

= You Belong with Me =

" You Belong with Me " is a song performed by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . The song was co @-@ written by Swift and Liz Rose and produced by Nathan Chapman with Swift 's aid . It was released on April 18 , 2009 , by Big Machine Records as the third single from Swift 's second studio album , Fearless (2008) . Swift was inspired to write " You Belong with Me " after overhearing a male friend of hers arguing with his girlfriend through a phone call ; she continued to develop a story line afterward . The song contains many pop music elements and its lyrics have Swift desiring an out @-@ of @-@ reach love interest .

The song won Favorite song at 2010 Kids ' Choice Awards , and received nominations for the Grammy Awards for Song of the Year , Record of the Year , and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance . " You Belong with Me " enjoyed commercial success as well ; it became a top ten hit in Australia , Canada , New Zealand , and the United States . In the United States , the song became Swift 's highest @-@ charting single on the Billboard Hot 100 at the time and has become Swift 's third best @-@ selling single . It managed to gain the largest crossover radio audience since Faith Hill 's " Breathe " did in 2000 . The single was certified 6 × Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . The song is one of the best @-@ selling singles worldwide , with worldwide sales of more than 5 @.@ 1 million units (according to the IFPI) .

The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Roman White . The video featured Swift portraying two characters , a nerd (the protagonist and narrator) and a popular girl (the antagonist and girlfriend) , while American actor Lucas Till portrayed the male lead . The video 's plot centers on the protagonist secretly loving the male lead , although he has a girlfriend . The video won the MTV Video Music Award for Best Female Video at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards , but during Swift 's acceptance speech , rapper Kanye West interrupted , protesting in support of Beyoncé . The incident caused a reaction in the media , with most people coming to Swift 's defense . The song was performed live at numerous venues , including the 2009 ? 10 Fearless Tour , where it was the opening number . It was covered by various artists , including Butch Walker and Selena Gomez & the Scene , and parodied by " Weird Al " Yankovic .

= = Background = =

Swift became inspired to write " You Belong with Me " after she overheard a male friend of hers speaking to his girlfriend through a phone call . He acted defensive as his girlfriend yelled at him , and said to her , " No , baby ... I had to get off the phone really quickly ... I tried to call you right back ... Of course I love you . More than anything ! Baby , I ? m so sorry . " Out of the sympathy she felt towards him in the situation , Swift developed a concept for a song . In a writing session with co @-@ writer Liz Rose , Swift explained the situation along with her idea and conceived the song 's opening line , " You ? re on the phone with your girlfriend / she ? s upset / she 's going off about something that you said . " Together , they developed a story line , which described Swift being in love with the male friend and her having the desire for him to break up with his current girlfriend for her . Swift described the song 's concept as " basically about wanting someone who is with this girl who doesn 't appreciate him at all . Basically like ' girl @-@ next @-@ door @-@ itis . ' You like this guy who you have for your whole life , and you know him better than she does but somehow the popular girl gets the guy every time . " Swift recalled , " It was really fun for us to write the line , ' She wears short skirts , I wear T @-@ shirts ' . " " You Belong with Me " was first released as a promotional single from Fearless on November 4 , 2008 , as part of Countdown to Fearless , an exclusive campaign by the iTunes Store ; the song was then released as the third single from Fearless on April 18 , 2009 .

= = Composition = =

" You Belong with Me " is a pop song with a length of three minutes and 52 seconds . According to Kate Kiefer of Paste magazine , it is " a straight @-@ up pop song . " The song is set in common

time and has a moderate tempo of 130 beats per minute . It is written in the key of F ? major and Swift 's vocals spans a little below two octaves , from F # 3 to C # 5 . Swift hints at her country music background in the banjo @-@ inflected introduction of the song . Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly felt Swift 's vocals were light and twangy while the melody was " lilting " . It follows the chord progression F ? ? C ? ? G ? -B . The instrumentation consists of clucking banjos alongside new wave electric guitars .

The lyrics to " You Belong with Me " alternate between narrative modes , where she speaks of herself , a male friend whom she has an unrequited crush on , and his girlfriend . Greenblatt described Swift 's role as a storyteller , the song being a narrative set to music , which describes concerning about love and boys " just [being] very hard to catch " . Craig Rosen of The Hollywood Reporter believes " You Belong with Me " ' s plot is " confessional " and regards scenarios themed with high school , while Swift " is the girl next door who 's had her heart broken and takes refuge in music " . Lucy Davies of the BBC noted , " Swift deals in the prosaic imagery of high school boys " . In one verse , Swift contrasts herself with her friend 's girlfriend and states , " She wears high heels , I wear sneakers / She 's cheer captain , I 'm on the bleachers " , which Davies interpreted as the song 's protagonist feeling envy towards cheerleaders , in particular , the one dating her male friend . In the choruses , Swift attempts " to persuade some boy to come to his senses and submit to her everygirl charms " .

= = Critical reception = =

Sean Dooley of About.com labeled " You Belong with Me " as one of the " best songs on Fearless " , while Johnny Davis of The Observer believed some parts of the song " may needle British ears " , although he felt that it was better than single releases by pop singer Hilary Duff . Lucy Davies of the BBC was not impressed by the song 's theme being similar to those of other songs on Fearless or on her eponymous debut album , Taylor Swift . She opined that " You Belong with Me " ' s " lyrical palette has few colours [...] and it 's repetitive " . Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine said , " ' You Belong with Me ' isn 't her best @-@ written song by a long shot , but it 's hard to fault its construction . " Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone commented , " It 's hard not to be won over by the guilelessness " .

A Times Editor review from The St. Petersburg Times also described it as sounding similar to other hits : " She hankers for a boy who either doesn 't love her back or wants to ditch this small town . " Josh Love of The Village Voice thought " preternatural wisdom and inclusiveness " shined through the lyrics and theme of " You Belong with Me " ; Love also mentioned that it was one of Fearless ' " great songs " . The same magazine later ranked the song at number 10 on its annual Pazz & Jop critics ' poll . Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly said Swift 's vocals fit the song 's melody and instrumentation , which , according to her , is " slick " and " radio @-@ friendly " . Rob Sheffield of Blender magazine recommended for readers to download " You Belong with Me " , and Jeniffer Webb , also from About.com , predicted that the song would reach different age groups . Webb said , " It continues the artist 's tradition of having a little something for everyone , so it 's no wonder she has such a large fanbase . "

= = Awards and nominations = = =

At the 52nd Grammy Awards , " You Belong with Me " received nominations for three awards . The song received a nomination for the Grammy Award for Song of the Year but lost to Beyoncé Knowles ' " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " (2008) , for the Grammy Award for Record of the Year but lost to Kings of Leon 's " Use Somebody " (2008) , and for the Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance but lost to Knowles ' " Halo " (2009) . " You Belong with Me " won Favorite Song at the 2010 Kids Choice Awards and was nominated for Song of the Year at the 45th Academy of Country Music Awards , but lost to Lady Antebellum 's " Need You Now " (2009) . Although " You Belong with Me " did not receive an award for any of the nominations it received at the 52nd Grammy Awards , Swift did win album of the year for Fearless , which the song was a part

of .

= = Chart performance = =

= = = North America = = =

Upon its release as a promotional single , on the week ending November 22 , 2008 , " You Belong with Me " debuted at number twelve on the Billboard Hot 100 due to sales of 172 @, @ 000 digital downloads , tying her with the Jonas Brothers for most top twenty debuts in 2008 , a record which she later beat ; the song fell from the Billboard Hot 100 in the following week . Following its single release , the song re @-@ entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number eighty @-@ seven on the week ending May 16 , 2009 . " You Belong with Me " moved to number three on the Billboard Hot 100 on the week ending August 15 , 2009 , thus making the song Swift 's second highest @-@ charting effort , surpassing her previous second best @-@ charting effort " Love Story " , which peaked at number four in January 2009 . Driven by non @-@ country radio airplay , the song established the largest crossover radio audience since Faith Hill 's " Breathe " (2000) . The following week , it peaked at number two on the Billboard Hot 100 , being blocked at the top spot by The Black Eyed Peas 's " I Gotta Feeling " . The song is one of thirteen songs from Fearless charted within the top forty of the Billboard Hot 100 , breaking the record for the most top forty entries from a single album . The single was certified quadruple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for shipments exceeding four million copies . As of November 2014 , " You Belong with Me " has sold 4 @. @ 5 million copies in the United States .

