

= Lucky Star ( Madonna song ) =

" Lucky Star " is a song by American singer Madonna from her eponymous debut studio album Madonna ( 1983 ) . Originally released in the United Kingdom on September 8 , 1983 by Sire Records , it was the fourth single from the album . The song also appears on her greatest hits compilations The Immaculate Collection ( 1990 ) and Celebration ( 2009 ) . " Lucky Star " was written by Madonna and produced by Reggie Lucas . However , during recording , Madonna was not impressed by Lucas ' version . She called her then @-@ boyfriend John " Jellybean " Benitez to remix the track according to her ideas . " Lucky Star " is a medium @-@ paced dance track and combines the heavy beats of a drum with the sounds of a guitar played in a high riff . The lyrics juxtapose the male body with the heavenly stars in the sky .

Both contemporary and modern critics praised the song , heralding it as the introduction to upbeat dance music . " Lucky Star " became Madonna 's first top @-@ five hit on the Billboard Hot 100 , when it reached the peak position of number four , becoming the second single in her record @-@ breaking string of 17 consecutive top @-@ ten hits . It had already become Madonna 's first number @-@ one song on the Billboard dance charts , when it peaked the chart alongside the previously released single " Holiday " .

The music video portrayed Madonna dancing in front of a white background , accompanied by her dancers . After the video was released , Madonna 's style and mannerisms became a fashion trend among the younger generation . Scholars noted that in the video , Madonna portrayed herself as narcissistic and an ambiguous character . She referred to herself as the lucky star , unlike the lyrical meaning of the song . Madonna has performed the song in a number of live appearances , most recently at the Rebel Heart Tour ( 2015 ? 16 ) . It has also been covered by a number of artists .

= = Background = =

In 1983 , Madonna was recording her first studio album with Warner Music producer Reggie Lucas and her then boyfriend John " Jellybean " Benitez . However , she did not have that much new material to ensure a full LP album . Lucas produced a number of songs for the album , namely " Borderline " , " Burning Up " , " Physical Attraction " , " I Know It " , " Think of Me " and lastly " Lucky Star " . The song was written by Madonna for DJ Mark Kamins , who previously promised to play the track at his club Danceteria , where he worked as a DJ . However , the track was instead used by Madonna for her debut album , which she planned to call Lucky Star . She believed that " Lucky Star " song , along with " Borderline " , were the perfect foundation for her album . But problems arose after recording the song . Madonna was unhappy with the way the final version turned out . According to her , Lucas used too many instruments and did not consider her ideas for the songs . This led to a dispute between the two and after finishing the album , Lucas left the project without altering the songs to Madonna 's specifications . Hence , Madonna brought Benitez to remix " Borderline " and " Lucky Star " , along with some of the other recorded tracks . In a later interview , Benitez reflected back on the recording sessions and commented ,

" She was unhappy with the whole damn thing , so I went in and sweetened up a lot of music for her , adding some guitars to ' Lucky Star ' , some voices , some magic . [ ... ] I just wanted to do the best job I could do for her . When we would play back ' Holiday ' or ' Lucky Star ' , you could see that she was overwhelmed by how great it all sounded . You wanted to help her , you know ? As much as she could be a bitch , when you were in groove with her , it was very cool , very creative . "

= = Release and composition = =

" Lucky Star " was initially decided to be released as the third single from the album , but " Holiday " had already become a dance @-@ hit in the United States . Hence it was released as the fourth single from the album . Music executive Jeff Ayeroff , who was instrumental in green @-@ lighting Madonna 's career , recalled how Madonna initially didn 't want to release " Lucky Star " as a single . He says that around that time Madonna was getting sued and needed money , so he told her " Let

me release ' Lucky Star ' , and I guarantee that you 'll sell enough records to pay that off . " According to Ayeroff , he was right because " ' Lucky Star ' broke the first album wide open . "

Musically a medium @-@ paced dance track , " Lucky Star " starts off with a sparkle of synth note and is followed by heavy beats of electronic drum and handclaps . A guitar is played in high riff and a bubbling bass synth is produced to accompany the guitar sound . The song revolves around the " star light , star bright " hook for more than a minute , before going to the chorus . According to author Rikky Rooksby , the lyrics are repetitive and inane and revolves around the transparent ambiguity of the stars and juxtaposition of the male character with being a heavenly body in the sky . " Lucky Star " is set in the time signature of common time with a moderate dance tempo of 108 beats per minute . It is set in the key of G major with Madonna 's voice spanning from the tonal nodes of G3 to F ? 5 . The song has a basic sequence of G ? A ? B ? ? D ? E ? ? F ? as its basic chord progression .

= = Critical response = =

Author J. Randy Taraborrelli , in his biography of Madonna , called the song as " fluffy , dance @-@ able , but forgettable . " However he noted the song 's ingenuity which he credited to come from its simplicity and dance @-@ music nature . Author Rikky Rooksby noted that Madonna had a " cutesy " voice in the song and compared her vocals with those of singer Cyndi Lauper 's . Author Simon Gage of the book *Queer* noted that the song was a " happy disco number " . The song was appreciated by authors Santiago Fouz @-@ Hernández and Freya Jarman @-@ Ivens , who complimented it in their book *Madonna 's Drowned Worlds* . They noted that with songs like " Lucky Star " and " Burning Up " ( 1983 ) , Madonna introduced a " style of upbeat dance music that would prove particularly appealing to future gay audiences . " English tenor and academic John Potter , in his book *The Cambridge companion to singing* , commented that " Lucky Star " is a soft @-@ soul , disco @-@ influenced style song but criticized the song 's reverb and double tracking which he believed made the song " de @-@ personalized " . Sal Cinquemani from *Slant Magazine* commented that the track had " unknowingly prefaced her recent foray into the glittery halls of electronic @-@ pop . " Bill Lamb from *About.com* described the song , along with " Holiday " and " Borderline , " as " state of the art dance @-@ pop . " While reviewing Madonna 's 1990 compilation *The Immaculate Collection* , David Browne from *Entertainment Weekly* complimented the remixed version of the song . Rock critique Robert Christgau , while reviewing *The Immaculate Collection* , called the song " blessed " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from *Allmusic* described the song as effervescent .

= = Chart performance = =

" Lucky Star " was released as the album 's fifth single in the United States and debuted on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart at 49 , on the week of August 25 , 1984 . It finally reached a peak of four , and was present for a total of 18 weeks . It was able to enter other *Billboard* charts , such as Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs and Hot Adult Contemporary , where it peaked at 42 and 19 respectively . Prior to its release , the song had already reached the top of the Hot Dance Music / Club Play chart along with " Holiday " . In Canada , the song debuted at number 89 of the RPM Singles chart , reaching a peak of number eight in November 1984 , and it was present on the chart for 19 weeks . It placed at number 72 on the RPM year @-@ end chart for 1984 .

In the United Kingdom , " Lucky Star " was originally released as the album 's second single in September 1983 , simultaneously with " Holiday " in the United States . However , it only bubbled under the UK Singles Chart at number 171 . In March 1984 , it was re @-@ issued and then debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 47 , and reached a peak of number 14 after three weeks . The song was present on the chart for nine weeks . According to the Official Charts Company , " Lucky Star " has sold 117 @,@ 470 copies in the United Kingdom , as of August 2008 . In Ireland , the song was able to reach 19 on the Irish official charts . In Australia , the song made the top 40 of the Kent Music Report chart and peaked at 36 .

= = Music video = =

The music video was directed by Arthur Pierson , and was produced by Glenn Goodwin , while Wayne Isham was in charge of photography . At the time of the song 's release , Madonna 's style of dress was catching on as a fashion statement among club kids and her fans . The most prominent among her fashion accessories were the crucifixes she wore as earrings and necklaces . Madonna commented that wearing a rosary and a crucifix is " kind of offbeat and interesting . I mean , everything I do is sort of tongue @-@ in @-@ cheeks . Besides , the crucifixes seem to go with my name . " In reality , she was trying to find a separate image for herself , being inspired by then artists like Boy George , Cyndi Lauper and David Bowie , and their constantly shifting image and persona . Madonna realized the importance of her music videos and its popularity via MTV ? launched in 1981 ? was instrumental in popularizing her image .

The rush for Madonna 's fashion started with the music video for " Lucky Star " . In the video , Madonna wore an all @-@ black outfit with leggings , ankle boots , and belly button , with her tangled hair tied in a floppy black ribbon . This was coupled with a shiny black miniskirt , an earring on her right ear , cut @-@ off gloves and rubber bangles . Madonna 's friend Erika Belle was credited with designing the outfit , although biographer Mary Cross noted that Madonna was after all wearing her day @-@ to @-@ day outfit . Mary Lambert , then a Rhode Island School of Design graduate , was decided for directing the video . However , Arthur Pierson replaced her as the director . Warner Bros. gave Pierson a small budget to make the video , shot in an afternoon . Madonna 's brother , Christopher Ciccone , is a back @-@ up dancer in the video . In his book *Life with My Sister Madonna* he says that although he was only paid \$ 200 to dance in the video , at the time he was " just happy to be part of it . " The video starts with the close @-@ up of Madonna 's face , as she slides her sunglasses down her nose . This scene was a reference to the character of Lolita in Stanley Kubrick 's 1962 film of the same name , and Audrey Hepburn in the movie *Breakfast at Tiffany 's* ( 1961 ) . The image then fades to white , denoting the celestial stars dazzle , and then resumes itself in color . Madonna is shown dancing against a stark white background , along with closeups of her mesmerised gaze . She is accompanied by Belle and brother Christopher , as backup dancers . The video ends with the initial black @-@ and @-@ white image repeated , but in retrograde , as Madonna puts back on the sunglasses . The taking down and putting up of those sunglasses provided a frame to contain the song , functioning like a curtain that marks the opening and closing of a stage performance .

Dance historian Sally Banes , in her book *Before , between , and beyond : three decades of dance writing* , noted that the video portrayed Madonna as both the subject and the object of the song . She believed that in the video , Madonna taking off her sunglasses symbolized herself as a movie star , thus creating an ambiguous characterization of herself , and a narcissistic theme . Author Peter Goodwin , in his book *Television under the Tories : Broadcasting Policy 1979 ? 1997* , commented that although " Lucky Star " is not a narrative video , in the clip Madonna plays at least four characters : ? the person in sunglasses looking ; a break @-@ dancing girl ; an androgynous social dancer ; and a seductress . The juxtaposition of all these characterizations portray Madonna as a narcissistic self @-@ lover . Images of Madonna 's body writhing against the white background generates the question whether she is addressing her lover or herself in the song . According to Goodman , Madonna created an eroticized woman for her own pleasure only . Cathy Smith from *Time* magazine noted that " [ s ] he 's sexy , but she doesn 't need men [ ... ] she 's kind of there all by herself . "

= = Live performances = =

" Lucky Star " has been a setlist staple on four of Madonna 's concert tours : The Virgin Tour ( 1985 ) , the Who 's That Girl World Tour ( 1987 ) , the Confessions Tour ( 2006 ) , and the Rebel Heart Tour ( 2015 ? 16 ) . On The Virgin Tour , Madonna performed the song wearing an entirely black costume , consisting of a crop top worn beneath a vest , fringed elbow length gloves , a fringed

miniskirt , leggings , and low heel leather boots . She also wore a crucifix earring in one ear and a silver cross pattée was pinned to the right shoulder of her vest . Madonna sang the original version of the song , and pranced around the stage while showing her stomach . The performance was included in the Madonna Live : The Virgin Tour VHS , released in 1985 . At the Who 's That Girl World Tour , " Lucky Star " was performed as the second song of the set list . Madonna wore a black bustier like the music video to her single " Open Your Heart " ( 1987 ) . Her hair was platinum blond and in a big bushy shape . The performance of " Lucky Star " included a disco ball spinning above the stage , as Madonna and her dancers moved around it as the light from the ball flickered on them like a star . Two different performances are found in Ciao Italia : Live from Italy tour video filmed at Stadio Comunale in Turin , Italy on September 4 , 1987 and the Who 's That Girl : Live in Japan tour video filmed at Korakuen Stadium in Tokyo , Japan on June 22 , 1987 .

On the Confessions Tour , " Lucky Star " was performed with Madonna dressed in a purple and white leotard , designed by Jean @-@ Paul Gaultier . Following the performance of " La Isla Bonita " Madonna lies face @-@ down on the stage . Her dancers wrap a cape around her that proclaim the word " Dancing Queen " at the back . The intro to " Lucky Star " is heard , Madonna gets up and faces the audience . The lights go off and Madonna opens the cape to reveal the inside of the cape to be lit . Her backup singers join her and together they move around the stage , while singing the song . Towards the end of the song , Madonna also sings the chorus of the next performance , " Hung Up " . The performance was included on both the CD and the DVD version of The Confessions Tour , released in 2007 . Ed Gonzalez of Slant Magazine compared Madonna 's performance of " Lucky Star " as " a soul butterfly fluttering to the disco heavens during a remix of [ the song ] that actually makes [ it ] sound good . " Thomas Inskeep from Stylus called the performance fresh . Christian John Wikane from PopMatters was not impressed with the performance ; he felt that singing the song over the newly arranged chord progression , is cold and pairing the original arrangement with the ABBA sample is " [ a ] match not made in heaven , though Madonna 's skin @-@ tight , ABBA @-@ esque jump suit is an amusing intertextualization . "

On the Rebel Heart Tour , " Lucky Star " was performed in a flamenco @-@ style medley with " Dress You Up " , " Into the Groove " and " Everybody " . During the sequence the singer dressed by in a Latin and gypsy inspired dress , created by Alessandro Michele for Gucci consisting off a shawl , flamenco hat , lace , skirts and jacquard bodysuit .

= = Covers and media appearances = =

The 2000 album Virgin Voices : A Tribute To Madonna , Vol . 2 included a trip hop cover of the song by Switchblade Symphony . Heather Phares of Allmusic called it as one of the album 's finest moments . A folk music cover of the song by Alexandra Hope was included on the 2007 Madonna tribute compilation Through the Wilderness .

" Lucky Star " was featured in the 1988 movie Running on Empty in the scene where River Phoenix 's character is in music class . It was used in the 2000 British movie Snatch , directed by Guy Ritchie who fathered a child with Madonna during the making of the film . The music video of " Lucky Star " was referenced in the 1994 film Pulp Fiction in the scene where Fabienne ( played by Maria de Medeiros ) tells her boyfriend ( played by Bruce Willis ) that she wants a pot belly " like Madonna when she did ' Lucky Star ' . "

= = Track listing and formats = =

Note : This song was released as a Maxi @-@ Single only in the E.U.

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? vocals , writer

Reggie Lucas ? producer , drum programming

John " Jellybean " Benitez ? audio mixing

Fred Zarr ? synthesizers , electric and acoustic piano  
Dean Gant ? synthesizers , electric and acoustic piano  
Ira Siegal ? guitars  
Leslie Ming ? drum arrangement  
Bobby Malach ? tenor saxophone  
Credits adapted from the Madonna album liner notes .

= = Charts = =