

# LADY GAGA & BRADLEY COOPER

RECORD OF THE YEAR



LADY GAGA AND BRADLEY COOPER'S DUET IS called "Shallow," but don't let that fool you: it's one of the deeper songs released in 2018.

And it has to have depth, carrying the weight of being not just another love song, but one that showcases its singers' different vocal styles while also setting the stage for a huge plot turn in the latest iteration of *A Star Is Born*, for which it was written. It does all of those things with pinpoint, professional precision.

Written by Gaga with Miike Snow's Andrew Wyatt, Dirty Pretty Things' Anthony Rossomando, and frequent Gaga collaborator Mark Ronson, the tune hit No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100, charted internationally and acquired 8.3 million streams in its opening week. Its sweet, uplifting acoustic guitar introduction is raw and simple—but that veneer vanishes the moment the song shifts gear into a full-on power ballad. When Gaga kicks in her tremendous vocals, the song is revealed in its

full glory, as an insider's metaphorical look at the pitfalls of creativity, talent, and stardom.

Production benefitted mightily from co-producer Benjamin Rice and Gaga's trained hand; she was an integral part of the process at EastWest studios, directing Lukas Nelson's band Promise Of The Real, used as Cooper's character Jackson's band in the film. Nelson also proved essential to the development of the sound, adding the Eric Clapton-inspired acoustic lead-in to the song, which provided a startling contrast to Gaga's intense vocals. Finally, the song was mixed by Tom Elmhirst, engineered by Brandon Bost, and mastered by Randy Merrill.

Yet even with (or perhaps, because of) all of those professional hands on the tune, "Shallow" ended up with a warm, personal spontaneity, as if the duo singing it were the only musicians in the world. Which was precisely the role it was designed to play.—*Randee Dawn*