

= Hair (Lady Gaga song) =

" Hair " is a song recorded by American singer Lady Gaga for her second studio album , Born This Way (2011) . Written and produced by Gaga and RedOne , " Hair " was released worldwide digitally on May 16 , 2011 , as a promotional single from the album , as part of the iTunes Store 's " Countdown to Born This Way " release . This was after the previous promotional release , " The Edge of Glory " , was made the third single from the album . Nevertheless , Gaga explained that " Hair " was not planned to be a single , but may be released as one if it sells well at the iTunes Store , like " The Edge of Glory " .

According to Lady Gaga , the melody of " Hair " resembles the work of metal bands Kiss and Iron Maiden , and is also influenced by Bruce Springsteen . The song is an uptempo club record inspired by Gaga 's experience as a teenager , when her parents forced her to dress in a certain way . Gaga found that the only way to express herself was through her hair , and she described it as a song about liberation and her ability to change her ways . The lyrics talk about embracing one 's hairstyle as their ultimate expression of freedom . " Hair " was recorded while Gaga was on tour with The Monster Ball throughout Europe . The song features a saxophone solo performed by saxophonist Clarence Clemons , a prominent member of The E Street Band . She personally wanted Clemons to play saxophone on the song , which he did by recording his part at a Manhattan studio at midnight , after he had just flown there from his home in Florida .

" Hair " has been critically appreciated for its message of self @-@ liberation , individualism and empowerment , though some felt that the usage of the term hair to express these messages was not particularly new . " Hair " charted in most musical markets , reaching the top @-@ ten in New Zealand and Scotland , while in other nations , it charted within the top @-@ twenty , including the Billboard Hot 100 of the United States . Gaga performed the song on Good Morning America as part of their " Summer Concert Series " , on Paul O 'Grady Live in the United Kingdom , and on The Howard Stern Show . Later the song was added to the set list of Gaga 's second worldwide tour Born This Way Ball .

= = Background and release = =

" Hair " was written and produced by Gaga and RedOne , and the name of the song was revealed through an interview with Vogue magazine in February 2011 . On The Graham Norton Show , Gaga explained the origin of the song , which involves the analogy of her hair with freedom , and how that is the only part of her body she can change without anyone judging her . According to a press listening in February , " Hair " draws inspiration from Pat Benatar 's ' 80s classic " We Belong " , while thematically focusing on empowering lyrics similar to those of " Born This Way " . Gaga elaborated on the song 's inspiration further with a video posted on her Twitter account : " When I was a kid , I used to always come down the stairs of my parents ' house , and they would say , ' Go back upstairs and brush your hair , change your clothes , you can 't go out wearing that ' , and I felt like it was stifling my identity ... My hair was my glory . It was the only thing that I could change about myself . "

Initially " Hair " was supposed to be released as the second promotional single from Born This Way , following " The Edge of Glory " , on May 16 , 2011 . However , after its release to the digital stores , " The Edge of Glory " started selling considerable amount of digital downloads , prompting Gaga to make it the third single from Born This Way . Hence , " Hair " became the first promotional release from the album . Gaga noted that although " Hair " was not planned to be an official single , it could be released as such , if it was to sell well at the digital outlets like " The Edge of Glory " . Gaga also revealed her artwork for " Hair " on May 13 , 2011 , on her Twitter account . The black and white cover features a pink @-@ haired Gaga lying upside down on the floor in a sharp @-@ edged leather outfit , which consists of protruding nipple spikes . It was photographed by her longtime collaborator and friend Nick Knight . Later on in the same day , Gaga tweeted the line : " The Born This Way Itunes Countdown will release my song HAIR 2moro 1pm PST . " She also tweeted the line " I 'll dye living just as free as my Hair ! " , then adding that the correct word in the line should be

" die " , instead of " dye " .

= = Recording and composition = =

During an interview with Ryan Seacrest on his radio program On Air With Ryan Seacrest , Gaga described " Hair " as an up @-@ tempo club record , with Bruce Springsteen overtones to it . She also revealed the involvement of Clarence Clemons playing sax on the record . Other influences included metal bands like Kiss and Iron Maiden on the melody . She revealed some of the lines of the song on Seacrest 's show , " This is my prayer , that I 'll die living just as free as my hair " , adding that the composition of " Hair " was interesting since it was juxtaposing saxophone with a dance record . In an interview with radio station Z @-@ 100 she added , " Some of those themes are explored more on this album . To put my money where my mouth is . " Gaga 's references for the saxophone solo was the music of E Street Band and Bruce Springsteen ; to her they represented a different genre of music , at the same time encompassing all the different elements of it . She ultimately decided to ask Clemons from E Street Band to play the instrument .

With Rolling Stone , Clemons described how he recorded the saxophone solo with Gaga . In January 2011 , Clemons was putting together an exercise machine in his Florida house when his wife told him that Gaga 's representatives were on the phone , and they wanted him to play on her upcoming album . Since the call was on a Friday , Clemons replied that he would be able to record it on the coming week , but Gaga was adamant to have him at the New York recording studio on that day itself . After accepting her request , Clemons went to New York and reached the recording studio in Manhattan at midnight . Gaga wanted him to play saxophone on multiple tracks , one of them being " Hair " . Before Clemons started work on the song , she explained the lyrics to him . " It made so much sense , " he said . " It 's a story about growing up . " She gave him few instructions about how to play on the song , saying " ' We 'll put the tape on and you just play . Play from your heart . Play what you feel . ' " . The recording was finished by 3 : 00 am , after a few takes . Clemons added that he was surprised for " getting paid for this . I would have done it for free . I can never believe something that feels so good earns me money . " According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , the song is written in the time signature of common time . It is composed in the key of F major , with a tempo of 135 beats per minute . Gaga 's vocals span from F3 to F5 , and the song follows a basic sequence of F ? C ? Dm ? B ? as its chord progression .

" Hair " was recorded mostly while Gaga was on tour in Europe , but the mixing was done by Gene Grimaldi at Oasis Mastering in Burbank , California . It is a Hi @-@ NRG song and begins with Gaga singing the line " Whenever I dress cool , my parents put up a fight / And if I 'm a hot shot , Mom will cut my hair at night / And in the morning I 'm short of my identity / I scream , ' Mom and Dad , why can 't I be who I want to be ? " As the music grows louder , Gaga sings the sing along chorus of the song , gradually moving towards the breakdown ? which is inspired by retro music ? talking about the different hairstyles she has had . Jocelyn Vena from MTV described the track as a " fist @-@ pumping , defiant disco track all about having a good time . " Matthew Perpetua from Rolling Stone called it a mixture of yearning romantic melodrama of " We Belong " with the hard industrial metal edge of Broken @-@ era Nine Inch Nails . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune felt that Gaga 's vocals are Auto @-@ Tuned throughout the song . The lyrics of " Hair " talk about embracing one 's hairstyle as the ultimate expression of their identity , hence it ends with Gaga triumphantly declaring " I am my hair ! " at the end of the final chorus .

= = Critical reception = =

" Hair " has received mostly positive reviews . An hour before starting the final leg of The Monster Ball Tour , Gaga sent four tracks to Rolling Stone , including " Scheiße " , " You and I " , and " The Edge of Glory " , for a preview . Matthew Perpetua wrote a positive review of " Hair " , describing it as another inspirational song in the mold of " Born This Way " , but felt that it was a bit weirder . Perpetua concluded the review by jokingly adding that the song will become " [a] n anthem for

salons everywhere . " Jody Rosen from the same publication felt that " although Gaga is not the first singer to create a connection between self @-@ esteem and liberation to free @-@ flowing coiffure , she seems to be the most committed to the idea . " Dan Martin from NME classified " Hair " as an empowerment anthem , using the " simple image of the wind blowing through a person ' s hair to illuminate the album ' s Love @-@ Yourself @-@ And @-@ Let @-@ It @-@ All @-@ Hang @-@ Out message way more effectively than the title track . It trumps it once again by being quite the gayest thing you will ever hear for a long time . " Tim Jonze from The Guardian felt that the message of " Hair " was not particularly a new one , since the 60 ' s musical Hair also preached the same message . Although he described some of the lyrics as " trite " , Jonze opined that " these weaknesses can also be strengths , and there ' s something admirable about the way the [track] address confused teenagers in search of their identity . " Writing for The Vancouver Sun , Leah Collins described the song as " a pumping anthem designed to pump up your follicles with pride . " She added that the overall feel of the song was that of retro dance music .

Natalie Finn from E ! Online was disappointed with the track , feeling that although the releases from Born This Way were not that " catchy " , all of them were about the same subject of " the importance of being ourselves . Oh well , maybe we ' re just waiting for the next ' Bad Romance ' to sweep us off our feet . Or the next ' Speechless ' to make us cry . Or even the next ' Just Dance ' to really make us want to dance . " Jason Lipshultz from Billboard felt that the track was another anthem for individualism , with Gaga ' s hair used as a metaphor for her wild personality . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine gave a mixed review stating that the song is a " derivative but perfectly serviceable club track about highlights that ' s turned into a dumping ground for every bad idea Gaga ' s had in the last 12 months : schmaltzy piano @-@ woman melodies , overwrought choruses , inexplicable sax solos . " Rick Fulton , while writing in the Daily Record , called " Hair " a " great tune " and an " Europop high @-@ energy epic " , while giving it four out of five points . Ian Hope from BBC Online described " Hair " as an " empowering freeway rocker about self expression . " The Independent writer Andy Gill compared the song to those by guitarist David Crosby , and described it as a statement of rebellious individuality . According to Los Angeles Times ' Randall Roberts , Gaga " celebrates her follicles " in the song .

= = Chart performance = =

" Hair " charted in most musical markets and its debut became its peak position ; the song was present for a maximum of two weeks . In the United Kingdom , " Hair " debuted at number 13 on the UK Singles Chart . Along with the song , Gaga ' s other singles " The Edge of Glory " , " Judas " and " Born This Way " ? were all within the top twenty on the chart , making Gaga the first female artist since Ruby Murray in 1955 , to have four songs simultaneously within the top twenty . In Australia , " Hair " debuted at number 20 on the ARIA Singles Chart and was present for two weeks in the top @-@ fifty . In the Netherlands , " Hair " debuted at number 15 on the Single Top 100 chart , and at number 14 on the Irish Singles Chart .

In the United States , " Hair " debuted at number five on the Hot Digital Songs chart with first @-@ week sales of 147 @, @ 000 copies . Consequently it entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number 12 , becoming the highest debuting single of the week . According to Nielsen SoundScan , " Hair " has sold 174 @, @ 000 copies of digital downloads as of January 2012 . In Canada , the song sold 15 @, @ 000 digital downloads , and entered the Canadian Hot 100 at number 11 , as the highest debut of the week . " Hair " also reached the top ten in the charts of Italy , New Zealand , Norway , Scotland and Spain , and top twenty in Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia region) and France . Its lowest position was on the Danish Singles Chart at number 29 , and in the Gaon International download chart of South Korea , it reached a peak position of number 21 .

= = Live performances = =

On May 27 , 2011 , Gaga performed the song on Good Morning America as a part of their " Summer Concert Series " . She was dressed in purple horns and a black and blond ponytail , and

was placed atop a black staircase , with her leg perched on top of a black unicorn shaped piano .
Dedicating the song to her mother , Gaga sang an acoustic version of " Hair " , which Sheila Marikar from ABC News reviewed positively , saying that it " really brought the house down . " Christian Blauvelt from Entertainment Weekly was also impressed with the acoustic version , saying that " at a keyboard , Gaga 's never better at injecting enough passion and commitment to sell even the corniest lyrics about follicular empowerment . "

