

= Start Over =

" Start Over " is a song by American recording artist Beyoncé taken from her fourth studio album , 4 (2011) . It was written by Shea Taylor , Knowles and Ester Dean and produced by the former two . The song 's development was motivated by the fact that Knowles traveled around the world and experienced different cultures which inspired love and purity inside her . A mid @-@ tempo pop , pop rock and soul @-@ influenced R & B ballad , " Start Over " finds the female protagonist affirming her individuality and expressing her love for a man with whom she attempts to start a relationship all over again . Knowles ' vocals are accompanied by electric and enticing beats ; the song 's instrumentation includes drums and synthesizers .

" Start Over " received mixed to positive reviews from music critics , who noted that the song was quite similar to Knowles ' older material . The placement of the song on the track @-@ listing was criticized by critics , who thought that it made " Start Over " barely distinguishable . However , the beats arrangement and the vulnerability of Knowles ' vocals were highlighted by many critics . Following the release of 4 , " Start Over " charted at number 43 on the South Korea Gaon International Chart based on downloads alone .

= = Conception = =

" Start Over " was written by Shea Taylor , Knowles and Ester Dean and produced by the Knowles and Taylor . It was recorded at MSR Studios and Jungle City Studios in New York City , New York . " Start Over " was mixed by Serban Ghenea with further assistance from Phil Seaford and it was engineered by John Hanes with further assistance from Ramon Rivas and Pete Wolford . Beginning on June 16 to June 27 , 2011 , the songs from 4 were available to listen to in full each day on Knowles ' official website , paired with its accompanying photo spread from the album packaging and an insightful quote . On June 22 , 2011 , " Start Over " was the fourth song to be chosen . The quote found Knowles elaborating on what motivated her to record a song like " Start Over " : " For the first time in my life I was able to travel the world , hear different influences , see different types of dance and choreography and taste different types of food . It was important that I was able to digest everything : It inspired purity , more heart and more love . "

= = Composition = =

= = = Music and lyrical content = = =

" Start Over " is a midtempo R & B ballad , which contains elements of pop , soul and " angst @-@ ridden " pop rock and is built on hollow electric beats . The song 's instrumentation consists of gleaming synthesizers , a piano , loud and echoing drums , and minimal percussion instrument . According to Amanda Hensel of Pop Crush , the arrangement of the synthesizers is reminiscent of the Destiny 's Child era . Jenna Hally Rubenstein of MTV Buzzworthy compared the song with Knowles ' own " 1 + 1 " (2011) from the same album . Andrew Unterberger of the website Popdust compared the song with Ryan Tedder @-@ produced songs like Jordin Sparks ' " Battlefield " and Kelly Clarkson 's " Already Gone " . Priya Elan of NME felt that the piano parts in " Start Over " were similar to songs by rock band Evanescence because of its processed drums and piano riffing .

" Start Over " finds Knowles affirming her individuality and expressing her love for a man with whom she attempts to start a relationship all over again rather than losing it . Jon Caramanica of The New York Times added that Knowles ' emotional radar " is set to loyalty , for better or worse ? sometimes that loyalty is rewarded , and sometimes it has been betrayed , but over all , she operates on the axis of faithfulness " . Her vocals throughout the song are " so vulnerable that they 're almost tortured " as stated by Rubenstein . Lewis Corner of Digital Spy further noted that the " raspy and husky growls " that Knowles adopts occasionally on " Start Over " , show an " offering moments of raw , heartfelt emotion " .

== Song structure ==

The song begins with Knowles singing : " I feel weak / We 've been here before / ' Cause I feel we keep going back and forth / Maybe it 's over , maybe we 're through / But I honestly can say I still love you . " The introduction is skeletal as it contains only atmospheric synthesizers and insistent drum tapping , which have been further described as " warbly [and] lighthearted " . Throughout the song , the swaths of reverb occasionally pierce through the production . In the pre @-@ chorus lines , Knowles sings : " Maybe it 's over , maybe we 're through , but I honestly can say I still love you / Maybe we reached a mountain peak and there ? s no more left to climb / and maybe we lost a magic piece and we 're too blind to find " while her vocals are followed by background sounds . The beat steadily grows from the verses to the bridge and , finally , to the chorus , with pounding drums coming in to the loop during the refrain as Knowles sings : " Let ? s start over / Let 's give love their wings / Let ? s start over / Stop fighting bout the same old thing " . As she belts the high notes and the drum beats continue to catch up , she urges her man to " give love another life " . During the bridge , Knowles sings : " I know I called you selfish / But that ? s a lie " , over a simple piano line .

== Critical reception ==

" Start Over " earned mixed to positive reviews from critics , some of whom felt it was too similar to Knowles 's older material . MTV 's Jenna Hally Rubenstein wrote that in the song , Knowles shows her best side , which according to her were the " larger @-@ than @-@ life , emotionally tortured , breathy ballads . " Writing for MTV UK , Joanne Dorken concluded that the song was " stonking and dramatic " but also " single @-@ worthy . " Dorken added : " Knowles shows off that big voice of hers , leaving us wanting more from the lady herself . " While reviewing 4 , Gary Graff of Billboard magazine noted that several songs on the album , including " Start Over " , were talking about " the gray areas in between " . Erika Ramirez of the same magazine said : " Again honest when it comes to love , Bey [oncé] ' won 't surrender till she and beau ' give love another life . ' Bey [oncé] ' s roar matches the song 's fight . " Ben Cardew of Music Week stated that " Start Over " was the first indication that Knowles might have picked " some leftfield influences during those nine months off " , making reference to the way the song starts , as he wrote , " with what sounds like ? but most probably isn 't ? distorted pan pipes before kicking into a massive R & B number . "

Robert Copsey of the website Digital Spy found similarities between the song and Knowles ' older material . Chad Grischow of IGN commented that the chiming blend of synth and piano over a hollow beat on " Start Over " showcase the vulnerability in Knowles ' vocals effectively . Amanda Hensel of the website Pop Crush graded the song with three out of five stars and called it one of the " begging and pleading love songs , but it also has that element of ' Yeah , it 's probably time to call this off . ' " She added that : " This feels like more of a filler track than a chart @-@ topping single , and because she 's the best of the best , it 's easy for her to knock out a killer song without really trying . " Hensel finished her review by saying " ' Start Over ' is good , but it 's not amazing , and we know she can do better . " Cristin Maher of the same publication in his review of 4 wrote :

" Although it is easy for some to get sick of the repetitive lovesick theme B seems to gravitate towards , the music in this song nothing short of epic , as is Beyonce 's vocal performance . The beat steadily grows from the verses to the bridge and , finally , to the chorus , with pounding drums coming in to the loop during the refrain as B [eyoncé] sings , ' Let 's start over / Let 's give love their wings / Let 's start over / Stop fighting bout the same old thing . ' "

A mixed review was given by Andy Gill of The Independent who said that " the vocal editing on ' Start Over ' is far too sloppy , confirming again that a series of individual flourishes doesn 't pass muster as a performance . " David Amidon of PopMatters also gave a mixed review for " Start Over " and " Countdown " saying that they " just don 't seem to be listening to themselves , and will get by on listenability more than lyrical wizardry if they get by at all . " Matthew Perpetua of Rolling Stone also gave a mixed review for the song , saying : " While the other songs on 4 all have a distinct flavor and give Beyoncé an opportunity to try something new in some way or another , ' Start Over '

just kind of sits there at the middle of the disc not doing much of anything . " He also noted that " Start Over " was an " inoffensive ballad that doesn 't do much for the record aside from break its momentum at the halfway point . "

Although Becky Bain of Idolator called Knowles ' vocals " gorgeous " , he gave a mixed review for the song because it " could have been recorded by anyone and ended with similar results " with the one done by Knowles . Bain stated that Knowles should have " procure more polarizing songs and take bigger risks ? at least then half of her fans would love it , as opposed to her entire fanbase shrugging at everything they hear . " NME 's Hamish MacBain classified the song as one of the " barely distinguishable slowies " and added that the " will to continue listening [the album] departs . " Andrew Unterberger of the website Popdust gave a negative review for " Start Over " grading it with two out of five stars . Comparing it with Knowles ' older material , Unterberger concluded : " Beyoncé tries her best to imbue them with legitimate emotion , especially on the chorus , but it 's just not happening this time around . " Ricky Schweitzer of the website Beats Per Minute concluded that songs like " I Miss You " and " Start Over " would earn deserved spots in " the Beyoncé pantheon " once fans take the time to grow attached to them . Elan Priya of NME wrote that the song was a " trouble @-@ in @-@ paradise tune " with an " overblown chorus with hair @-@ rock aspirations " . However , he commented that the song was " rather buried under sonic bluster " .

= = Promotion = =

Although set to showcase Knowles ' fourth album 4 , " Start Over " was noticeably missing from her set list for the 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé revue . Elementary school chorus PS22 chorus covered the song in March , 2012 . Their cover appeared on Knowles ' official website . A remix of the song from Polish house band WAWA premiered online on July 8 , 2013 . Mike Wass of the website Idolator classified the original song as the " album 's only not @-@ completely @-@ brilliant moment " , he noted " Wthe WAWA boys did a great job transforming it into a dark and dangerous house anthem that stands toe @-@ to @-@ toe with Bey ? s best floorfillers . "

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from 4 liner notes .

= = Chart performance = =

For the week ending July 2 , 2011 , " Start Over " debuted at number 43 on the South Korean International Singles Chart , selling 14 @,@ 192 digital downloads .