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## Exclusive: Listen to Lady Antebellum's 'Hurt'



About two years ago, Lady Antebellum's Charles Kelley, now 35, was checking out songs that various writers sent in for him to consider for his debut solo album. One caught his attention, a heartbreaking ballad called Hurt.

"It was really good but it didn't feel like it would mean that much coming from a male singer," he recalls. "So I held it in the back of my pocket, thinking that we might look at it when time came for our next (Lady A) record."

That time came last year, when they began working on Heart Break, out June 9 . "Most of the songs we were writing were really positive and uplifting," Kelley says. "But we always want to tap into emotions that come from where we'd been in the past. We'd all been hurt and we have hurt people in our relationships. So the song just kept haunting me."

Listen to Hurt below or if you're mobile, click here.

Although their goal was to fill Heart Break with as much original material as possible, Kelley introduced Hurt to bandmates Hillary Scott, 36, and Dave Haywood, 34. Its co-writers Melissa Peirce, Jon Green and Ben West had sent a bare-bones demo to Kelley, featuring just piano and voice. This opened the field wide to them for personalizing it as if they had composed it themselves.

Scott took several days to get into the melody and lyrics. Then they cut the song in an oceanside house they had rented as a writing and recording retreat. A little later, after returning home to Nashville, she asked to try it again, this time in producer busbee's home studio. He liked what she did and adorned it with an overdub of orchestral strings.

"But something still wasn't right," Kelley says. "So we added the dobro, and that's what gave it a little more heartache and brought it even more into the country genre. When we heard it, we were all like, 'Well, there it is, man.'

Lady Antebellum is currently on tour through Oct. 15.

