

= Black & Blue (Miike Snow song) =

" Black & Blue " is a song performed by Swedish indie pop band Miike Snow . It was released as the second single from the band 's 2009 self @-@ titled debut album on 15 October 2009 through Columbia Records . The song was written by the band alongside Henrik Jonback and Juliet Richardson . Band members Christian Karlsson and Pontus Winnberg of production duo Bloodshy & Avant had conceptualized the chorus prior to forming the band with Andrew Wyatt in 2007 , but saved the idea for the Miike Snow project rather than offering it to another artist . " Black & Blue " is a blue @-@ eyed soul and electronica song that is sung in a breathy falsetto style with piano and synthesizer instrumentation .

Critics were generally positive towards " Black & Blue " . The majority of them praised the piano elements and Wyatt 's vocals . The single is among the band 's most successful releases ; it peaked at number 64 on the UK Singles Chart and reached the top 10 on the UK Dance Chart and the Flemish Ultratip chart . Vince Haycock directed its accompanying music video , in which actor Jeff Stewart portrays a man who creates music with eccentric instruments in his apartment .

= = Background = =

" Black & Blue " was written by Miike Snow 's three members , Christian Karlsson , Pontus Winnberg and Andrew Wyatt , in collaboration with Henrik Jonback and Juliet Richardson . Parts of the chorus were initially conceptualized by Karlsson and Winnberg , also known as Bloodshy & Avant , prior to forming the band in 2007 . Karlsson told music website musicOMH , " It 's the only song on the album that we had an idea before and we kind of saved [it] , like we want this song for our own project . When we met Andrew [Wyatt] and we decided to start the band , it was only an idea , but we played it for Andrew and he really liked it . " It was recorded at Robotberget , the band 's own studio in Stockholm , Sweden . The band produced the track and then mixed it with Anders Hvenare . Columbia Records released " Black & Blue " as the album 's second single on 15 October 2009 in Europe . The digital release includes the original version and remixes by Caspa , Jaymo & Andy George , Netsky , Savage Skulls and Tiga . In the United Kingdom , the iTunes Store version comes with the original track , remixes by Tiga and Caspa , and Mark Ronson 's remix of the album 's first single , " Animal " . A 12 " vinyl was released in the United Kingdom on 19 October 2009 , featuring the aforementioned " Black & Blue " remixes , excluding Netsky 's .

= = Composition = =

" Black & Blue " is a blue @-@ eyed soul and electronica piano piece . According to sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Universal Music Publishing Group , the song is written in the time signature of common time with a moderate beat rate of 135 beats per minute . It is written in the key of A ? major and Wyatt 's vocal range spans the notes of E ? 4 to F5 . It has an A ? ? B ? m ? Fm7 ? Gm chord progression and a verse @-@ chorus structure . Wyatt sings moody and melancholic lyrics in a " breathy " and " whispery " falsetto vocal style . The production features piano chords over " buzzing " synthesizers . According to BBC Music critic Fraser McAlpine , it includes Coldplay @-@ esque breakdown sections and a " ghostly , mournful piano playing doomy dark chords " . McAlpine compared the verses to " Music Sounds Better with You " (1998) by French house band Stardust , and Ben Hogwood of musicOMH likened the " soulful approach " to gospel music and works by American duo Outkast . Elliott Townsend of URB called it an " electro @-@ pop throwback " to Curtis Mayfield 's " Move On Up " (1970) .

= = Critical reception = =

" Black & Blue " received a positive response from music critics . John Bergstrom of PopMatters described it as " smooth , winning blue @-@ eyed soul " , and Neil Ashman of Drowned in Sound commented that its breathy vocals , piano chords and synth backing made it a " successful blend of

melancholy and dancefloor @-@ ready rhythms " . Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian deemed the falsetto vocals and synths " naggingly infectious " , citing it as the band 's strong point : " the trio may be faceless , but they write a good tune " . Sputnikmusic 's staff reviewer Rudy Klapper felt that the " techno swirl " of the song " nail [s] the juxtaposition between Wyatt 's moody lyrics and the irrepressible production " . Fraser McAlpine of BBC Music rated " Black & Blue " four stars out of five and recommended it for when " you just need something to lift the spirits a bit , without someone shouting something stupid in your ear " . He continued , " It basically wants to rub your shoulders at the end of a long hard day , and whisper something funny in your ear while your shoulders untie . " Natalie Kaye of Contactmusic.com said that although it begins melancholy , it " swells to become one of the noisiest points on Miike Snow " . Paul Mitchell of The Skinny felt that Wyatt channels Paddy McAloon 's breathy vocal style on " Black & Blue " , but without the " lyrical wit " . He rated the song three stars out of five and called it " decent " , finding the remixes available on the release more interesting . A more critical review came from Pitchfork Media 's Marc Hogan , who wrote that it " promisingly ... splits the difference between Prince and piano @-@ pop , only to underwhelm as a whole " .

= = Chart performance = =

In the issue dated 17 October 2009 of the UK Singles Chart , " Black & Blue " debuted at number 95 . It fell off the following week , before re @-@ entering the next at number 64 , which became its peak . The song spent three weeks on the chart . In the issue dated 30 October 2009 , the single entered the UK Dance Chart at number two , which became its peak . It spent five weeks on the chart ; its final appearance was on 28 November 2009 at number 19 . " Black & Blue " is the band 's highest @-@ peaking entry on both the UK Singles Chart and the UK Dance Chart . In Belgium , the song peaked at number ten on the Flemish Ultratip chart , where it spent five weeks in total .

= = Music video = =

Vince Haycock directed the music video for " Black & Blue " on location in Hackney , London in August 2009 . The clip features The Bill actor Jeff Stewart as a bearded man . The video begins with the man waking up in his apartment at noon . He conducts various experiments to create music , and finally finishes a robotic mannequin that plays the drums . This is interspersed with shots of Miike Snow band members driving a car with Wyatt singing in the backseat . Happy with his invention , the man then walks outside in his bathrobe , headphones and sunglasses past three frolicking teenagers , and hugs one of them . He continues to walk down the street where he finally meets the members of Miike Snow at a crosswalk . He removes his bathrobe , headphones and sunglasses , and walks away happily . The video premiered online in September 2009 , before being released to the iTunes Store on 9 October 2009 . Regarding the video , Fraser McAlpine of BBC Music remarked : " It 's basically what Santa does on his days off . "

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting ? Christian Karlsson , Pontus Winnberg , Andrew Wyatt , Henrik Jonback , Juliet Richardson

Production ? Miike Snow

Mixing ? Anders Hvenare , Miike Snow

Mastering ? Ted Jensen

Credits are adapted from the Miike Snow liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =