

= Moments ( One Direction song ) =

" Moments " is a song by English @-@ Irish boy band One Direction from their debut studio album , Up All Night ( 2011 ) . It was written by Ed Sheeran , and Si Hulbert , the song 's producer . In 2011 , as One Direction member Harry Styles told Sheeran that the boy band did not have enough songs for their album , Sheeran offered " Moments " , a track that Sheeran " was never going to use " . The song is a mid @-@ tempo pop ballad about a love lost to distance or , as fans have speculated , death . Instrumentation includes a lightly strummed guitar and intermediate piano lines . The ballad received generally positive reviews from music critics , who noted the song 's memorability and complimented its composition . Upon the release of Up All Night , " Moments " charted in lower regions on the singles charts of Australia , Canada , and the United Kingdom due to strong digital download sales . One Direction performed the song on all three of their major concert tours : Up All Night Tour ( 2011 ? 12 ) , Take Me Home Tour ( 2013 ) and Where We Are Tour ( 2014 ) .

= = Background = =

After being formed and finishing third in the seventh series of The X Factor in 2010 , One Direction were signed to Syco Music . Recording for their debut studio album , Up All Night , began in January 2011 . In February 2011 , the boy band and other contestants from the series participated in the X Factor Live Tour . After the tour concluded in April 2011 , the group continued working on their debut album . " Moments " was written by Ed Sheeran and Si Hulbert , and produced by Hulbert . In an April 2012 interview with news.com.au , Sheeran said that he wrote the track " years ago . " In 2011 , Sheeran met One Direction 's Harry Styles at his " guitarist 's friend 's house " . The group were putting their debut studio album together at the time . Sheeran had a CD with him of 40 songs that he was going to give to publishers . As the boy band did not have enough songs for their album , Sheeran told Styles , " Here 's a CD . If you want one of these songs , have it . " The song ended up on the deluxe edition of the album . Sheeran acknowledged that he was happy with the outcome , " It was a song I was never going to use . To have it on a multi @-@ platinum selling album is quite nice . " During the album 's UK launch in late 2011 , member Louis Tomlinson referred to the song as his favourite track on the album . Niall Horan also commented , " getting to write and record with Sheeran on our album was an honour . "

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Moments " is a mid @-@ tempo pop ballad . Written in the key of D major , the beat is set in common time and moves at a moderate 150 beats per minute . One Direction 's vocal range in the song span from the note of D4 to A5 . " Moments " utilises a gently strummed guitar and intermediate piano lines . Inspired by the breakdown of a relationship between Sheeran and an unnamed woman , the song 's lyrics revolve around an unrequited love . The chorus of the song is essentially built on the hook , " You know I 'll be your life , your voice , your reason to be / My love , my heart is breathing for this moment in time / I 'll find the words to say / Before you leave me today . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Moments " received generally positive reviews from music critics , many of whom praised its musical arrangement and memorability . Alex Hughes from The Huffington Post characterised the song as " heartbreaking " . Hollywood Life and AllMusic both rated " Moments " as one of the best songs on Up All Night . Herald Sun writer Cameron Adams referred to the track as a " classic boy band ballad " . Entertainment Weekly 's Adam Markovitz cited the lyrics " be your life , your voice , your reason to be " , writing that " Lyrics like that won 't help the group earn much respect in music circles . But if a tween @-@ pop empire is what these boys are after , they 're definitely headed in the right direction " . Erica Futterman for Rolling Stone opined that the track 's lyricism is "

quintessentially swoonworthy " toward an audience aged approximately 8 to 12 and female .

= = Chart performance = =

Upon the release of Up All Night , " Moments " debuted on multiple world charts due to strong digital download sales . The song debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 118 on the chart issue of 3 December 2011 . " Moments " was One Direction 's sixth best @-@ selling song in the UK by August 2012 . It bowed on the Canadian Hot 100 at number 87 on the chart issue of 21 March 2012 . It also entered the Australian Singles Chart at number 60 on the chart issue date of 8 April 2012 .

= = Live performances = =

One Direction performed the song on three of their major concert tours : Up All Night Tour ( 2011 ? 12 ) , Take Me Home Tour ( 2013 ) & Where We Are Tour ( 2014 ) . Idolator editor Mike Wass felt the vocal ensemble performed a " rousing rendition " of the song at Sydney 's Hordern Pavilion and noted , " Louis [ Tomlinson ] described it as his favourite song on Up All Night and he 's not alone in that opinion if the swooning girls in the audience are any indication " . Herald Sun writer Cameron Adams opined that the performance of " Moments " at Melbourne 's Hisense Arena showcased the group 's " strong pop voices " . Erica Futterman for Rolling Stone assessed that the performance of the track at New York City 's Beacon Theatre was the most tender moment of the show . Jane Stevenson of Canoe.ca listed the performance of the number at Toronto 's Molson Canadian Amphitheatre among the show 's highlights . The song was later included on the DVD release , Up All Night : The Live Tour .

= = Charts = =