

= Why I Love You (Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West song) =

" Why I Love You " is a song by American hip hop artists Kanye West and Jay @-@ Z , from their first collaborative album Watch the Throne (2011) . The song features pop musician Mr Hudson who is signed to West 's GOOD Music label . " Why I Love You " heavily samples French house duo Cassius ' 2010 single " I < 3 U So " , which itself is based upon a sample from the original 1971 version of " I Feel a Song (In My Heart) " by Sandra Richardson . The song almost entirely features Jay @-@ Z rapping and only contains a few lines provided by West . Lyrically , the song is about the people who have stood in the way of Jay @-@ Z throughout the year and expresses themes of victory and anger . The song received positive reviews from critics who generally praised the production .

The song was released as the fifth single from Watch the Throne on September 13 , 2011 . However the song was only released outside of the US . The song became a top 40 single in the UK , in Iceland and in Belgium . The song has since been certified Gold for sales exceeding 500 @,@ 000 . Jay and West performed the song at all the stops on their 2011 Watch the Throne Tour .

= = Background = =

Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West are both American rappers who have collaborated on several tracks together . In 2010 , they began production and recording on a collaborative record Watch the Throne . The track features Mr Hudson , who is signed to West 's GOOD Music label singing an interpolation of Cassius track " I < 3 U So " . Mike Dean and West handled the production of the song . The artwork for " Why I Love You " features the French flag with a black third substituted for blue and is exactly the same cover used for Kanye West and Jay @-@ Z 's song " Niggas in Paris " , which was sent to rhythmic radio simultaneously with " Why I Love You " on September 13 , 2011 . The track was performed by West and Jay on their Watch the Throne tour . It was released as a single in the United Kingdom on November 28 , 2011 .

= = Composition = =

The track contains a " sledgehammer beat " which is " built around French house duo Cassius ' 2010 single " I < 3 U So " . West , who co @-@ produced the track , " continues in the sonic vein he introduced in My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy , lacing the songs with rock dynamics , layering his beats with eerie vocal chorales , piling on proggy flourishes . " " Slashing violin parts " come in on the bridge before the song ends abruptly .

Lyrically the song is about " Jay 's dismay at past crewmates ' betrayals . " The track features lines such as " Caesar didn 't see it , so he ceased to exist / So the nigga that killed him had keys to his shit " which have been interpreted as insults towards artists such as Dame Dash , Beanie Sigel and Wiz Khalifa . The song " revisits " the split @-@ up of Roc @-@ A @-@ Fella Records and has Jay @-@ Z lamenting betrayal and how his past protégés failed to maintain without him . The track makes the " trendentious point that being Sean Carter or Kanye West can have its downsides . "

= = Personnel = =

Produced by Mike Dean and Kanye West

Co @-@ produced by Anthony Kilhoffer

Recorded by Noah Goldstein (assisted by Matt Arnold) at Real World Studios and Barford Estate , Sydney

Mixed by Anthony Kilhoffer and Mike Dean at (The Mercer) Hotel

Cello : Chris " Hitchcock " Chorney

Cello arrangement : Mike Dean

= = Reception = =

" Why I Love You " received mostly positive reviews from music critics . AbsolutePunk 's Ian Walker described the track as an " album spotlight " , and stated that it 's " carried by a dramatic , driving chorus from famed R & B artist Mr Hudson and , while featuring one of Jay 's weakest verses on the entire album , showcases a surprisingly strong back @-@ and @-@ forth from the two headlining artists towards the end . " Rob Harvilla of Spin commented that " Why I Love You " closes out the album proper with a monster Cassius @-@ lifted chorus . " Alexis Petridis of The Guardian stated that the song is " pure pop aggrandisement " , musing that " this rather enjoyable piece of maximalism feels quite at home on an album writ so large , both in sound and verse , that a planetarium was deemed the only fitting venue for its first playback . " Craig Jenkins of Prefix wrote that " Mike Dean 's titanic , Cassius @-@ sampling " Why I Love You " slowly peels layers off its stuffy largess to reveal the gorgeous string accompaniment underfoot . Kanye and his team are still trafficking in proggy , kitchen @-@ sink experimentation , and Kanye 's transformation into rap 's own ELO is nearly complete . " Entertainment Weekly 's Kyle Anderson was less enthusiastic about the track , writing that " Everything falls apart on the album @-@ closing " Why I Love You , " which cranks up West 's love of prog @-@ rock bombast so much that it sounds like guest crooner Mr Hudson is trying to sing the hook over a poorly recorded bootleg of a Muse concert . "

= = Charts performance = =

Due to the hype around Watch the Throne worldwide , " Why I Love You " debuted on various charts globally on the week of the album 's release . In the UK the song reached a peak of 87 , and 27 on their R & B chart . In South Korea , the track charted at position 94 . The song became a top 40 single in both Iceland and Belgium . It also charted in France at number 56 , and in Switzerland at 52 .