

Why Rolling Girl by Wowaka + Hatsune Miku is My Favorite Song (2017-2024)

May 26th, 2017:

"Rolling Girl" by Hatsune Miku is my favorite song. The lyrics, melody, and music video all stand out and each means different things to me. It's a song I can put on while in a good mood and when I'm feeling bummed out. Every time I listen to it I get a new experience out of it. I've listened to this song while in a great mood looking out at a sunrise on the bus and just smiling because it all fit together, and I have listened to this song during sad events in my life not just to cheer me up, but to remind me that it's fine to be sad sometimes. It's a song that can truly make me FEEL.

I don't know what genre this song is, but whatever it is I want more of it. I love hearing "classical" instruments incorporated into more modern songs like Rather Be by Clean Bandit using Violins and Pianos mixed in with more modern sounds. And that's how I got roped into this song in the first place: the piano. Another great Hatsune Miku song that incorporates the piano into a fast-paced, modern sound is Uraomote Lovers which was on the same album! If I had to say the genre of this song I would say it's "Classical Electric Japanese Pop Vocaloid Rock Madness."

While it is true that I like fun, bright, colorful stuff in my music, the lyrics are dark and twisted in the best way possible. It reaches the "Batman point" where it's badass about being dark and not just edgy and teenage angst.

The melody of the piece has a colorful vibe with the light piano to it but it's also chaotic and brilliant when the percussion kicks in. It might seem like a contrast on paper with this bright piano and rock n' roll, but it works very well since it is very high energy. It's also the perfect length, not once have I listened to it and felt like it ended too abruptly or dragged on for too long. It's FILLED to the BRIM with content.

The ending is extremely cute and the buildup and anticipation for what may seem like an anticlimactic ending at first listen actually turns into one of the best parts of the song on repeated listens. WOOHOO!!

The vocals of this song are nothing short of genius. I don't speak Japanese and I don't know what Miku is saying but based on the notes of her "voice" I can tell what emotion she is feeling. I can hear in her voice the feeling of desperation or calling out for some form of help based on the DELIVERY! That's absolutely crazy to think that a piece of technology can convey emotion even if the listener doesn't know what she is saying. For those of you who don't know, Hatsune Miku is a virtual singer so everything she "says" is actually generated from a computer, I know, technology is crazy. One major gripe I have with a lot of music on the radio is that you can't feel the emotion from the singer and you can tell that they just want to make some money, so it's a little scary to see that technology can have more emotion in a voice than modern artists.

Everything about it stands out and can live on its own and yet it all fits together beautifully with a great synergy. That's kind of why I love music from Gorillaz so much, because their lyrics and music videos each live on their own and can mean something different.

Even if you're not into J-Pop or Vocaloid stuff, I'd highly recommend "Rolling Girl..." it's a song that I feel is a part of me, it's a part of my life. First just listen to it on its own without doing anything else, FOCUS on the song. Then, watch the music video, it's kind of annoying and blurry at times but it adds to the storytelling and makes everything more surreal, just like the characters' mental state within the video. I don't wanna spoil too much but I would like YOU, personally, to figure everything out, just like the Shelter music video from Porter Robinson and Madeon. Don't google the meaning of the video for the love of god. Then, read the English lyrics. Try and figure out what each term means within the lyrics because it is fantastic. That's just 3 listens, I can guarantee that each time you will feel something different each time you listen to the song. It's a masterpiece.

I could write a much longer essay on what makes this one song so great, but I feel I've rambled on for a bit over one Japanese song that you probably won't even listen to. I just wanted to talk about my favorite song and what makes it so great. Here's the music video if you wanna listen and watch it right away:

<https://youtu.be/FMDxKRx10mU>

Thanks for reading! -George :)

Jan 27, 2024

That was a twit-longer post I made back in 2017. I made that essay when I was 16 and everything about it still rings true. As time has passed, my thoughts on Rolling Girl have not changed and it remains my favorite song of all time.

The main point I would like to clarify is that wowaka is the true artist behind this song. Hatsune Miku is Vocaloid technology and songs cannot be created without the help of the producer. When I said her music is computer generated, that does not mean wowaka used AI to create this song. There's a lot that goes into Vocaloid technology and I feel it gets a little underappreciated by mainstream music listeners, but that's another can of worms I don't wanna get into. Just know that wowaka is the main composer of this song and recently passed away in 2019. May he rest in peace.

Since 2017, I've discovered a lot about myself and a lot of things have changed. The lyrics of the song when translated became more and more relatable as high school progressed. It's a sad song that masks itself as a J-Pop/Rock banger. It's truly worthy of all the praise I've lobbied for it and every point I've made about the song back in 2017 is still spot-on to me.

I graduated from college in 2022, and my major was Linguistics with a minor in Japanese. It had always been my dream to learn Japanese and travel to Japan. Last

year I won tickets via a raffle to see Hatsune Miku in concert in Tokyo, Japan. It was part of her Thunderbolt tour and I traveled to Japan for a week. I was able to use my Japanese skills acquired in college to navigate the line queue. Unfortunately, I was so jetlagged that I was unable to attend the full concert without complete exhaustion. It's a shame because I didn't get to purchase a lightstick to jam out with the performance. It was sold out. There were too many tall people in front of me and my girlfriend and I were already super overwhelmed by all the stuff on our itinerary for that day. I still was able to buy a cyan long-sleeve shirt and later I found a blue windbreaker from the same tour on eBay.

I also was able to import a CD of Unhappy Refrain, the album that it came from. It came with a sticker that I put on my laptop that I'm using now to write this very blog post. The original version of this song is not available on streaming services, so I felt the need to physically own a copy of this masterpiece of an album. I recently traveled to Vietnam and purchased a figure of Hatsune Miku. My love for this type of music has stayed strong with me all this time and I can't imagine my life without Rolling Girl specifically.

Hatsune Miku will also be performing at Coachella this year. I do believe that Rolling Girl has fallen out of the setlist rotation in her concerts so it wouldn't be played, but there are many tributes to wowaka on YouTube that I recommend checking out.

With the extreme rise of K-Pop in the past few years, I've seen an increasing number of racism online when it comes to foreign music. It has been extremely close-minded and it bothers me to see that many people won't give a chance to songs in a foreign language. Maybe it's too nerdy and the anime aesthetic is not for everyone, I understand. But I implore you to listen to this song if you want to experience something special to me. The raw emotion put into every aspect of this song I've always felt that is what makes music great. Americans' refusal to experience foreign music has been a slow and arduous process, dating back to the backlash of Beatlemania in the 60s. And now, it just serves as a reminder that just because a song is in a non-English language doesn't mean that it still can't be prolific and beautiful.

Yesterday, my Mom asked me what my favorite song was. There's part of me that still feels a bit of an outsider when discussing music with my family. Rather than explaining that Rolling Girl is my favorite song, I simply said "Hey Ya!" by Outkast, which I think is my second favorite song of all time. I didn't want to get into the whole story behind it so Mom, if you're reading this, Rolling Girl is my actual favorite song.

In conclusion, I still love Rolling Girl and will never stop loving it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this! I am going to try and stay more active on this blog in the future.

With Love,
Georgie :)