

= Hold Me Now ( Thompson Twins song ) =

" Hold Me Now " is a song by British band the Thompson Twins . Written by the band members , the song was produced by Alex Sadkin and the group 's lead vocalist Tom Bailey . The song is a mid @-@ tempo new wave song that uses a varied instrumentation , including synthesizers , a Marimba , a piano and Latin percussion . It was released in November 1983 as the first single of their fifth studio album , Into the Gap .

Released in the United Kingdom in late 1983 , the song peaked at number four on the UK Singles Chart in November of that year and was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) in 1983 , becoming the band 's biggest @-@ selling single , and their first top five in that country . The song was released in the United States in February 1984 and became the band 's highest charting single there , peaking at number three on the Billboard Hot 100 in May , remaining on the chart for 21 weeks . In addition , the song topped Billboard 's Hot Dance Club Play chart for one week in April 1984 .

= = Background and recording = =

In 1983 , after the commercial success of their third album Quick Step and Side Kick , the Thompson Twins collaborated again with producer Alex Sadkin to record Into the Gap at Compass Point Studios , in the Bahamas . Bailey and Sadkin co @-@ produced the album including " Hold Me Now " , which according to Bailey " had a very strong idea " behind it and was written very quickly .

When they were going to record the song , Bailey said that he was excited , nervous , and " almost over @-@ prepared for it " , he knew exactly what instruments were going on every track ; it took three days to record . Before the release the song was remixed by Sadkin at RAK Studios , in London . About the process Bailey commented : " You know what a great producer is ? It 's someone who takes great ideas and makes them into good records . In our field , great music is a hit record . " The song became the Thompson Twins ' biggest hit in America , but at the same time it pressured the band to produce top @-@ selling music , even if they were not completely comfortable with that , as Alannah Currie stated in an interview with David Oriard of The Spokesman @-@ Review :

The biggest trouble that we 've had basically is that the song , " Hold me Now " was a huge hit , it was really big here , it was really big all over the world . Which is great , but it was just an accidental thing . It was just a song that we wrote . But after that then , we got everybody ? managers , the record company ? on our back to write " Hold me Now , Part 2 " and harassing you to try and find a formula . But we can 't really . We 'll never find a formula for what we did . And that upsets some of them .

= = Composition = =

" Hold Me Now " is a pop , new wave and synthpop ballad , performed with a " hypnotic , swaying groove " , that features the sound of a Marimba in the background . The song is composed in the key of D major , with a time signature set in common time , and moves at moderate tempo of 120 beats per minute . Bailey 's vocal range spans more than two and a half octaves , from A3 to F # 6 .

While most of the group 's previous songs have a dance @-@ oriented sound , " Hold Me Now " has a mainstream piano @-@ based melody but keeps the prominent bass line and Currie 's Latin percussion of earlier releases . The song is in a verse @-@ chorus form , employing a simple melody . The end chorus , which includes Leeway performing the song 's harmonies , repeats for a full minute and a half , nearly one @-@ third of the song 's full @-@ length .

The lyrics describe an impasse in a deteriorating relationship . They consider separating but ultimately resolve their differences . In the chorus the narrator asks his lover to " hold me now [ ... ] stay with me . "

## == Critical reception ==

Originally " Hold Me Now " received a mixed response from pop music critics . In a review of the group 's album *Into The Gap* , Parke Puterbaugh , from *Rolling Stone* magazine , said that the band took a " new and drastic tangent " and that they " have slowed it all down to bring the human factor into clearer focus " , adding that " Hold Me Now " maintains a " hypnotic , swaying groove that suggests reserves of pastoral contentment even in the wake of the storm " . Robert Christgau , in a review for *The Village Voice* , said that the song " is a classic on chord changes alone , even though Tom Bailey sings it " , adding that nothing else in the album *Into The Gap* " approaches its heart @-@ tugging mastery " . J.D. Considine , in a review for *The Washington Post* , commented that the song 's melody adds " accessibility but could easily turn to dreary monotony " .

Two decades later , the song received positive reviews from critics . Jose F. Promis from *Allmusic* commented that " years later [ it ] still sounded as fresh and innocent as when it was first released " . Stewart Mason , also from *Allmusic* , commented that the song is an unexpected departure from the group 's previous dance @-@ oriented sound , comparing it with *Spandau Ballet* 's " True " , adding that " Bailey is not actually technically very good , but he 's clearly trying very hard " , and felt that the song " is a bit labored [ ... ] but overall , ' Hold Me Now ' deserved its huge hit status " . Raymond Fiore from *Entertainment Weekly* said that the song " still sounds good today " and called it " the sound of new wave @-@ pop brilliance " . In 2005 the song ranked # 308 in *Blender* 's list of the 500 Greatest Songs Since You Were Born , describing it as " a new wave let 's @-@ stay @-@ together plea " that is " so cornball it works " .

## == Music video ==

The music video for " Hold Me Now " was directed by Rupert James , produced by Tim Bevan , and edited by Brian Grant and Nick Morris . The video features the Thompson Twins in a set with a blue background . Each member is standing on a platform , singing or playing a different instrument , a guitar or a piano for Bailey , a Marimba or another percussion instrument for Currie , and a bass guitar or congas for Leeway . The video is heavily edited , with frames sliding from the sides , doubling or tripling , split @-@ screen edits , and close @-@ ups of the band while singing or dancing . At the end the background changes from blue to red , and the three members are featured together singing and clapping while the song is fading out .

## == Chart performance ==

" Hold Me Now " was released in the United Kingdom in November 1983 , debuting on the UK Singles Chart at number 31 , peaking at number four , and staying in the chart for 15 weeks . It became the band 's first top five in the country , and their biggest seller earning a gold certification by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) in January 1984 . The song was a moderate hit in Europe , reaching the top 10 in Germany and Ireland , and peaking at 18 in Switzerland .

The single was released in North America in February 1984 . In Canada the single entered the RPM singles chart at number 43 , peaking at number three on 28 April 1984 . The Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) certified " Hold Me Now " gold in May 1984 . In the United States the single entered the *Billboard* Hot 100 on 11 February 1984 at number 73 , peaking at number three on 5 May 1984 , and staying 21 weeks on the chart , becoming the band 's biggest hit in the country . In addition , it topped *Billboard* 's Hot Dance Club Play chart for a week on 28 April 1984 , becoming the band 's third number @-@ one single on this chart .

## == Formats and track listing ==

7 " Single ( 1983 )

" Hold Me Now " ? 4 : 44

" Let Loving Start " ? 3 : 43

12 " Maxi @-@ Single ( 1983 )

" Hold Me Now " ( Extended version ) ? 9 : 54

" Let Loving Start " ( Extended version ) ? 9 : 09

= = Credits and personnel = =

Tom Bailey ? guitar , lead vocals , piano , keyboards , producer

Alannah Currie ? percussion , vocals , marimba , drums

Joe Leeway ? congas , vocals , bass guitar

Alex Sadkin ? producer

Phil Thornalley ? audio mixing

Adrian Peacock ? photography

Satori ( from ideas by Alannah Currie ) ? design / artwork

= = Charts and certifications = =