

= The Climb ( Miley Cyrus song ) =

" The Climb " is a song performed by American singer Miley Cyrus , for the 2009 film Hannah Montana : The Movie . The song was written by Jessi Alexander and Jon Mabe , and produced by John Shanks . It was released on March 12 , 2009 , as the lead single of the film 's soundtrack by Walt Disney Records . The song is a power ballad with lyrics that describe life as a difficult but rewarding journey . It is styled as a country pop ballad , and was Cyrus ' first solo song to be released to country radio . The instrumentation includes piano , guitar and violins .

The song received a nomination for the Best Song Written for a Motion Picture , Television or Other Visual Media at the 52nd Grammy Awards . However , the song was withdrawn from consideration by Walt Disney Records because it had not been written specifically for a movie as the category 's eligibility rules required . The song became a top ten single on charts in Australia , Canada , Norway and the United States . In the United States , it peaked at number four on the Billboard Hot 100 and became the eighth best selling digital single of 2009 . Five months after its release , the single was certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) .

The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Matthew Rolston , and depicts scenes of Cyrus climbing a mountain or singing , intercut with clips of Hannah Montana : The Movie . Cyrus promoted the song with several live performances . The first , at the Kids Inaugural : " We Are the Future " event on January 19 , 2009 , was the first time the song had ever been publicly heard . Cyrus also performed the song as the closing number of her Wonder World Tour . The song was also performed during the Gypsy Heart Tour . " The Climb " has been covered by several artists and was the most popular choice of song among auditioners for the ninth season of the American singing contest , American Idol , with Hollie Cavanagh performing it in the top 6 of the eleventh season . Simon Cowell , creator of the British television talent show The X Factor , chose " The Climb " to be the debut single of the winner of the competition 's sixth series . Winner Joe McElderry 's cover , released on December 14 , 2009 by Syco Music , was produced by Quiz & Larossi and topped the Irish Singles Chart and the UK Singles Chart .

= = Background = =

" The Climb " was not intentionally written for the 2009 musical film Hannah Montana : The Movie . Co @-@ writer Jessi Alexander conceived the song 's melody while driving to the home of songwriting partner Jon Mabe . Once she arrived , she and Mabe developed a song about overcoming life 's obstacles inspired by their personal struggles in the music industry . Alexander referred to the process as a form of " therapy " and recalled ,

" I was just driving to work one day . It 's just a typical day , nothing really special about that day . And I just had this melody in my head . And I couldn 't get to my co @-@ writer Jon Mabe or my guitar fast enough because I just wanted to play what I was hearing . And , you know , we just kinda put it down pretty fast and didn 't really think anything about it . The lyrics kinda started to come , I think for both of us , being kinda underdogs in the business . My co @-@ writer was a songplugger , just turned songwriter , and I 'd had record deals and ups and downs in the music business . I think for both of us , we just came from a place of , you know , ' it 's not a race ' . "

The song they created was titled " It 's the Climb " and was written in third person . Alexander described the original song as " more spiritual " than the version that was released , and said it contained lines about prayer . However , she claimed she knew it was pop and suitable for The Walt Disney Company .

Before reaching Cyrus , the song had been rejected by several country artists . It was eventually picked up by Peter Chelsom , director of Hannah Montana : The Movie , who gave it to Cyrus to record for the film . Chelsom found what would become " The Climb " while visiting Nashville , Tennessee , during a quest to find eleven new songs for Hannah Montana : The Movie . After hearing Alexander 's music , Chelsom asked her to submit songs for consideration . Alexander recorded " It 's the Climb " on a CD and gave it to him . Several weeks later , Chelsom called to say that " the song was gonna be an integral part of the movie " . However , he wanted Mabe and

Alexander to rework some of the song 's content and to change the song from third person to first person . Alexander felt the changes amounted to a " substantial amount of the song " and commented , " For me , when you change something from third person to first person , it can change the whole meaning of a line . " She and Mabe " wrestl [ ed ] over taking words out " and how much they could change while maintaining the song 's integrity . After a number of drafts , Mabe and Alexander finally created a version they felt was " perfect for the movie " .

