden compared the song with sweeter post @-@ Motown valentine songs . Houston Chronicle writer Joey Guerra called the song " perfect " for dancefloor strut . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic called it a perfect dance song with deepened dance grooves . Slant Magazine named the song as one of Madonna 's most " robust " songs . Robert Christgau said of the song , " I 'm not saying her flair is pleasureless ? the generosity she demands in the inexhaustible ' Open Your Heart ' is a two @-@ way street and then some . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Open Your Heart " debuted at number 51 the week ending December 6 , 1986 , on the Billboard Hot 100 chart . It had a gradual rise and subsequently topped the chart on February 7 , 1987 , becoming Madonna 's fifth number @-@ one single on the Billboard Hot 100 . The single also had success on Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart , reaching number @-@ one on February 14 , 1987 . It also became Madonna 's sixth entry on the Billboard Adult Contemporary chart where it reached a peak of number 12 . In Canada , the song debuted at number 83 on the RPM chart on December 13 , 1986 , and reached a peak position of number eight for the chart dated February 21 , 1987 . It placed at number 68 on the RPM Year @-@ end chart for 1987 .

Internationally , it became a top ten hit in several European countries including the United Kingdom , Italy , Ireland , Netherlands , and Belgium . In the United Kingdom , the single debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number eight and subsequently reached a peak of number four on December 13 , 1986 . The single was on the chart for nine weeks in total , and was certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) on December 1 , 1986 . According to the Official Charts Company , the song has sold 195 @,@ 000 copies there . It also peaked at number four in Europe , thus becoming the only single from *True Blue* not to top the Eurochart Hot 100 . In Australia , it only reached a peak of number 16 , breaking a run of nine consecutive top ten singles for Madonna in

that country . Elsewhere like in Switzerland , Austria , Germany and France , it reached within the top 40 of the singles chart .

= = Music video = =

= = Background = =

The music video was shot at Echo Park in Los Angeles , California . Madonna portrays an exotic dancer who befriends a young boy , played by child actor Felix Howard . This video was originally set to be directed by Madonna 's then @-@ husband Sean Penn , but in the end the final honors went to Jean @-@ Baptiste Mondino , who went on to work with Madonna on her videos for " Justify My Love " (1990) , " Human Nature " (1995) , " Love Don 't Live Here Anymore " (1996) , " Don 't Tell Me " (2000) and " Hollywood " (2003) . The video was shot in July 1986 and was released in December 1986 . It was produced by David Naylor . The video was nominated for three MTV Video Music Awards in 1987 . In the Best Female Video category , " Open Your Heart " lost to another Madonna video , when the music video for " Papa Don 't Preach " won the award . The video has been ranked at number 35 on VH1 's " 50 Sexiest Video Moments " of all time .

The video is structured as a cinematic peep show and voyeurism that portrays Madonna as a stripper . According to Mondino , the peep show was his idea since at that time , " we were into a period where we were experimenting [with] some kind of freedom about the body , about sexuality and stuff " . He wanted to have a " naive and sweet " feel with the portrayal of a boy waiting outside for Madonna . They built the set from scratch , including the frontal part with the ticket booth . Although it looked fake , Mondino liked it saying " I like the fakeness of it . I haven 't seen it for a long time , but when I saw it once again , I said , ' It 's so naïve ' . It 's kind of badly done , which I like , compared to today . We didn 't have the same equipment , people are more skillful today , but there 's something sweet about it . " Madonna was initially asked by him to wear a black wig , and the initial reaction to the whole wardrobe was positive . But Madonna wanted Mondino 's opinion on the whole ensemble , who replied that she would look better as a blonde . So the wig was kept for the initial scenes of the video only .

= = Synopsis and analysis = =

The " Open Your Heart " music video presents an early version of Madonna 's musings about her Italian @-@ American heritage and focus on her feminocentric street theology , which was also explicitly brought out by 1987 's Who 's That Girl World Tour . It starts with the little boy trying to go inside a peep show , where Madonna is the star performer , but gets rebuffed by an old man at the ticket booth . Inside Madonna starts singing the song from the center of a carousel that revolves to display her to the gaze of the customers who are sitting safely in their cubicles . Madonna is dressed in a black bustier , spike heels , fishnets , revealing her new slimmed down body at that time . She begins the video wearing a black wig which she subsequently removes , revealing her short bleached hair . The bluish and dark lighting reveals her look as a mix of actresses Marlene Dietrich in the movie The Blue Angel as well as Liza Minnelli as the character Sally Bowles in the Bob Fosse @-@ directed musical film , Cabaret .

