

= Ice Ice Baby =

" Ice Ice Baby " is a hip hop song written by American rapper Vanilla Ice and DJ Earthquake , but based on the bassline of " Under Pressure " by Queen and David Bowie , who did not initially receive songwriting credit or royalties until after it had become a hit . Originally released on Vanilla Ice 's 1989 debut album Hooked and later on his 1990 national debut To the Extreme , it is his most well known song . It has appeared in remixed form on Platinum Underground and Vanilla Ice Is Back ! A live version appears on the album Extremely Live , while a rap rock version appears on the album Hard to Swallow , under the title " Too Cold " .

" Ice Ice Baby " was initially released as the B @-@ side to Vanilla Ice 's cover of " Play That Funky Music " , but the single was not initially successful . When disc jockey David Morales played " Ice Ice Baby " instead , it began to gain success . " Ice Ice Baby " was the first hip hop single to top the Billboard charts . Outside the United States , the song topped the charts in Australia , Belgium , the Netherlands , New Zealand , the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom , thus helping the song diversify hip hop by introducing it to a mainstream audience . The song came fifth in VH1 and Blender 's 2004 list of the " 50 Most Awesomely Bad Songs Ever . "

= = Lyrics and music = =

Robert Van Winkle , better known by his stage name Vanilla Ice , wrote " Ice Ice Baby " in 1983 at the age of 16 , basing its lyrics upon his experiences in South Florida . The lyrics describe a shooting and Van Winkle 's rhyming skills . The chorus of " Ice Ice Baby " originates from the signature chant of the national African American fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha . Of the song 's lyrics , Van Winkle states that " If you released ' Ice Ice Baby ' today , it would fit in today 's lyrical respect among peers , you know what I 'm sayin ' ? [...] My lyrics aren 't , ' Pump it up , go ! Go ! ' At least I 'm sayin ' somethin ' . "

The song 's hook samples the bassline of the 1981 song " Under Pressure " by Queen and David Bowie , who did not receive credit or royalties for the sample . In a 1990 interview , Van Winkle said the two melodies were slightly different because he had added an additional note , an anacrusis (" pickup ") between odd @-@ numbered and subsequent even @-@ numbered iterations of the Under Pressure sample . In later interviews , Van Winkle readily admitted he sampled the song and claimed his 1990 statement was a joke ; others , however , suggested he had been serious . Van Winkle later paid Queen and Bowie and as a result , Bowie and all members of Queen have since been given songwriting credit for the sample . In December 1990 , Van Winkle told British youth music magazine Smash Hits where he came up with the idea of sampling " Under Pressure " :

Van Winkle described himself as the first rapper to cross into the pop market and said that although his pioneer status forced him to " take the heat for a lot of people " for his music 's use of samples , the criticism he received over sample use allowed sampling to become acceptable in mainstream hip hop .

= = Release = =

" Ice Ice Baby " was initially released by Ichiban Records as the B @-@ side to Van Winkle 's cover of " Play That Funky Music " . The 12 @-@ inch single featured the radio , instrumental and a cappella versions of " Play That Funky Music " and the radio version and " Miami Drop " remix of " Ice Ice Baby " . When a disc jockey played " Ice Ice Baby " instead of the single 's A @-@ side , the song gained more success than " Play That Funky Music " . A music video for " Ice Ice Baby " was produced for \$ 8000 . The video was financed by Van Winkle 's manager , Tommy Quon , and shot on the roof of a warehouse in Dallas , Texas . In the video , Van Winkle is shown rapping the lyrics while he and others dance to the song . Heavy airplay of the video by The Box while Van Winkle was still unknown increased public interest in the song . " Ice Ice Baby " was given its own single , released in 1990 by SBK Records in the United States , and EMI Records in the United Kingdom . The SBK single contained the " Miami Drop " , instrumental and radio mixes of " Ice Ice Baby " and

the album version of " It 's A Party " . The EMI single contained the club and radio mixes of the song , and the shortened radio edit . The single was quickly pulled from the American market soon after the song reached number one , in a successful attempt to drive consumers to buy the album instead .

= = Reception = =

" Ice Ice Baby " garnered critical acclaim , and was the first hip hop single to top the Billboard charts . It has been credited for helping diversify hip hop by introducing it to a mainstream audience .

Entertainment Weekly reviewer Mim Udovitch wrote that " [Vanilla Ice] probably would have scored with his hit rap single ' Ice Ice Baby ' even if he hadn 't been white . There 's just something about the way its hook ? a sample from Queen and David Bowie 's ' Under Pressure ' ? grabs you and flings you out onto the dance floor . "

Following the song 's success , California rapper Mario " Chocolate " Johnson , an associate of record producer Suge Knight , claimed that he had helped in writing the song , and had not received credit or royalties . Knight and two bodyguards arrived at The Palm in West Hollywood , where Van Winkle was eating . After shoving Van Winkle 's bodyguards aside , Knight and his own bodyguards sat down in front of Van Winkle , staring at him before finally asking " How you doin ' ? " Similar incidents were repeated on several occasions before Knight showed up at Van Winkle 's suite on the fifteenth floor of the Bel Age Hotel , accompanied by Johnson and a member of the Los Angeles Raiders . According to Van Winkle , Knight took him out on the balcony by himself , and implied that he would throw Van Winkle off unless he signed the rights to the song over to Knight . In 2012 , Mario " Chocolate " Johnson told to LA Weekly that this story is false .

= = Legacy = =

After audiences began to view Van Winkle as a novelty act and a pop star rather than a legitimate rapper , his popularity began to decline . Detroit @-@ based rapper Eminem states that when he first heard " Ice Ice Baby " , " I felt like I didn 't want to rap anymore . I was so mad , because he was making it real hard for me . " Van Winkle lost some credibility among hip hop fans , but later began to regain some success , attracting a new audience outside of the mainstream audience that had formerly accepted him , and then rejected him . " Ice Ice Baby " continues to be the song that Van Winkle is best known for internationally , although Van Winkle states that his American fans like his newer music better .

A live version appeared on the album Extremely Live . " Ice Ice Baby " was rerecorded in a rap rock version titled " Too Cold " . Originally intended to be released as a hidden track or B @-@ side , " Too Cold " was featured on Van Winkle 's 1998 album Hard to Swallow , and became a radio hit in some markets . In 2000 , a remix titled " Ice Ice Baby 2001 " was released in Europe as a single , with a newly produced music video . The remix generated new international interest in Van Winkle 's music .

VH1 and Blender ranked " Ice Ice Baby " fifth on its list of the " 50 Most Awesomely Bad Songs Ever " . It was also given the distinction by the Houston Press as being the worst song ever to emanate from Texas . In 1999 , the song 's music video was " retired " on the MTV special 25 Lame , in which Van Winkle himself appeared to destroy the video 's master tape . Given a baseball bat , Van Winkle ended up destroying the show 's set . In December 2007 , the song was ranked No. 29 on VH1 's 100 Greatest Songs of the 90 's .

In 1991 , Alvin and the Chipmunks released a cover version entitled " Ice Ice Alvin " for their album The Chipmunks Rock the House . " Weird Al " Yankovic included the chorus as the final song in " Polka Your Eyes Out " , the polka medley from his 1992 album Off the Deep End . In 2010 , the song was featured in the Glee episode " Bad Reputation " as performed by Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) .

= = Track listings = =

== 1990 release ==

== Charts and sales ==

== Other uses ==

In 2013 , a parody of the song titled " Rice Rice Baby " was created for an advert from Müller involving a 7 foot bear who disrupts a hungry co worker whilst singing the parody . Two versions were created , a 30 second version and a 10 second version .

== Successions ==

Lyrics of this song at [MetroLyrics](#)