" You Belong With Me " became Swift 's first song to reach Billboard Radio Songs summit with 117 million all @-@ format audience impressions . It also became the first country crossover single to rule Radio Songs since Billboard began incorporating Nielsen BDS @-@ monitored data in 1990 . It stayed at number one for two consecutive weeks . On Billboard Hot Country Songs , the single debuted at number thirty @-@ two . On the week @-@ ending June 13 , 2009 , it jumped from number thirteen to ten in the chart , scoring Swift 's eight consecutive top ten hit . " You Belong With Me " became Swift 's fourth number one song on Billboard Hot Country Songs after it reached the summit on the week @-@ ending August 22 , 2009 . It stayed on the top for two weeks and fell at number six afterwards . The single charted in Billboard Hot Country Songs for a total of twenty weeks . On Billboard Pop Songs , it debuted at number forty . It jumped at number twenty six of the following week and on its fifth week , on the week @-@ ending July 25 , 2009 , it entered the top ten at number ten . It reached its peak at number two of the week @-@ ending September 5 , 2009 and held from the top spot by Black Eyed Peas 's I Gotta Feeling for five weeks . It also reach the top spot on Adult Contemporary for fourteen weeks while reaching number two in Billboard Adult Pop Songs .

In Canada , " You Belong with Me " entered at number eighty @-@ four . It jumped at the top ten at number nine and peaked at number three for three non @-@ consecutive weeks . It charted in Canada for forty @-@ five weeks . It also reached number one on Canadian Country Radio after only eleven weeks at radio . It was also certified double platinum by Music Canada for sales of 160 @, @ 000 digital downloads .

= = = Europe and Oceania = = =

" You Belong with Me " debuted at number ninety @-@ nine on the week ending July 18 , 2009 , in United Kingdom . It reached its peak in United Kingdom at number thirty on the week ending September 26 , 2009 . In Ireland , it peaked at number twelve and spent a total of six weeks on the chart . In mainland Europe , " You Belong with Me " peaked at number sixty @-@ one on the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles Chart , number eleven in Belgium (Flanders) , and number thirty @-@ two in Denmark . " You Belong with Me " experienced similar commercial outcomes throughout the rest of Europe ; it became a top forty hit in Belgium (Wallonia) and a top fifty hit in Sweden .

" You Belong with Me " was a success in Australia and New Zealand . On the week ending May 24 , 2009 , the song entered in Australia at number fifty . On the week ending July 5 , 2009 , the song reached its peak at number five , a position it maintained on for three non @-@ consecutive weeks . " You Belong with Me " was placed at number eighty @-@ eight on the decade @-@ end Austrian Singles Chart . It was certified double platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for shipments exceeding 140 @,@ 000 copies . On the week ending May 25 , 2009 , " You Belong with Me " debuted at number twenty @-@ eight in New Zealand and , after two weeks of ascended positions , it peaked at number five . The single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand for shipments exceeding 15 @,@ 000 copies .

= = Music video = =

" You Belong with Me " ' s accompanying music video was directed by Roman White . In the video , Swift portrays both the protagonist and antagonist , which she respectively described as " the nerd , who is pining away for this guy that she can 't have " and " the popular girl . " Swift described the popular girl 's persona as " horrible and scary and intimidating and perfect " . Her love interest is portrayed by American actor Lucas Till ; Swift met Till while acting on the set of Hannah Montana : The Movie in April 2008 . She later asked him to act in the video , as she was intrigued by his " cool look " , embodying a " dreamy guy " . In regards to his acting on the video , Swift said , " He 's absolutely perfect for the part and really fun to be around , too . " According to her , the video 's plot is " charming " ; she also said that , " the whole video , I 'm just sitting there pining away , wishing I could be in her position . " In regards to the video 's conclusion , White explained that Swift " becomes who she really is " , while Swift thought it was a happy ending . Swift commented , " One of my favorite things about this video is that there wasn 't a standard performance scene . This video was pretty much all story line and I 'm narrating it in the moment , basically narrating while all this is happening around me . "

The video was shot in two days in Gallatin and Hendersonville , Tennessee . On the first day of filming , Swift used a body double in order for both Swift , as the protagonist and antagonist , to appear in one shot . In a scene where she appeared dancing , White replaced Swift 's routine with a one having no rhythm ; she recalled , " It was some of the most fun I 'd had in a long time , just freaking out and doing the dumbest moves . " On the second day , they first filmed a prom scene and , lastly , the football game , both being filmed at Pope John Paul II High School . The school supplied many students as extras , including football players , band members , cheerleaders and students . The final prom scene used the school 's decorations for its real prom the next night . When filming for a touchdown , Till was unable to catch the ball , furthering the length of the shoot . " You put a lot of good solid effort in it and it looks good " , Swift stated about filming .

The video commences with Till arguing with his girlfriend through a phone call . As soon as Swift , as the protagonist , notices , they begin to communicate by holding up signs through their bedroom windows . Till closes his curtains , and Swift holds up a sign saying , " I love you " . As the song 's chorus approaches , Swift starts to sing and dance in front of a mirror , changing to different clothing multiple times . Afterward , Swift is sitting in a bench while reading a book . Till arrives and the two converse . Then , Swift , as the antagonist , arrives in a red convertible car and Till gets in it ; Swift , the antagonist , kisses him and gives a hostile look towards the protagonist . Suddenly , she is seen cheerleading at a football game while Swift 's other persona is in the bleachers , performing in the school band . After scoring the winning touchdown , Till moves toward his girlfriend and finds her flirting with a teammate , resulting in a heated argument which results in their breakup . Meanwhile , Swift , the protagonist stares in amazement . Back in their bedroom windows , they again communicate through signs , Till asked Swift , the protagonist , if she was attending prom and she responded , " no , studying " . Swift , however , notices Till has a dejected expression as he leaves and changes her mind . Shortly after , Swift is seen entering prom with a white dress , no longer looking like a nerd , while all her peers stare in amazement . When Till spots her , he walks towards her and Swift , the antagonist in a red dress , attempts to impede him , but he ignores her . Ending the video , Till and Swift reveal folded signs saying " I love you " and kiss . To date , the video has

over 600 million views on YouTube .

= = = Video reception = = =

The video premiered on May 2 , 2009 , on CMT . Chris Ryan of MTV commented , " ' You Belong With Me ' was a teen rom @-@ com wrapped up in a music video , wherein Taylor plays two roles . See Dooley of About.com believed Swift worked " doubly hard " , playing two roles . A Times Editor review from The St. Petersburg Times compared the large glasses Swift wore to those of Clark Kent . Michael Deacon of The Daily Telegraph felt the video suited the song , " in that they ? re equally sappy and dull " .

At the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards , the video won the MTV Video Music Award for Best Female Video . During Swift 's acceptance speech , rapper Kanye West interrupted Swift , grabbing the microphone and stating , " Yo Taylor , I 'm really happy for you and I 'ma let you finish , but Beyoncé [Knowles] had one of the best videos of all time " , regarding her video for " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " . According to Jayson Rodriguez of MTV News , Knowles " looked on from the crowd , stunned " . Later in the evening , during her acceptance speech for winning the MTV Video Music Award for Video of the Year , Knowles told about her first experience winning her first Video Music Award with Destiny 's Child and how much it meant to her . She then called Swift from backstage to complete her acceptance speech . Numerous critics , celebrities , and fans criticized West 's actions , including the President of the United States , Barack Obama , who called West a " jackass " . At first , West made no effort in contacting Swift , but he later issued an apology , which Swift accepted . The video was nominated for Video of the Year at the 45th Academy of Country Music Awards . At the 2010 CMT Music Awards , the video received nominations for the CMT Music Award for " Video of the Year " and " Female Video of the Year " , but lost to Carrie Underwood 's " Cowboy Casanova " and Miranda Lambert 's " White Liar " , respectively . The video was nominated for the MuchMusic Video Award for Best International Artist Video and the MuchMusic Video Award for People 's Choice : Favourite International Video , but lost to Miley Cyrus ' video for " Party in the U.S.A. " and Adam Lambert 's video for " Whataya Want From Me " at the 2010 MuchMusic Video Awards , respectively .

= = Live performances = =

Swift 's first televised performance of " You Belong with Me " was at a free outdoor concert on May 29 , 2009 , broadcast by The Today Show . Following promotion for the song , she performed it on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , Studio 330 Sessions , at the 2009 CMA Music Festival , at the 2009 CMT Music Awards , and at the 2009 V Festival , in the summer of 2009 . Swift performed " You Belong with Me " at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards on September 13 , 2009 , the same day in which Kanye West interrupted her acceptance speech . She began the performance in a subway station , dressed in a brown trench coat and black beanie , and continued it in a subway , taking off the trench coat and revealing a red cocktail dress . Once the subway docked at a stop , Swift completed the performance atop a yellow taxi cab . Swift later performed the song on The View and Saturday Night Live . In the fall of 2009 and winter of 2009 through 2010 , Swift commenced promotion for " You Belong with Me " countries outside of the United States ; she performed the song on the United Kingdom channel GMTV , the Australian charity concert Sydney Sound Relief , and the Japanese talk show The Sukkiri Morning Show .

Swift performed a medley , which included " You Belong with Me " at the 52nd Grammy Awards . Wearing casual white blouse and black skinny jeans , Swift performed " Today Was a Fairytale " and then announced , " Its a fairly tale and an honor to share the stage with Stevie Nicks " . Following , the two performed a cover of Fleetwood Mac 's " Rhiannon " (1976) . Swift then grabbed her acoustic guitar for the third and final part in her medley , jumping into a twangy version of " You Belong with Me " . Nicks stood back , tapping her tambourine and nodding , every so often stepping up to the microphone to sing with Swift . Eric Ditzian of MTV News was disappointed at Swift 's and Nicks ' harmonies , but said the two " made for a compelling twosome " . The performance followed

much backlash in regards to Swift 's off key singing , which caused Scott Borchetta , CEO of Big Machine Records , to issue a statement defending the performance .

" You Belong with Me " is performed as the opening number on all 2009 and 2010 dates of Swift 's first headlining tour , the Fearless Tour . Before Swift or the dancers entered the stage , a video played on the overhead screens ; it showed various celebrities , including Miley Cyrus , Demi Lovato , Faith Hill , Lucas Till and Swift herself , sharing their definitions of the word " fearless " . Following the video 's completion , the band and backup dancers appeared , dressed in yellow cheerleading uniforms . Swift , dressed in a white marching band uniform , then emerges from the bottom of the stage and commences singing . Swift roams around the stage singing and backup dancers perform cheerleading routines while projections of cheerleaders are shown on the stage . Midway through the performance , the backup dancers removed Swift 's marching band uniform to reveal a sparkly cocktail dress ; she is then handed a rhinestoned acoustic guitar and finishes the performance . Craig Rosen of The Hollywood Reporter believed Swift 's performance of " You Belong with Me " , coupled with the performance of " Should 've Said No " , at the May 22 , 2009 , concert in Los Angeles at the Staples Center made the show a success . The song is also performed on the Speak Now World Tour and The Red Tour . " You Belong with Me " also was performed on The 1989 World Tour in several venues in place of " You Are in Love " .

= = Cover versions and media usage = =

In November 2009 , American rock singer Butch Walker covered " You Belong with Me " for a digital single release . James Christopher Monger of Allmusic said the cover was infused " with the same karaoke glee that fueled previous installments " . Bill Lamb of About.com described the composition as a " folksy almost honky @-@ tonk sound " and " a bit more country than Taylor Swift 's original " . According to Mikael Wood of Billboard , the cover 's instrumentation is fueled by banjo ; he claimed it was an " online success " . Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine described the cover 's arrangement as " fantastic " and , to him , it " emphasized the terrific melody and structure that are the song 's real selling points " . After hearing Walker 's cover , Swift posted via her official Twitter account , " I 'm losing my MIND listening to it ! Blown away . " Band Hero for consoles features " You Belong with Me " as one of sixty @-@ five songs from " mainstream acts " .

A parody entitled " TMZ " was included on " Weird Al " Yankovic 's studio album Alpocalypse (2011) . A music video for the parody , directed by Bill Plympton , was filmed in October 2010 , and was included on the album 's DVD . The music video was released on " Weird Al " ' s Vevo on June 24 , 2011 .

= = Track listings = =

= = Charts = =

= = Chart procession and succession = =

= = Certifications = =

Since May 2013 RIAA certifications for digital singles include on @-@ demand audio and / or video song streams in addition to downloads .