The dancing is restrained with a single prop : that of a solitary chair . At one point in the first segment of the video , she is filmed dancing but the camera is almost still and the motions of the dance are confined within the small range of the camera . As the screens inside the viewing booths open and close , the camera slices the shots of Madonna each with its own angle and duration . The same imagery is exhibited by the little boy outside who tries to frame Madonna 's playbill image into different angles . There are four other men in the booths who are made of wood with paintings of artist Tamara de Lempicka on them . Madonna at one point takes off her gloves like Rita Hayworth in Gilda and points towards one of the wooden paintings . It collapses and she blows on her finger .

The video is similar in thematic content to Mötley Crüe 's video for the single " Girls , Girls , Girls " .

But in contrast , this video tells the story from Madonna 's point of view . She looks down into the cubicles to make eye contact with the men but they are unable to return it . She also looks assertively into the camera , making eye contact with the viewer . With these scenes Madonna portrays her holding power over the men and the ability to pursue them . Madonna represents an assertive woman searching for a lover who can accept her as a human being . Author Bruce Forbes notes that the men in the cubicles are proved unworthy of her and there is an undertone of mockery when Madonna addresses them as ' baby ' while shaking her body .

By the end of the video the isolated and sad men depart with the doors closing on them . As the final chorus breaks into dance grooves , Madonna comes out of the theater and gives the boy a quick kiss on his lips . Both are clad in loose @-@ fitting gray suits , which gives Madonna an androgynous look . They stroll away playfully in the sunrise , reminiscent of Charlie Chaplin and Jack Coogan in *The Kid* with the old boss pursuing them and shouting " Come back , come back , we still need you " in Italian . The tension between the visual and the musical dimensions of the video is extremely unsettling according to author Nicholas B. Dirks . Only when she disappears from the carousel and reappears to run away from her patriarchal boss with the young boy , then the music and visuals become comparable .

= = = Reception = = =

Feminist writer Susan Bordo gave a negative review of the video , saying that the leering and pathetic men in the cubicles and Madonna 's escape with the boy is " cynically and mechanically tacked on [as] a way of claiming trendy status for what is just cheesecake ? or , perhaps , pornography " . MTV also had some reservations initially before airing the video , which was later resolved after a meeting with Warner Officials . However socio @-@ critic Mary Harron in her book *McRock : Pop as Commodity* said that the underlying message in the video is that though Madonna sells sexuality , she is free . There is no overt representation of anything besides friendship with the boy . Their escape together avoids Madonna the sexual overtones that would have been stronger if she would have escaped with an adult male . This , according to author Richard Dienst , seems to suggest a repudiation of the adult labor of the stage in favor of childhood , androgyny , authenticity and nomadic play . The video is also acclaimed for reviving and re @-@ creating the hard glamor of the studio @-@ era of Hollywood stars and also for representing women as the dominant sex . Author Donn Welton pointed out that the usual power relationship between the " voyeuristic male gaze and object " is destabilized by the portrayal of the male patrons of the peep show as leering and pathetic . At the same time , the portrayal of Madonna as " porno queen object " is deconstructed by the escape at the end of the video . Maura Johnston from *Rolling Stone* found influences of the work of Italian film director Federico Fellini and American musical theater choreographer Bob Fosse . Johnston added , " ' Open Your Heart ' was gorgeous , from the paintings of art deco artist Tamara de Lempicka on the club exterior , to the colorfully cold cast of characters . " She noticed that at one point in the video , Madonna tilted her head to re @-@ create the Herb Ritts shot album cover for *True Blue* .

= = Live performances = =

" Open Your Heart " has been featured as a full song in the set lists of three Madonna tours ? 1987 's *Who 's That Girl World Tour* , 1990 's *Blond Ambition World Tour* , and 2012 's *The MDNA Tour* . It served as the opening song on 1987 *Who 's That Girl Tour* . It started off with then young dancer Chris Finch , imitating Felix Howard from the video . Howard did not receive a working license for the tour hence Finch was taken for his part . He went on to become an integral part of most of the songs performed on the tour . After Finch , two other dancers are introduced , before Madonna herself appears on stage . She wore the same black pointy corset and fishnets as in the music video . She first sings the song alone , then Finch joins her again and they dance together till the song ends . Two different performances of the song on this tour can be found on the videos : *Who 's That Girl : Live in Japan* , filmed in Tokyo , Japan , on June 22 , 1987 , and *Ciao Italia : Live from Italy* ,

filmed in Turin , Italy , on September 4 , 1987 .

