

= Antes de las Seis =

" Antes de las Seis " (English : " Before Six O 'Clock ") is a song recorded by Colombian singer @-@ songwriter Shakira for her ninth studio album Sale el Sol (2010) . Written and produced by the singer and her frequent collaborator Lester Mendez , " Antes de las Seis " is one of the " romantic " songs from the album and is musically a Latin pop ballad . It features a simple piano and acoustic guitar @-@ supplemented beat over which Shakira delivers sad and emotional vocals . Epic Records released the song as the fourth single from Sale el Sol on 21 October 2011 .

Critics gave positive reviews to " Antes de las Seis " , complimenting its lyrical content . The song performed poorly on singles charts , but was moderately successful on airplay charts . It reached number 1 on the Spanish Airplay Chart and peaked at number 14 on the Monitor Latino chart in Mexico . In the United States , it peaked at numbers 21 and 4 on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs and Latin Pop Airplay charts , respectively . In 2013 , " Antes de las Seis " was certified gold in Mexico .

The song was performed during the encore segment of the concert shows of Shakira 's The Sun Comes Out World Tour in 2010 and 2011 . A recording of its performance at the show in Paris , France , served as the promotional music video of the song . It was also used to promote Shakira 's fourth live album Live from Paris .

= = Background and composition = =

In October 2009 , Shakira released her eighth studio album , She Wolf . The composition of the record shifted from her more traditional Latin pop and pop rock styles , and was primarily an electropop album with combined elements of world and folk music . The album was positively received by most music critics and was praised for its distinguished nature and Shakira 's experimentation with electropop . Commercially , She Wolf was a success , topping charts and attaining gold and platinum certifications in several South American and European territories . However , it performed poorly in the United States and became Shakira 's first studio album since Dónde Están los Ladrones ? (1998) to miss charting inside the top 10 after it peaked at number 15 on the US Billboard Hot 200 chart . In May 2010 , she wrote and recorded " Waka Waka (This Time for Africa) " , the official song of the 2010 FIFA World Cup , which became a worldwide hit .

Following the global success of the song , Shakira began work on her ninth studio album Sale el Sol . She split the album into three " directions , " one of which she described as " romantic " in nature . Shakira felt it was something she had not " tapped into for the past three years , " and its inclusion in the album resulted in " very intense , very romantic " songs . " Antes de las Seis " is one such song from the album . The Latin pop ballad was written and produced by Shakira and her frequent collaborator Lester Mendez , who had previously worked with her on songs including " Underneath Your Clothes " (2002) and " La Tortura " (2005) . The musical instrumentation of the song is simple and consists of a piano and acoustic guitar . According to Jennifer Schaffer from the The Stanford Daily , its " softer " production helps in putting the focus on Shakira 's voice , which she opined had been " stripped to its sensitive core . " The singer delivers sad and emotional vocals that address issues of " longing , regrets and loneliness . " Shakira talked about the deep meaning behind the balladry of the album and expressed difficulty in explaining it , saying : " We all go through hard moments . Whatever happened , it 's right there in the songs . I 've decided that I 'm not going to explain every song this time . It 's hard to explain a song . These songs explain me better than I can explain them . "

= = Release and reception = =

" Antes de las Seis " was chosen as the fourth single from Sale el Sol and was made available to digitally download from the iTunes Store on 21 October 2011 . An announcement confirming its release as a single appeared on Shakira 's official website on 24 October . Although the announcement mentioned that the single would be released to the iTunes Store on 31 October , it had already appeared on there ten days before .

== Critical reception ==

" Antes de las Seis " received generally positive reviews from music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic highlighted it as an example of Shakira 's versatility and commented that the album " catches its breath on the ballad . " Mikael Wood from Entertainment Weekly termed the song a " gorgeous ballad " and encouraged readers to download it . Jesus Yanez @-@ Reyes from Northern Arizona News gave " Antes de las Seis " a very positive review and praised its lyrics and Shakira 's " heartfelt " vocal delivery as having the ability " to overcome whatever language barriers may exist between the artist and the listener , truly making it a song of note within the release . " Jennifer Schaffer from the Stanford Daily complimented the sensitivity of the song and commented that " Shakira offers her listeners a far more vulnerable persona " through it . Carlos Macias from Terra Music picked " Antes de las Seis " as his favourite track from the album and commended its lyrics , calling them " classic Shakira " and concluding that " It 'd been a while since the Colombian superstar offered us an insight into her heart . " At the Premios Nuestra Tierra awards ceremony in 2012 , " Antes de las Seis " was nominated for " Mejor Interpretación Pop Del Año " (" Best Pop Performance of the Year ") .

== Chart performance ==

Commercially , the song was moderately successful in Hispanic regions . In Mexico , " Antes de las Seis " peaked at number 14 on the Monitor Latino airplay chart . In Spain , it topped the PROMUSICAE airplay chart , although it failed to chart on the main singles chart . Similarly , the song was successful on the Billboard Latin Pop Airplay chart in the United States , on which it peaked at number 4 , but performed poorly on the main Hot Latin Songs chart , reaching only number 21 . " Antes de las Seis " is the only single from Sale el Sol to not chart inside the top ten of the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart . In 2013 , the Mexican Association of Phonograph Producers (AMPROFON) certified " Antes de las Seis " gold for selling 30 @,@ 000 units in Mexico .

== Promotion ==

The song was included on the set list of Shakira 's The Sun Comes Out World Tour in 2010 and 2011 , and was performed as the opening song of the encore segment of the concert shows . She sang it dressed in a large " feathery " royal blue dress , and towards the end of the performance artificial snow flakes started falling from the sky . A recording of the performance during the concert held at the Palais Omnisports de Paris @-@ Bercy arena in Paris , France , served as the music video of " Antes de las Seis " . The video was also used to promote Shakira 's fourth live album Live from Paris .

== Charts and certifications ==