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U2

Beautiful Day

SONG FACTS

Album: *All That You Can't Leave Behind*

Writers: Bono, Adam Clayton, The Edge, Larry Mullen, Jr.

Producers: Daniel Lanois, Brian Eno, Steve Lillywhite

Studio: HQ Studio (Dublin, Ireland)

Release Date: October 9, 2000

Length: 4:06

Sales: 500,000+ (single), 12+ million (album) worldwide

Highest Chart Position: #21 U.S. *Billboard* Hot 100, #1 U.K. Singles Chart

“Beautiful Day,” the lead single from U2’s 2000 album *All That You Can’t Leave Behind*, was a huge commercial success and one of the group’s biggest hits ever. The song won three Grammy awards for Song of the Year, Record of the Year, and Best Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal. It hit #1 in many parts of the world, despite only making it to #21 on the U.S. *Billboard* Hot 100 chart. *Rolling Stone* magazine has rated the song #345 of its 500 Greatest Songs of All Time, while VH1 rates it at #15 on its list of the 100 Greatest Songs of the '00s.

“Beautiful Day” originated as a standard rock tune called “Always,” but after Bono wrote the lyrics, the track took a different direction. The song had a long period of development as the band argued over The Edge’s guitar tone—some within the group wanted the vintage U2 sound of their earlier albums and others did not. The mixing also took longer than usual as the arrangement was tweaked; Bono added a