Upon receiving the final draft , filmmakers told the songwriters , " This is perfect for Miley , it ? s gonna change her life , gonna change your life . " Chelsom commented that the song " turned up " the film 's music level by tapping into Cyrus 's newfound vocal range . As with the other songs featured in Hannah Montana : The Movie , the song is " tightly woven into the fabric of the story and the characters " . In the film , Cyrus plays Miley Stewart , a character with a secret double life as superstar Hannah Montana . Keeping this secret causes trouble between Miley and many of the other characters in the film , and leaves Miley confused and contrite . She expresses her emotions by writing " The Climb " . According to film producer Alfred Gough , " The song is her journey , the lessons she 's learned in the movie . It 's an epic [ ... ] power ballad that encapsulates Miley 's journey and the message of the film . "

" The Climb " was chosen as the lead single from the soundtrack due to its country elements , which introduced Cyrus to listeners beyond her usual pop audience . The song is Cyrus 's first solo effort marketed directly to country radio , though she had previously recorded and released a country duet with her father , Billy Ray Cyrus , which was titled " Ready , Set , Don 't Go " , in 2007 . Warren Truitt of About.com referred to the song as " Miley 's serious attempt to break into the contemporary country world . " " The Climb " was leaked to the Internet on February 4 , 2009 , two days prior to its official release for airplay . In October 2009 , it was re @-@ released to countries outside the United States in the international version of Cyrus ' extended play , The Time of Our Lives .

= = Composition = =

" The Climb " is a country pop power ballad that incorporates soft rock and pop rock styles and lasts three minutes and 55 seconds . However , at two minutes and forty @-@ five seconds , a " sudden , spiky burst of violins " enters the song , and the song switches to full power . Todd Martens , co @-@ editor of The Los Angeles Times music column , says Cyrus uses " a raspy voice [ that ] brings a bit of country grit " to the song . " The Climb " is set in common time at a moderate tempo of 80 beats per minute . The song is sung in the key of E major and Cyrus 's vocals span one and a half octaves , from E3 to C # 5 . The song uses a standard issue ballad arrangement with the chord progression , E5 ? Asus2 ? F ? 7sus .

According to music reviewer Fraser McAlpine of the BBC , the song 's lyrics assert that life should be viewed as " a journey which is difficult but rewarding " . Both Martens and McAlpine took special interest in the line " It 's always gonna be an uphill battle / Sometimes I 'm gonna have to lose " . Martens interpreted the line as an acknowledgment by the singer of her own mistakes in life , while McAlpine wrote , " In this song which is about plugging away at things , the writers have slipped in [ ... ] that the occasional setback isn 't the end of the world . "

= = Critical reception = =

Critical reception for the song was generally positive . Fraser McAlpine of the BBC felt the song 's lyrics were generic , but complimented Cyrus vocals : " Miley acquits herself well vocally ? there are moments where her voice sounds a tad strained , but it 's good to hear her on a track that 's a little more subdued and with less frantic production than the uptempo , sassy pop songs we 're used to . " Michael Menachem of Billboard magazine called the song " one of the year 's strongest ballads " . Wesley Morris of The Boston Globe praised " The Climb " for being a " pretty liberation anthem " . Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly said , " On tunes like [ ... ] ' The Climb ' , the 16 @-@ year @-@ old Tennessee native turns up her homegrown inflections , but a few elongated r 's won 't

exactly shut out her huge pop audience . " Todd Martens of The Los Angeles Times believed that " The Climb " was " buried in cheese " and described it as " pre @-@ Valentine 's Day gooeyness " . However , Martens said , " ' The Climb ' is the rare Miley ballad that 's on par with some of her more spunky teen pop . "

Heather Phares of Allmusic said , " the best songs that Cyrus sings on the soundtrack have her own name on them " . She also made musical comparisons to Shania Twain and described the song as " natural , [ ... ] down to earth and grown @-@ up " . While reviewing The Time of Our Lives , Michael Hann of The Guardian called " The Climb " a " one rather superior ballad " , compared to " When I Look at You " and " Obsessed " . Hann said the song was added to the extended play in order to " add some ballast since this collection 's US release . " Jon Caraminica of The New York Times described " The Climb " as an " appealing new single [ that ] is just the sort of demure , inspirational country @-@ rock that could easily be mistaken for self @-@ reckoning . " While reviewing a concert performance , James Reed of The Boston Globe called the song " bland but inspirational fare " .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

" The Climb " won " Best Song from a Movie " at the 2009 MTV Movie Awards and " Music Choice : Single " at the 2009 Teen Choice Awards . At the 52nd Grammy Awards , " The Climb " received a nomination for the Best Song Written for a Motion Picture , Television or Other Visual Media , a songwriter 's award . However , Walt Disney Records withdrew the song from consideration because the song was not " written specifically for a motion picture , television or other visual media " , as the Grammy eligibility rules dictated . According to Rolling Stone magazine , " The Climb " was submitted for consideration by mistake . The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences ( NARAS ) , the presenters of the Grammy Awards , released a statement stating , " Walt Disney Records was proactive and forthcoming to our awards department and verified that the song was not written specifically for the film Hannah Montana : The Movie . Based on this information , the Academy has complied with the label 's request . " NARAS replaced the nomination with the song with the next highest initial vote count , " All is Love " , which was written by Karen O and Nick Zinner for the film Where the Wild Things Are . Dan Milliken of Country Universe gave the song a D + . His review consisted solely of two motivational posters : one reading " Life : Its [ sic ] not about the destination , but the journey " to describe the song 's content , and a mock poster reading " Success : Everything is easy when you 're cute " for his actual review . He later expanded his review , calling it " a soulless rephrasing of an extremely famous philosophical message ( so famous it borders on cliché ) that doesn ' t provide an emotionally coherent context or justification " . Milliken gave the song a higher grade because " she 's a pretty good singer for someone her age " .

= = Commercial performance = =

On the week ending March 7 , 2009 , " The Climb " debuted at number 48 on Billboard 's Hot Country Songs . It was , incidentally , the same week that " Back to Tennessee " , by Cyrus 's father , Billy Ray Cyrus , debuted at number 59 , the first time a father and daughter had separate charting songs on the chart since Johnny and Rosanne Cash charted in 1990 with " Silver Stallion " and " One Step over the Line " , respectively . " The Climb " eventually peaked at number 25 on the country @-@ genre chart . For the week ending March 21 , 2009 , the song debuted at number six on the Billboard Hot 100 due to sales of 166 @,@ 000 digital downloads , thus making " The Climb " Cyrus 's highest @-@ charting effort at the time , surpassing her previous best @-@ charting effort " 7 Things " , which peaked at number nine in July 2008 . For the week ending May 2 , 2009 , the song reached its peak at number four on the Hot 100 . " The Climb " also peaked at number seven on the Pop 100 chart , 42 on Hot Christian Songs , and at number one for 15 consecutive weeks on Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks . Cyrus became the youngest artist to top Adult Contemporary since LeAnn Rimes entered the chart in 1997 with " How Do I Live " . According to Billboard , " The Climb " was the eighth best selling digital single of 2009 . The single was certified triple platinum by the

Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) for the sales of over two million copies . As of January 2014 , " The Climb " has sold 3 @, @ 709 @, @ 000 copies in the United States . In Canada , " The Climb " entered at number 17 and eventually peaked at number five . The single was certified triple platinum by Music Canada for the sales of 240 @, @ 000 digital downloads .

" The Climb " was also a success in Australia and New Zealand . The song made its debut on the Australian Singles Chart at number 46 on April 19 , 2009 . After ten weeks on the chart , " The Climb " reached number five on the chart , where it stayed for two consecutive weeks . " The Climb " was placed at number 84 on the decade @-@ end Australian Singles Chart . The song has been certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for sales above 70 @, @ 000 . " The Climb " debuted in the New Zealand Singles Chart at number 25 on April 13 , 2009 and reached its peak at number 12 on June 15 , 2009 . On September 4 , 2009 , it was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) for sales exceeding 7 @, @ 500 copies .

In the UK Singles Chart , " The Climb " made its entry at number 82 on March 28 , 2009 and reached its peak at number 11 on June 16 , 2009 . With its peak at number 11 , it tied for Cyrus 's best @-@ charting effort on the chart with " See You Again " from October 2008 . The single was certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for the shipment of over 200 @, @ 000 copies . In Ireland , the song also peaked at number 11 . In mainland Europe , the song peaked at number 23 on Eurochart Hot 100 Singles , number eleven on Belgian Tip Singles Chart ( Flanders ) , and number five on Norwegian Singles Chart . The song experienced similar commercial outcomes throughout the rest of Europe ; it appeared within the top 30 of charts in Austria , Belgium ( Wallonia ) , and France .

= = Music video = =

Matthew Rolston directed the music video for " The Climb " , which premiered on Cyrus 's Myspace page on February 11 , 2009 . The video commences with a shot of Cyrus holding a guitar and a suitcase as she begins to walk down a long path extending through a valley . At the end of the valley , the sun breaks out over a distant mountain . The entire scene is enhanced with computer @-@ generated imagery . Cyrus has her hair tied in a bun and wears a traveling jacket , a gray tank top and cowboy boots . In a separate setting , Cyrus , wearing a gray short sleeve shirt and her hair loose , begins to sing " The Climb " beneath a blue spotlight in a purple room . The two settings alternate throughout the video . A vignettted scene from Hannah Montana : The Movie appears in front of Cyrus as she walks on the path . The video zooms into the scene and a montage of film clips plays , featuring Cyrus 's character and her love interest , Travis Brody ( played by Lucas Till ) horseback riding . The video returns to Cyrus walking ; she picks up a rose fallen on the path , then throws it behind her . As the video progresses , she also sees things such as a herd of horses and a shooting star cross her path . A new setting enters the video in which Cyrus dances in a purple room with a countdown or , occasionally , film clips projected on the wall behind her . Rain begins to pour in the path setting . Cyrus puts down her jacket , guitar case , suitcase and boots , and continues onwards with only her guitar strapped to her shoulder . More film clip montages play in the same manner as the first . As the last montage ends , Cyrus finally reaches the summit of a reddish , CGI mountain and triumphantly looks over the cliff 's edge to watch the sun shining over a shimmering lake . An alternate version of the music video excluding the Hannah Montana : The Movie clips exists and was sent to several channels , including VH1 .

Todd Martens of The Los Angeles Times wrote that while he enjoyed the song , he was unsure about the video . He commented that while the video was an improvement since Cyrus 's video for " 7 Things " ( 2008 ) , the settings in " The Climb " music video looked as though they had been painted by Thomas Kinkade and Cyrus 's dancing appeared off @-@ beat . Travis of MTV described the video as " beautifully shot ( although heavily digitized ) " . Lyndsey Parker of Yahoo ! Music remarked that the summit setting was similar to that of the music video for Britney Spears ' " I 'm Not a Girl , Not Yet a Woman " . Parker also felt the scene in which Cyrus looks out over the cliff , shot using large sweeps with an aerial camera , had been " lifted straight out of an ' 80s Bon Jovi video "

. In 2009 , the video received a MuchMusic Video nomination for Best International Artist Video , but lost to Lady Gaga 's music video for " Poker Face " .

= = Live performances = =

Cyrus opened the Kids ' Inaugural : " We Are the Future " event with the premiere of " The Climb " . The event was held on January 19 , 2009 , in Washington D.C. at the Verizon Center to celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States . Cyrus , dressed in an embroidered red ball gown made by Reem Acra , dedicated the song to Obama 's daughters , Sasha and Malia Obama . Following the song 's official release in March 2009 , Cyrus resumed promotion for " The Climb " , performing live for shows including American Idol , The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , the 44th annual Academy of Country Music Awards , Good Morning America , and Live with Regis and Kelly throughout April . On April 13 , Cyrus performed " The Climb " as part of her set for the AOL Sessions . On April 24 , Cyrus sang " The Climb " and other songs in a London Apple Store . The performances were recorded and sold exclusively by the United Kingdom iTunes Store as a live extended play titled iTunes Live from London . On June 7 , 2009 , Cyrus performed the song at the 20th annual A Time for Heroes Celebrity Carnival , an outdoor carnival supporting the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation . Cyrus also sang " The Climb " on The Today Show on August 28 and at the first D23 Expo on September 11 , 2009 .

To promote the Hannah Montana : The Movie soundtrack , Cyrus performed " The Climb " on a six @-@ day , five @-@ city acoustic radio promo tour that reached over 250 radio shows . The song was also used as the closing number of Cyrus ' 2009 Wonder World Tour , her first world tour . During the tour performances , Cyrus performed in a white tank top and shorts , boots , and a metallic vest , while giant overhead video screens displayed sunsets . After finishing , Cyrus exited through a passageway in the stage while the images of shooting stars and the earth in space appeared on the screen . Melinda M. Thompson of The Oregonian described the performance as " really a moment to remember ? Miley 's soulful and touching rendition of ' The Climb ' " , while Jim Harrington of The Oakland Tribune said the performance was a " tender closer " that drew a large response at the September 18 concert in Oakland , California , at the Oracle Arena . Cyrus later performed the song at the Rock in Rio concert in Lisbon , Portugal and the London , England nightclubs Heaven and G @-@ A @-@ Y.

