

= Madness (Muse song) =

" Madness " is a song by English rock band Muse . It is the second track on the band 's sixth studio album , The 2nd Law , and the second single to be released from the album . The song was released as a digital download on 20 August 2012 . It was written by Muse frontman Matthew Bellamy and produced by the band themselves . The official music video for the song premiered on 5 September 2012 . It spent 19 weeks at the summit of Billboard 's Alternative Songs chart , making it the longest running number @-@ one song on the chart , beating out the previous record of 18 weeks set by Foo Fighters ' " The Pretender " . The song earned a nomination in the Best Rock Song category at the 2013 Grammy Awards , but lost to " Lonely Boy " by the Black Keys . The song was featured in Turner Broadcasting 's promotions for the 2013 March Madness games on TBS and TNT .

= = Background and writing = =

" Madness " is an electronic rock , synthpop , soft rock , and R & B song . According to NME , " Madness " draws influences from Queen 's " I Want to Break Free " , George Michael 's " Faith " and some instrumental elements of his other hit " I Want Your Sex " . During a preview of The 2nd Law on French site Jeuxactu , the song was said to resemble Depeche Mode and described as " calm , languid and sweet " . Matthew Bellamy stated that the song started as a personal reflection after a fight with his girlfriend Kate Hudson , and how , after she had gone to her mother 's house , he began to realise " yeah , she was right , wasn 't she ? " In a separate interview , Bellamy stated the song was the band 's attempt to strip down the sound of the album , and that the song has its roots in 12 bar blues with gospel , soul and R & B influences . He went on to conclude that , " It 's the song I 'm probably most proud of on the album for sure . "

= = Music video = =

The official music video for the song was uploaded to the band 's official YouTube channel on 5 September 2012 . This video saw the second collaboration between the band and director Anthony Mandler , who previously directed the music video for " Neutron Star Collision (Love Is Forever) " . It was edited by Jacquelyn London . The director of photography was David Devlin . The video was filmed on the Red Line platform at Los Angeles Union Station . The two main characters are played by models Erin Wasson and Max Silberman .

= = Release and reception = =

The song was released as a digital download on 20 August 2012 , with an accompanying lyric video for the song being uploaded shortly after . NME described the song as " taking the defining noise of ' bass music ' and using it to create slinky , soft rock sex music . " The track review goes on to call it a brilliant single and jokingly states that Muse have tamed the shark (following their declaration that Muse had jumped the shark with " Survival ") . Diffuser.fm noted that the single " doesn 't sound like the Muse that established itself as one of the worlds biggest rock bands " but that " the unusual blend of sounds works far better than it probably should " ; giving the track 8 / 10 . Rolling Stone stated that the single sees Muse " swap bombastic bass brutality with wubby subtleties as Matthew Bellamy croons over a surprisingly gentle pop track . " Radio Times described it as " George Michael 's Faith underwater " . In a negative review of the song , Robert Myers of The Village Voice wrote that " the band 's U2 imitation has finally caught up to Achtung Baby and Zooropa " . He further added that Muse " gets the surface details right but lacks the emotional and intellectual foundation to get at their inspiration 's essence . " Rolling Stone named the song the 37th best song of 2012 . Chris Martin of Coldplay described the single as " Muse 's best song yet " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Commercial performance = = =

" Madness " had a positive commercial performance , charting in several countries and peaking within the top ten in Belgium (Wallonia) , Iceland , Israel , Italy , Japan , Portugal , and South Korea . In the band 's home country of the United Kingdom , the song peaked at number 25 on the UK Singles Chart . In the United States , the song peaked at number 45 on the Hot 100 and number 3 on the Hot Rock Songs chart . It topped the Alternative Songs chart for 19 weeks , breaking the record for the longest @-@ reigning number @-@ one song on the chart , which was previously held by " The Pretender " by Foo Fighters . " Madness " has been certified gold by the IFPI in Switzerland , platinum by the MC in Canada and FIMI in Italy , and double @-@ platinum by the RIAA in the United States .