Gaga performed " Hair " on The Paul O 'Grady Show on June 17 , 2011 . The song was the first of the four performances planned , and Gaga opened the show with her sitting on the piano . She appeared bald but wore a teal colored fringed dress , and sang an acoustic version of " Hair " , while staring at a teal colored wig placed in front of her . The piano on which she sang was covered with brown , curly hair and she was surrounded by flames . Halfway through the performance , Gaga took the wig and placed it on her head . Ryan Love of Digital Spy had a preview of the recording of the show , and commented that when " it 's just GaGa [sic] on the piano , you can 't help but be impressed . " Cynthia Robinson from The Huffington Post theorized that Gaga pretending to be bald was not a " fashion statement " , instead she was " saying something about shedding that skin , that costume , that barrier that she created with all of her vaunted costumes ? at least so that people know what she is inside before putting it back on . "

At French television show Taratata Gaga appeared while hanging out of the window of her limousine . She later went on the show to perform " Hair " , but changed her outfit once more . The recorded performance was released to her YouTube channel by Gaga . Air Productions , which produces the program Taratata , detected the posting of the video and notified YouTube of supposed copyright infringement on Gaga 's part . YouTube was forced to close Gaga 's official channel with the statement : " YouTube ladygagaofficial account was closed , because we have received , several instances , third @-@ party notifications informing us that many people , including the following , filed a claim for infringement of copyright : Air Productions . " Later , Air Productions issued a statement that the notification was sent in error , and they had asked Google and YouTube to rectify this ; Gaga 's account was re @-@ opened , and Taratata apologized to the singer : " Really sorry for the problem with YouTube . Everything works again ! " During her promotional performances of the songs from Born This Way in Taiwan , Gaga sang " Hair " and played the piano in a black bra , against the backdrop of many red lanterns and a red arch , a set created specially for the Taiwan show . She later explained in a press conference the inspiration behind the performance : " Like the gentleman [the host] just mentioned , that lantern means prosperity and it 's about the future . I 'm always thinking about the future of my generation and the voice of my generation when I write music . "

At the iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas on September 24 , 2011 , Gaga dedicated a performance of " Hair " to deceased teenager Jamey Rodemeyer , who had committed suicide after being constantly bullied by his peers at school for being gay . An image of Rodemeyer was shown on the backdrop as Gaga announced : " We lost a Little Monster this week . I wrote this record about how your identity is really all you 've got when you 're in school ... so tonight , Jamey , I know you 're up there looking at us , and you 're not a victim ... you 're a lesson to all of us . I know it 's a bit of a downer , but sometimes the right thing is more important than the music " , after which she sang a piano version of " Hair " .

The song is also included in the set list of her the 2012 Born This Way Ball Tour . To Kwaak Je @-@ yup of The Korea Times was positive about the performance of the song during the tour saying that , " The highlight of the night was her first slow jam ' Hair , ' which she introduced as her favorite track on the ' Born This Way ' album ... Playing the guitar @-@ shaped keyboard , she flubbed her line once and admitted it right away ? ' I 'm getting too excited (that) I forgot my lines , ' she said ? but the moment made the experience personal . " On the second night of Gaga 's show in the Philippines , she addressed the controversy directly before a slow @-@ tempo version of " Hair " . While playing the piano she stated that she is aware of the issues around her image and music , she emphasized that she respects all kinds of religion , people and culture ? including Filipino culture . She also said that she respects that everyone is entitled to their own opinion , but stressed " What I don ? t respect is homophobia and hatred ? I reject intolerance to the gay community . "

This drew cheers from the audience . She went on to say that she is aware some are using her name to spread hatred but intended to counter this by continuing to spread " positivity " in her own way .

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Hair " ? 5 : 08

= = Credits and personnel = =

Lady Gaga ? vocals , songwriter and producer

RedOne ? songwriter , producer , vocal editing , vocal arrangement , background vocals , audio engineering , instrumentation , programming and recording at Tour Bus in Europe

Trevor Muzzy ? guitar , recording , vocal editing , audio engineering , audio mixing at Larrabee , North Hollywood , Los Angeles , California

Dave Russell ? recording and audio engineering

Clarence Clemons ? saxophone

Gene Grimaldi ? audio mastering at Oasis Mastering , Burbank , California

Credits adapted from Born This Way album liner notes .

= = Charts = =