Cyrus performed the song during the Gypsy Heart Tour . She also performed this song on CNN Heroes on December 11 , 2011 .

= = Release history = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Cover versions = =

" The Climb " has been covered by several amateurs and established acts . Mirror Image Records ' indie rock group HelenaMaria covered the song and released it as a digital single in March 2009 . At auditions for the ninth season of the television singing competition American Idol , " The Climb " was the most popular choice of song amongst contestants . Mandi Bierly , writing for Entertainment Weekly , commented , " it sounds like we could get an Idol whose voice actually suits the inspirational tune that he or she will be forced to record as a first single . ( Though the odds of that song being anywhere as good as ' The Climb ' ... ) " . While informing Cyrus of its popularity on American Idol , the series ' host Ryan Seacrest commented that the contestants " believe [ it is ] a song that will make an impression and [ ... ] will get them into that next level " . Cyrus said she was pleased because the song was about " following your dreams and not giving up " .

= = Joe McElderry version = =

= = = Background and composition = = =

In the same year of " The Climb " ' s original release , British executive Simon Cowell chose for Joe McElderry , Olly Murs , and Stacey Solomon , the three finalists of the sixth series of the British television talent contest The X Factor , to record the song in preparation for a single release as soon as the winner was announced . After Solomon 's elimination , Murs and McElderry sang the song on December 13 , 2009 , as their final performance in the competition . Upon winning the competition , McElderry 's version of " The Climb " , produced by Quiz & Larossi , was released on December 14 , 2009 by Syco Music as the first single from his debut studio album Wide Awake ( 2010 ) .

McElderry said that the lyrics to " The Climb " meant a lot to him : " It 's an emotional song because it 's what 's been happening in the last few months . It all feels very , very surreal . " According to Peter Robinson of The Guardian , the cover has a " plinky " piano in its introduction . In regards to lyrics , Robinson interpreted , " lines about ' uphill battles ' and ' having to lose ' do seem to talk of Joe 's probable future . "

= = = Reception = = =

Peter Robinson of The Guardian described " The Climb " as a " controversially uncontroversial choice " for a cover and continued , " While ' The Climb ' might be a suitable choice for a winner 's single , the fact that it 's a cover of such a recent song means that it 's still slightly odd . "

On the week ending 26 December 2009 , " The Climb " debuted at number two on the UK Singles Chart ; its debut position was influenced by a campaign composed of Facebook group members , aimed at getting Rage Against the Machine 's 1992 single " Killing in the Name " to the top position during Christmas week . In the following week , the song reached number one , becoming the final number one of the 2000s decade , where it maintained for a week . The single was certified Platinum by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for shipments exceeding 600 @ , @ 000 copies . The song has sold 810 @ , @ 000 copies in the UK as of January 2015 .

" The Climb " debuted at number one on the Irish Singles Chart on the week ending December 17 , 2009 , where it maintained in the top position for four consecutive weeks . In mainland Europe , the song charted in the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles at number four on the week ending January 9 , 2010 .

= = = Music video = = =

The video was shot on 16 December 2009 , in London , England . The video begins with footage from The X Factor and then transitions to a close @ - @ up shot of McElderry in the main setting , a flooded cityscape ? the scene was shot in a flooded set with a cityscape backdrop . McElderry is clothed by a grey vest and a grey shirt , as he stands in the setting and performs . Throughout the entire video , scenes alternate between the flooded cityscape setting and recycled footage from The X Factor , which are in black and white until it shows him in the live shows in colour . The video concludes with McElderry being informed he won the competition , hugging his peers .

= = = Track listings = = =

Digital download

" The Climb " ? 3 : 36

CD single

" The Climb " ? 3 : 36

" Somebody to Love " ? 2 : 38

" Don 't Let the Sun Go Down on Me " ? 2 : 27

== Charts and certifications ==