On the Blond Ambition World Tour , " Open Your Heart " follows the opening number " Express Yourself " . This time , it included a hunky dancer watching from a distance as Madonna entered the stage with her hair stretched into a topknot and fake blond ponytail , which was replaced by short peroxide tangles in the European leg of the tour . She wore a double breasted suit with the outer jacket cut in slits so that the conical bra underneath could point through . Showing off the satin pink bodysuit and her monocle chain , Madonna performed the song on a chair . Playing a dominatrix role , Madonna got on top of one of the dancers before carrying off an exhibitionist dance routine with the chair as a prop . Two different performances were taped and released on video , the Blond Ambition Japan Tour 90 , taped in Yokohama , Japan , on April 27 , 1990 , and the Blond Ambition World Tour Live , taped in Nice , France , on August 5 , 1990 .

The opening musical introduction of the song served as a brief twenty @-@ six seconds musical interlude on the Drowned World Tour in 2001 . As Madonna finished a performance of " Frozen " in the Geisha inspired segment of the show , she sat in a cross @-@ legged position in front of the stage . The musical intro for " Open Your Heart " would start with a dancer in a Japanese costume dancing behind her on a raised podium . As the music ends , Madonna starts singing " Nobody 's Perfect " from her 2000 album Music . In 2008 , Madonna sang the first verse and chorus at two dates ? Las Vegas and East Rutherford ? of her Sticky & Sweet Tour . Madonna forgot the lyrics at the Vegas show and refused to sing the song in Boston ; she performed " Express Yourself " instead .

Madonna also performed an excerpt of the song at the Super Bowl XLVI halftime show in 2012 , where she was joined by Cee Lo Green and by a large marching band . The same year , the song was included on The MDNA Tour . Following an 8 @-@ minute monologue against intolerance , the song was reinvented and performed in a Basque , folk acoustic version , relying only on drums , which were played by the Basque band Kalakan , and Madonna 's vocal harmony . Madonna 's outfit during the performance consisted of an all @-@ leather look , a custom design by Hervé Léger and Max Azria , with knee @-@ high boots and a mini fur bolero , while her dancers were dressed as soldiers . Towards the end of the performance Madonna proceeded to dance and engage in a sing @-@ along with the members of the audience . On certain shows , her son Rocco Ritchie joined her onstage . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine commented that the performances of " Open Your Heart " and " Like a Prayer " were a reminder that " ... for both Madonna and her fans , it always comes back to the music " . The performance of the song at the November 19 ? 20 , 2012 shows in Miami , at the American Airlines Arena , were recorded and released in Madonna 's fourth live album , MDNA World Tour . On January 26 , 2014 , Madonna performed " Open Your Heart " and " Same Love " at the 56th Grammy Awards along with Macklemore , Ryan Lewis and Mary Lambert , in support of gay and lesbian rights . During the Rebel Heart Tour in Manchester , in December 2015 , Madonna performed an a cappella version of " Open Your Heart " .

= = Cover versions = =

Despite being originally written in English , a Spanish version of the song titled " Abre Tu Corazón " was recorded by Venezuelan rock singer Melissa , who released it in March 1986 on her " Melissa III " album . Considering Madonna first released the song on the " True Blue " album three months afterwards , Melissa 's " Abre Tu Corazón " can be considered the first released version of the song , although it is possible that Madonna 's version (for which she received a co @-@ writer 's credit) was recorded first . The Madonna tribute compilation Virgin Voices : A Tribute To Madonna , Vol . 2 contained a cover by the late Israeli singer Ofra Haza . A eurodance version was recorded by the group Mad 'House for the album " Absolutely Mad " . A hi @-@ NRG dance version was recorded by Who 's That Girl for the album Exposed , released through Almighty Records . In 2004 Platinum Blonde NRG , Vol . 2 : Nrgised Madonna Classics , a hi @-@ NRG cover is performed by In @-@ Deep . The song appears in the opening of the 2002 film Crossroads . Britney Spears ' character lip syncs to the song in her room with a brush in her hand , pretending its a microphone . A Madonna poster is visible during the scene . In 2010 , the TV show Glee covered it in the episode " The Power

of Madonna " as a mash @-@ up with the song " Borderline " , performed by Cory Monteith and Lea Michele .

= = Formats and track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? lead vocals , background vocals , songwriter

Jonathan Moffett ? drums

Paulinho da Costa ? percussion

David Williams ? guitar

Patrick Leonard ? keyboards

Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =