

= Footprints in the Sand ( Leona Lewis song ) =

" Footprints in the Sand " is a song recorded by British singer Leona Lewis for her debut studio album Spirit ( 2007 ) . It was written by Simon Cowell , David Kreuger , Per Magnusson , Richard Page , and produced by Steve Mac . The song was digitally released as Lewis 's third single on 9 March 2008 in the United Kingdom . Sony BMG and Syco Music launched it as a double A @-@ side with " Better in Time " , and " You Bring Me Down " as the B @-@ side .

It is a R & B and pop song composed with a tempo of sixty beats per minute . It was written in a period of one day at Page 's home in Malibu , California , with Cowell giving the idea to base it on the Christian poem " Footprints " . The single 's music video was filmed by British director Sophie Muller in Johannesburg , South Africa . The video describes social problems within the city , but ends with a message of hope . " Footprints in the Sand " became the official theme of the 2008 version of biennial charity programme Sport Relief , by BBC .

The song received positive reviews from music critics , some of them noting its gospel sounds and Lewis 's vocals being compared to American R & B singer Mariah Carey . " Footprints in the Sand " charted as a separate single in Ireland , the United Kingdom and the European Hot 100 Singles , whilst the double A @-@ side appeared in Germany and Switzerland , and was certified silver in the UK by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) , in 2008 . In the same year , Lewis performed the song for the first time in the UK live on the television programme Dancing on Ice . In 2009 , the song was covered by Lucie Jones , a contestant of The X Factor , and by Julia Star from Swiss programme Die grössten Schweizer Talente .

= = Production and composition = =

" Footprints in the Sand " was written by Simon Cowell , David Kreuger , Per Magnusson and Richard Page , whilst the production was helmed by Steve Mac . It was recorded in 2007 at Rokstone Studios in London , England . Cowell originally came up with the idea to base a song around the Christian poem " Footprints " , and asked Kreuger and Magnusson whether they could write something dealing with this subject . They accepted the idea for co @-@ writing and had scheduled session in Page 's home in Malibu , California , succeeding to finish the full song for one day . Cowell secured a songwriting credit for coming up with the idea . In an interview with HitQuarters , Magnusson said they had thought the song would be a good idea for Irish boy band Westlife , but it was offered to British singer Leona Lewis instead . When Cowell mentioned the song concept to Lewis , she agreed that it could be " really quite interesting " . Regarding the song , Lewis commented : " Originally it was a poem ; it 's very inspirational so we put it into a song . I think it is very moving , with a very emotional lyric and I really love to sing this song " ; and added that the poem " [ is ] about standing by someone and being there for people who need your help . "

" Footprints in the Sand " was included on Lewis 's debut studio album Spirit , which was released in 2007 by Syco and J Records . The song has a duration of 4 : 09 and was composed using common time in the key of A ? major with a larghetto tempo of sixty beats per minute ; Lewis 's vocals spanned from the low note of E ? 3 to the high note of G ? 5 . The song follows the sequence of A ? 5 ? A ? 5 / B ? ? Fm7 ? E ? in the verses and A ? ? B ? ? B ? m ? Fm ? G ? ? D ? in the chorus as its chord progression . It incorporates four instruments : keyboard instruments ( a piano , an organ and synthesizers ) , guitar , bass and drums , and includes a choir performance made by The Tuff Session Singers . It incorporates elements of R & B and pop musical genres , and , according to music critics , contains a gospel production performed by a choir and features " crashing drums " .

= = Release and promotion = =

On 29 January 2008 , Lewis announced on her website that " Footprints in the Sand " , along with " Better in Time " , would be released as a double A @-@ side . The single was launched with the song " You Bring Me Down " as the B @-@ side , and was released in the United Kingdom as a

digital download on 9 March 2008 , and a physical release on the following day , with proceeds going to the charity . The song was remixed for the single release ( " Single Mix " ) , which , unlike the original version , begins with Lewis 's voice only , and music starts after she performs the first verse ? the album version of " Footprints in the Sand " starts with a piano tune before she starts to sing the lyrics ? , and lasts at 3 : 58 .

" Footprints in the Sand " became the official song of the charity Sport Relief , a biennial charity organised by Comic Relief and BBC Sport , for their 2008 broadcast . In her performance , Lewis sang the song to the Sports Relief event . Also , there were musicians that played violas , violins , and a piano , and The Tuff Session Singers performed the chorus . Whilst she sang , images of " sadness and desperation " were shown to the public . But , as the Tuff Session Singers began , the third chorus , those images became pictures of " happiness " . As part of promotion , Lewis performed the song live on the British television programme Dancing on Ice on 9 March 2008 ; her song accompanied Torvill and Dean 's ice dance routine . In 2013 , Lewis added the song to the setlist of her Glassheart Tour .

= = = Music video = = =

The accompanying music video was filmed in Johannesburg , South Africa , and was directed by British director Sophie Muller back @-@ to @-@ back with the video for " Better in Time " . It premiered on Lewis official website and BBC Radio 1 's website on 27 February 2008 . The video begins with the message " Working to change lives across the world , in support of Sport Relief " . Then , it intercuts a performance of Lewis in front of a wall and greyscale scenes : an image of a child walking on a landfill site , a funeral , a child lying in the street , and a kid sat in a traffic island . As the first chorus begins , the video continues showing scenes of poverty and AIDS issues in the country . Whilst the second verse goes , pictures of malnourished people appears . As the second chorus and the bridge elapse people crying still coming on the scene . But whereas The Tuff Session Singers start to sing the third chorus , the video begins to show images of kids playing association football and cricket . The video ends with children smiling as Lewis sings the outro of the song . It was released on the US iTunes Store on 3 February 2009 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Upon the release of Spirit , " Footprints in the Sand " received generally positive reviews by music critics , with some of them comparing Lewis 's performance to other singers such as Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera . In his review of the album , Chris Elwell @-@ Sutton of the Evening Standard commented that the song would be perfect as a " theme to a Disney movie " . Whilst reviewing Spirit , Chad Grischow of IGN Music described " Footprints in the Sand " , along with " Here I Am " , as a " sleeper ballad " . Lyndsey Winship , a reviewer from BBC Music , noted that the song " is a piano warbler that brings Leona 's voice to the forefront " .

Sarah @-@ Louise James of Daily Star commented that it contains some Westlife elements , and it would be perfect for a chick flick soundtrack . A reviewer for South African news site iafrica.com described the song as a " show @-@ stopping [ ... ] lush Mariah @-@ style ballad [ ... ] that utilises Lewis ' [ s ] full vocal range and sounds uncannily like Carey at her best . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine called it " drippy " , and added that with " Footprints " Lewis would receive comparisons to Carey . Digital Spy 's reviewers gave similar opinions about " Footprints in the Sand " . Nick Levine in his review of the album called the song an " histrionic finale " of Spirit , and added that it " seems hellbent on revisiting Mariah Carey 's schlock @-@ pop masterwork ' Anytime You Need a Friend ' " . After it was released as a single Alex Fletcher claimed it has " the sort of ludicrous outro even Mariah Carey might consider over @-@ the @-@ top " and that its lyrics " will have your granny in tears " .

== Chart performance ==

" Footprints in the Sand " charted in Europe , reaching position seventy @-@ three on the European Hot 100 Singles . In November 2007 , the song debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number sixty @-@ five , staying on the chart for another week . On 15 March 2008 , the single re @-@ entered it at number sixty @-@ three . " Footprints in the Sand " claimed its peak position next week at number twenty @-@ five , staying on the chart for eleven weeks . On the Irish Singles Chart the song debuted and peaked at number fifty ; whilst on the Swiss Singles Chart , it debuted on 15 November 2009 at thirty @-@ five , and it stayed there three weeks .

The double A @-@ side " Better in Time " and " Footprints in the Sand " debuted at number seventy @-@ four on the UK Singles Chart on 1 March 2008 . After selling 40 @,@ 476 copies it peaked at number two on 22 March 2008 , the same week " Footprints in the Sand " debuted in the top forty . It was Lewis 's third single to reach the top five in the UK . It was certified as silver by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) on 16 January 2009 . The single debuted on the German Singles Chart on 16 June 2008 at number five , and reached its peak position , at number two , on 28 July 2008 . It also peaked on the European Hot 100 at number eight .

== Covers and use in popular culture ==

Welsh singer Lucie Jones sang " Footprints in the Sand " on the British singing competition programme The X Factor . She performed it on the first show of its sixth edition ( 2009 ) Jones received generally positive reviews by her performance , but Cowell criticised her voice for not reach her highest pitch at the end of the song . Swiss singer Julia Star , a Die grössten Schweizer Talente programme participant , which is part of the global British Got Talent franchise , covered the song in 2009 . In 2011 , British easy listening group FourNurses included the song on their album Guiding You . On 1 June 2013 , Hungarian shadow theatre group Attraction used " Footprints in the Sand " during their live semi @-@ final performance on Britain 's Got Talent .

On the final signing off on August 8 , 2008 , Associated Broadcasting Company ( ABC 5 ) was featured the tribute for the ABC 5 programs of the 1990s and 2000s including Tropang Trumpo , Wow Mali Sing Galing , Totoo TV and others and including PBA on ABC ( it was Game 2 of the Fiesta Conference Finals then continued to renamed as TV5 starting Game 3 until Game 7 ) . This was before merged into TV5 on August 9 , 2008 along with the final signing off of Q on February 27 , 2011 before the re @-@ launch of GMA News TV , GMA Network 's another secondary sister channel .

In 2015 wildlife expert Bindi Irwin danced a contemporary freestyle to the song in the finals of season 21 of Dancing with the Stars .

== Track listings and formats ==

== Credits and personnel ==

== Charts ==

== Release history ==