

CHANDELIER

SIA

APPEARS IN
ROCK & POP
2018

⚡ Released: 2014 ⚡ Album: 1000 Forms of Fear ⚡ Label: Inertia, Monkey Puzzle, RCA Records

ABOUT THE SONG

'Chandelier' was released in March 2014 as the lead single from Sia's sixth studio album *1000 Forms of Fear*. It was a top-10 hit in over 25 countries and sold more than three million copies in the US alone. Billboard listed 'Chandelier' as the best song of 2014 and it received several nominations at the 57th Grammy Awards.

'Chandelier' catapulted Sia to international fame, but she was a reluctant superstar. Having decided not to show her face in videos and promotional materials, the publicity-shy Sia often performed 'Chandelier' with her face concealed or her back to the camera.

“
I'M GONNA FLY LIKE A BIRD
THROUGH THE NIGHT,
FEEL MY TEARS AS THEY DRY
I'M GONNA SWING
FROM THE CHANDELIER
”

RECORDING AND PRODUCTION

Sia was in semi-retirement in the early 2010s, co-writing songs with artists such as David Guetta and Rihanna. An impromptu jam session with producer Jesse Shatkin on marimba and Sia on piano led to the chords, melody and lyrics of 'Chandelier' in less than 20 minutes. Originally written as a potential hit for Rihanna or Beyoncé, Sia eventually released the song herself. It was produced by Shatkin and Greg Kurstin, with the pair playing all instruments. Sia's vocal was recorded at Hot Closet Studios in California in less than 15 minutes.

COMPOSITION

'Chandelier' is an electropop ballad with a melancholy tone; the lyrics are about the disillusionment of relentless partying. The verse moves from B flat minor to D flat major, before shifting up to G flat in the chorus. The soaring vocal highlights Sia's power, agility and wide range.

THE ALBUM

1000 Forms of Fear was released in July 2014. Sia revealed in a 2015 *NME* interview that she had released it as a contractual obligation saying: 'Basically, I put this out to get out of my publishing deal. I was planning to be a pop songwriter for other artists.' The album debuted at No. 1 on the US Billboard 200 and the ARIA Albums Chart. It won Album of the Year, and Best Pop Release at the 2014 ARIA Music Awards, and Best Album at the 2015 Rolling Stone Australia Awards.

AWARDS

- ⚡ **Best Video**
ARIA Music Awards 2014
- ⚡ **Best Choreography**
MTV Video Music Awards 2014
- ⚡ **Best Pop Video**
UK Music Video Awards 2014
- ⚡ **Song of the Year**
APRA Music Awards 2015
- ⚡ **Most Played Australian Work Overseas**
APRA Music Awards 2016

THE VIDEO

The music video for 'Chandelier' was co-directed by Sia, and features dancer Maddie Ziegler, aged 11 at the time of filming. Ziegler wears a blonde wig like the one Sia used to promote the album and performs an interpretive dance in a deserted apartment. Sia had seen Ziegler on the TV show 'Dance Moms' and asked her to appear in the video via Twitter. The video went viral on YouTube and has had more than 1.6 billion views. Ziegler has performed live with Sia many times since, most notably on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' on 19 May 2014. Ziegler also appears in the video for Sia's solo version of 'Elastic Heart', which was released in 2015 as the third single from *1000 Forms of Fear*.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sia Furler, now known as Sia, is an Australian singer-songwriter, record producer and music video director. She started out in acid jazz band Crisp in the mid-90s before releasing her first studio album *OnlySee* in 1997, which sold only 1,200 copies. She then moved to London where she sang with Jamiroquai and Zero 7, but went solo in the early 2000s, initially signing with Sony Music's label Dance Pool. After releasing two further albums over the following years, she moved to the US in 2005 and began touring. She released another two albums in 2008 and 2010, but was uncomfortable with her growing fame and began wearing masks on stage. Eventually, she decided to take a break from touring and performing to focus on writing pop songs for other artists.

In 2011, 'Titanium', a song Sia had co-written with David Guetta with the intention of having an artist such as Alicia Keys or Katy Perry sing the vocal, was released featuring Sia's own demo vocal, without her knowledge. The success of the single led to Sia signing a deal with RCA records, on the understanding that she would not have to tour or do any press conferences.

MORE TO EXPLORE

Songs: 'Elastic Heart', Sia (2015), 'Titanium', David Guetta feat. Sia (2011). Also see songwriting career box, right.

Albums: *OnlySee*, Sia (1997), *1000 Forms of Fear*, Sia (2014).

Artists & collaborators: Alicia Keys, Beyoncé, Carly Rae Jepson, Christina Aguilera, Crisp, David Guetta, Jamiroquai, Jesse Shatkin, Jessie J, Katy Perry, Kelly Clarkson, Greg Kurstin, Gwen Stefani, Maddie Ziegler, Maroon 5, Mary J Blige, Rihanna, Rita Ora, Shakira, Zero 7.

Trinity Rock & Pop 2018 syllabus: Keyboards, Grade 2, Vocals, Grade 8 (Female).

'AND THEN MARY J BLIGE SANG IT. AND THEN HE TOOK HER VOCAL OFF IT, AND PUT MY VOCAL BACK ON, MY DEMO VOCAL, WITHOUT ASKING AND RELEASED IT. AND I NEVER EVEN KNEW IT WAS GONNA HAPPEN, AND I WAS REALLY UPSET. BECAUSE I HAD JUST RETIRED, I WAS TRYING TO BE A POP SONGWRITER, NOT AN ARTIST.'
SIA, ON 'TITANIUM'

SONGWRITING CAREER

Sia has written more than 70 songs for other artists including:

- ⚡ **'Blank Page'**, Christina Aguilera
- ⚡ **'Breathe'**, Jessie J
- ⚡ **'Boy Problems'**, Carly Rae Jepson
- ⚡ **'Diamonds'**, Rihanna
- ⚡ **'Double Rainbow'**, Katy Perry
- ⚡ **'Invincible'**, Kelly Clarkson
- ⚡ **'My Heart Is Open'**, Maroon 5, feat. Gwen Stefani
- ⚡ **'Pretty Hurts'**, Beyoncé
- ⚡ **'Radioactive'**, Rita Ora
- ⚡ **'Try Everything'**, Shakira

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