

= Change (Taylor Swift song) =

" Change " is a song performed by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . Swift self @-@ penned the song and co @-@ produced it alongside Nathan Chapman . The song was released on August 8 , 2008 , with all proceeds being donated to the United States Olympic team . " Change " was written about Swift 's hopes and aspirations in regards to succeeding , although being signed to the smallest record label in Nashville , Tennessee . The track was later chosen as one of the themes for the 2008 Summer Olympics and was included on the AT & T Team USA Soundtrack , which was released August 7 , 2008 . The song was later included on Swift 's second studio album Fearless , which was released in November 2008 . " Change " is musically pop rock and uses divergent string instruments . Lyrically , it speaks of overcoming obstacles and achieving victory .

It received mixed reviews from music critics and was able to debut and peak at number ten on the Billboard Hot 100 , becoming Swift 's first song to reach the top ten on the chart . The music video for " Change " was directed by Shawn Robbins and features Swift performing with a band in a ballroom . An alternate version of the video features footage of the United States Olympic team at the 2008 Summer Olympics . The song was performed during Swift 's first headlining tour , the Fearless Tour in 2009 .

= = Background = =

When Swift was first signed to Big Machine Records , it was a new and extremely small record label , the smallest in Nashville , Tennessee , that consisted of approximately twelve employees and her as the only signed artist . At some point , Swift realized that it would be more difficult for her to achieve success through a small label , than in a larger label , constricting their contacts and making it nearly impossible to embark on concert tours and have presenter or performer slots on award shows . In addition , as the only signed artist , she could not ask for favors and only had herself to encourage the hope that scenarios would eventually change . Swift described the scenario as an " uphill climb " and said , " There was this moment where I sat there and was like , ? When are we going to get a fighting chance ? We ? re the smallest record label in Nashville , but we want this really bad . ? " After reassuring to herself that it would be different in the future , she wrote the beginning of " Change " . She let the track sit for a while , waiting for a remarkable event to trigger its completion . She then completed the track the day after she won the Horizon Award at the 2007 Country Music Association Awards and saw Scott Borchetta , the president of Big Machine Records , crying . " That ? s when I finished [it] , because I knew I couldn ? t finish it until something like that happened . It was absolutely the most amazing night of my life , getting to see the emotion of all the people who worked so hard for me . "

The song was recorded in December 2007 , when she recognized it applied to more scenarios and had a " bigger meaning " than originally . American television network National Broadcasting Company (NBC) had asked Swift to perform at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China . However , an appearance could not be scheduled because Swift was touring at the time . Instead , Swift 's father suggested using " Change " as a theme for the event . Therefore , " Change " was used during NBC 's daily video highlights in August 2008 , prior to the release of Fearless . " I wrote the song ? Change ? as an underdog story . It ? s kind of crazy to think that the Olympics chose this as one of the songs to play during the Olympic Games " , Swift commented . It was included on the AT & T Team USA Soundtrack (2008) . The song was released as a promotional single on the iTunes Store on August 8 , 2008 . All proceeds were donated to the United States Olympic team .

= = Composition = =

The duration of " Change " is four minutes and forty six seconds . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian described the song 's genre as a " kind of orthodontically perfect pop rock " . He said the most country part of the song were lyrics that referenced Catholicism with the word " hallelujah " . It is set in common time and has a moderate tempo of 100 beats per minute . It is written in the key of F

major and Swift 's vocals span one octave , from F3 to B ? 4 . They were described to have a nasal tone when using her voice above mezzo forte . It follows the chord progression F ? F / E ? Dm ? B ? . " Change " relies on a string @-@ swathed instrumentation .

The lyrics of " Change " speak of overcoming obstacles and achieving triumph , while instilling hope in oneself . It centers around the concept of surpassing others ' expectations and the limitations they set out . The song turns the notion of fearlessness into a movement that is not specified . Dave Heaton of PopMatters noted the lyric " I believe in whatever you do " meant Swift was unconcerned with the specifics of the cause . He presumed it was a universal message or was about changing the traditions of country music sound and defying the expectations of what country artists can achieve with their careers . Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone believed the lyrics addressed political issues .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

The song received generally mixed reviews from contemporary critics . Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine was unimpressed by Swift 's vocals , describing them as unpleasant and thin . Keefe added that her voice often cracked and , therefore , prevented the song from becoming an anthem . Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone magazine considered the track to be vague . Dave Heaton of PopMatters compared " Change " and Swift 's " Long Live " , both which ended Fearless and Speak Now (2010) , respectively . He stated , " There ? s something really generic about the song [s] , but that quality becomes the cornerstone of an anthem . " Heaton also commented that the song was appealing to multiple audiences , as long as they felt restrained by any scenario .

= = = Chart performance = = =

On the week ending August 30 , 2008 , " Change " debuted at its peak position of number ten on the Billboard Hot 100 , selling over 131 @,@ 000 digital downloads , making it Swift 's best @-@ charting song at the time and first top ten appearance . In the following week , the song descended to number forty and then number one @-@ hundred on the Billboard Hot 100 , marking its third and last week on the chart . The song is one of thirteen songs from Fearless charted within the top forty of the Billboard Hot 100 , breaking the record for the most top forty entries from a single album . " Change " also peaked at number fifty @-@ seven on the Hot Country Songs chart on the week ending August 30 , 2008 . The track also peaked at number twenty @-@ one on the now @-@ defunct Pop 100 chart .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Change " was directed by Shawn Robbins . It was filmed at the ballroom in the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Indianapolis , Indiana . The video commences with a shot of a stained glass window . It then transitions to Swift , clothed by a white cocktail dress and black cowboy boots , performing alongside a backup band in an empty ballroom . The band members dressed semi @-@ casual and played the instruments bass , drums , and various guitars . As the video progresses , Swift is seeing singing and dancing . Cut @-@ scenes feature close @-@ ups of Swift in another setting , clothed by another white cocktail dress and surrounded by hot pink , white , and blue twinkling lights in a black background . The video concludes with Swift turning back and walking toward the backup band . An alternate version of the video features footage from United States Olympic team at the 2008 Summer Olympics . Both versions of the music video premiered on NBC.com in August 2008 . To date , the video has over 37 million views on YouTube .

= = Live performances = =

Swift has performed the track on the AOL Sessions . Since , Swift has performed the track at the Studio 330 Sessions , the 2009 CMA Music Festival , the 2009 V Festival , and the Australian charity concert Sydney Sound Relief . Swift 's first televised performance of " Change " was at the 2010 Academy of Country Music Awards , where she , donning a sparkly evening gown , sang on an elevator suspended from the crowd . She then came down , where she was joined by a teenage choir , and finished the performance by surfing the crowd . Swift performed " Change " on the first North American leg of the Fearless Tour . During the performances , Swift wore a sparkly silver and black dress with black , leather boots . She noted , " It 's been a tough year " , and commenced singing throughout the stage as images of victims of economic and natural disasters were projected on the video screens . As the song approximated , its last refrain , she said , " Things turn back around . " Then , scenes of triumph appeared on the video screens . Craig Rosen of The Hollywood Reporter attended the May 22 , 2009 concert in Los Angeles , California at the Staples Center and commented , " It was overly simplistic and a bit naive , but still hard not to be moved . " Jon Pareles of The New York Times said Swift offered the audience with optimistic thinking with the performance in the August 27 , 2009 concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City .

= = Track listings = =

Digital Download

" Change " (Album Version) ? 4 : 43

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =