

= You Must Love Me =

" You Must Love Me " is a song recorded by American singer and songwriter Madonna . It was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice , for the 1996 film adaptation of the musical , Evita , based on the life of Argentinian leader Eva Perón . The song was released on October 27 , 1996 , by Warner Bros. as the lead single from the film 's soundtrack . After years of not working together due to their individual projects , Webber and Rice collaborated on creating a new track for the film , with the hopes of obtaining an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song . According to Webber , the song 's main inspiration was to showcase Perón 's emotional state at the time as well as her relationship with husband Juan Perón .

Madonna , who starred in the titular role of the film , had tried to change the lyrics of the track to create a sympathetic portrayal of Perón , but was unsuccessful . She also undertook vocal lessons to record the songs for the film . " You Must Love Me " features instrumentation from cello and piano which accompanies Madonna 's vocals . The song garnered positive response from music critics , many of them highlighting Madonna 's enhanced singing ability . It went on to win the Golden Globe and the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1997 .

Commercially , " You Must Love Me " became a top @-@ ten hit in some countries including Finland , Italy and the United Kingdom , while reaching the top @-@ twenty in the United States . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of 500 @,@ 000 physical units . A music video , directed by Alan Parker , was released as promotion for the single . Madonna has performed the song at the 69th Academy Awards and on her 2008 ? 09 Sticky & Sweet Tour .

= = Background and development = =

In 1996 , Madonna starred in the film Evita , playing the role of Eva Perón , the Spiritual Leader of the Nation of Argentina . For a long time , Madonna had desired to play Perón and even wrote a letter to director Alan Parker , explaining how she would be perfect for the part . After securing the role , she underwent vocal training with coach Joan Layder since Evita required the actors to sing their own parts . Layder noted that the singer " had to use her voice in a way she 's never used it before . Evita is real musical theater ? its operatic , in a sense . Madonna developed an upper register that she didn 't know she had . "

" You Must Love Me " was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice , who had reunited for Evita after a ten @-@ year creative separation due to their individual projects . It was written specifically for the film , so that it would contain new material and be eligible for an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song . Madonna noted it as her favorite song from the film , recalling that the idea for " You Must Love Me " grew when Parker re @-@ arranged the ending of the film from the original play , with the hopes of reuniting Rice and Webber to create new music . According to Webber , the main inspiration behind the song was to showcase Perón 's emotional state at the time as well as her relationship with husband Juan Perón ; " [Eva] is dying and she knows she 's dying . One reason she is saying , ' You must love me ' , is out of desperation . She 's also saying , ' You must love me because you must have always loved me ' , so it 's a little word play , I guess , which Tim Rice has written " . It was released as the soundtrack 's first official single on October 27 , 1996 . Since its release , the song has been included in several productions of the play , including the 2006 London production and the 2012 Broadway revival .

= = Recording and composition = =

Recording sessions for the film 's songs and soundtrack began on September 1995 , and took place at the CTS Studios in London with Madonna accompanied by co @-@ actors Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce . However , trouble arose as Madonna was not completely comfortable with laying down a " guide vocal " simultaneously with an 84 piece orchestra inside the studio . She was used to singing over a pre @-@ recorded track and not have musicians listen to

her . Also , unlike her previous soundtrack releases , she had little to no control over the project ; " I 'm used to writing my own songs and I go into a studio , choose the musicians and say what sounds good or doesn 't [...] To work on forty @-@ six songs with everyone involved and not have a big say was a big adjustment " , she recalled . An emergency meeting was held between Parker , Webber and Madonna where it was decided that the singer would record her part in a more contemporary studio while the orchestration would take place somewhere else . She also had alternate days off from the recording .

" You Must Love Me " starts with the sound of orchestra and piano , as Madonna sings the opening verses . She continues singing the lyrics , which talk about Perón 's discovery that her husband Juan had actually loved her all along and not merely seen her as a political prop . When presented to Madonna , her reaction to the lyrics was negative since she wanted to have a sympathetic portrayal of Perón , rather than the " shrewd manipulator " like character that Parker had in mind . She was also concerned about her own image , and was successful in getting many of the portions in the script altered . However , Rice declined to change the song , but rewrote it five to six times . He recalled , " I remember taking the lyrics to Madonna and she was trying to change them ... The scene can be interpreted in different ways , but my lyrics were kept , thank God ! "

Other instrumentation for the song includes cello , which was played by a live orchestra . As the song moves towards the chorus , the piano sounds stop and the cello plays with Madonna belting out the lyrics : " Deep in my heart , I 'm concealing , Things that I 'm longing to say , Scared to confess what I 'm feeling , Frightened you 'll slip away " , when the piano and the orchestra sounds come back again . It proceeds in the same way and gradually fades out . " You Must Love Me " is set in common time , with a moderate tempo of 92 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of B ? major , with Madonna 's vocals spanning from G3 to B ? 4 . The song has a basic sequence of B ? ? E ? / B ? ? F ? / B ? ? B ? in the beginning and changes to B ? ? F ? when Madonna sings the opening verse " Where do we go from here ? " .

= = Critical response = =

" You Must Love Me " received generally positive reviews from critics . J. Randy Taraborrelli , author of *Madonna : An Intimate Biography* , wrote : " Who can deny that her voice has remarkable and unmistakable presence when heard during ' You Must Love Me ' ? " . Lucy O 'Brien , author of *Madonna : Like an Icon* , appreciated the song 's addition to the soundtrack and found " pathos " in Madonna 's vocals . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic felt that " Even with the faults , *Evita* has its merits , including the written @-@ for @-@ film ballad ' You Must Love Me ' " . Peter Keough , from the Boston Phoenix , wrote that " [' You Must Love Me '] is an aching farewell that dispels the illusion of a romance @-@ of @-@ convenience to reveal the inescapable love and tragedy beneath " . Teresa Huang from The Tech , said it was " a beautiful addition to an already powerful score " .

Larry Flick , from Billboard , called it " a momentous musical event [...] a bittersweet and quietly theatrical ballad [written] specifically for Madonna " . Kathleen Guerdo , also from Billboard , said that " [Madonna] delivers what is by far one of the strongest vocal performances of her career , comfortably scaling to the song 's demanding soprano heights while infusing it with delicate , heart @-@ rending emotion . This bodes well for the creative potency of the rest of the soundtrack " . Matthew Jacobs from The Huffington Post , placed it at number 61 of his list " The Definitive Ranking Of Madonna Singles " . He explained that " [t] he vocal training Madonna endured for the movie pays off in this soprano serenade " , but also noted that it " doesn 't do much outside of the film " . Spin 's Annie Zaleski noted that " [Madonna 's] performances on the *Evita* soundtrack demonstrated her astronomical growth as a vocalist " , citing " her fragile @-@ sounding pleas on the Oscar @-@ winning ' You Must Love Me ' " as an example .

On her review of *Evita* , Janet Maslin from The New York Times commented that " Mr. Lloyd Webber and Mr. Rice have contributed a lilting new song , ' You Must Love Me ' , that 's as suitable for weddings as it is for running South American countries " . Entertainment Weekly 's David Browne gave the song a rating of B and opined that " [' You Must Love Me '] is no ' Live to Tell ' or ' Take a

Bow ' . But this simple , elegantly arranged showpiece from Evita is clearly intended to promote both the film and her new adult , matriarchal image " . J. D. Considine , from The Baltimore Sun , said it was one of the " big songs " from the soundtrack . Peter Travers from Rolling Stone , hailed it " sympathy @-@ begging " . The song won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song at the 54th ceremony , which took place on January 19 , 1997 . Two months later , it was awarded the Academy Award for Best Original Song .

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , " You Must Love Me " was serviced to radio on October 9 , 1996 . It was met with a positive response , garnering 118 plays the first week , and debuting at number 55 on the Hot 100 Airplay chart . The CD single was released on October 29 , following public demands about the song ; " Rainbow High " from the film was added as its B @-@ side . It debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 22 the week of November 14 , 1996 , ultimately peaking at number 18 after two weeks . It ranked at number 99 on the year end chart for 1997 . According to Billboard , " You Must Love Me " was Madonna 's fourth highest debuting single of her career , following " You 'll See " (number 8 in 1995) , " Erotica " (number 13 in 1992) and " Rescue Me " (number 15 in 1990) . It was also the highest charting Webber @-@ Rice collaboration since Helen Reddy 's rendition of " I Don 't Know How to Love Him " , which reached number 13 in 1971 . It eventually received a gold certification by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on October 22 , 1998 , for shipments of 500 @, @ 000 copies . In Canada , the song debuted at number 36 on the RPM Top Singles chart , and reached a peak of number 11 on the week of December 16 , 1996 . It was present for a total of 14 weeks on the chart .

In the United Kingdom , the song reached a peak of number 10 on the UK Singles Chart the week of November 2 , 1996 , and was present on the top 100 for a total of 9 weeks . According to the Official Charts Company , the song had sold 90 @, @ 428 copies by August 2008 in there . In Australia , " You Must Love Me " peaked at number 11 on the ARIA Singles Chart the week of November 10 , 1996 , staying on this position for one week and a total of 9 weeks on the chart . In Italy , it reached the fourth position of the FIMI Singles Chart . On the year @-@ end Italian charts , it was ranked at number 39 . " You Must Love Me " reached a peak of number 4 in Finland , and also reached a peak of number 21 on the Irish Singles Chart , where it remained for 2 weeks . In Germany , it became one of Madonna 's lowest charting singles , peaking at number 78 .

= = Promotion and cover version = =

The music video for " You Must Love Me " was directed by Parker and features the singer performing the song inside a small room ; interspersed with footage and scenes from Evita . As Madonna was eight months pregnant with her daughter Lourdes Maria , her stomach remained hidden behind a piano . The music video was included as a bonus feature on the 15th Anniversary Edition blu @-@ ray of the film , released on June 19 , 2012 . On March 24 , 1997 , Madonna performed the song at the 69th Academy Awards dressed in a full @-@ length , strapless Christian Dior gown . According to choreographer Otis Sallid , they wanted to portray the singer in a restrained manner , hence the accompaniment in the stage was just a spotlight on her and a piano to her left . Writing for The Philadelphia Inquirer , movie critic Carrie Rickey felt Madonna " gave a restrained performance of the number " .

Madonna did not perform the song again until her Sticky & Sweet Tour (2008 ? 09) . She appeared on stage wearing a black Givenchy dress , with pink colored ribbons around her neck and black stockings on her legs and performed an acoustic , guitar @-@ driven version of the song sitting on a stool . She was backed by 4 musicians who were dressed in gypsy clothes . As she performed the song , scenes from Evita played on the backdrop screens . The performance received positive feedback from critics with Ricardo Baca , from The Denver Post , writing that " her courageous , late @-@ set take on ' You Must Love Me ' ? from the filmed version of the Broadway musical Evita ? was spot @-@ on and gorgeous with its string accompaniment " . On the Buenos

Aires stop of the tour , after performing " You Must Love Me " , Madonna also sang " Don 't Cry for Me Argentina " from the film . The performances of both songs in the city were recorded in the live CD @-@ DVD titled , Sticky & Sweet Tour (2010) . Singer Brooke White covered the song on the seventh season of American Idol . She marked Idol history that night when , after forgetting the lyrics to the song , she stopped after the first verse to start over from the beginning .

= = Track listing and formats = =

US CD / Cassette / 7 " Single

" You Must Love Me " (Single Version) ? 3 : 09

" Rainbow High " ? 2 : 27

UK CD Single

" You Must Love Me " (Single Version) ? 3 : 09

" Rainbow High " ? 2 : 27

" You Must Love Me / I 'd Be Surprisingly Good For You " (Orchestral Version) ? 4 : 27

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? vocals , mixing

Tim Rice ? writer

Andrew Lloyd Webber ? writer , producer

Alan Parker ? producer

Nigel Wright ? producer , mixing

David Reitzas ? mixing

John Mauceri ? conductor

David Caddick and Mike Dixon ? additional conductors

Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =