

= Do What U Want =

" Do What U Want " is a song by American singer Lady Gaga , featuring guest vocals from singer R. Kelly . The song was released to digital outlets on October 21 , 2013 as the second single from Gaga 's third studio album Artpop ( 2013 ) . The singers wrote the song with DJ White Shadow , Martin Bresso , and William Grigahcine . DJ White Shadow first presented Gaga with the song 's initial concept two years prior to its release . The song 's production was completed in 2013 , with Kelly 's vocals added soon after . A snippet of " Do What U Want " premiered in a Best Buy / Beats by Dr. Dre commercial on October 17 . Warm reception from fans and music critics led to its release as the album 's second single .

It is a synthpop and R & B song featuring 1980s @-@ style synthesizers and an electronic instrumental track . The song 's lyrics represent themes of sexual submission , with Gaga telling detractors that her thoughts , dreams , and feelings are her own , no matter what one does with her body . Critics praised the song 's simplicity , production , and commercial appeal . The single cover for " Do What U Want " , a close @-@ up of Gaga 's buttocks in a floral thong , was photographed by Terry Richardson who had also directed the song 's music video , which was planned to be released through BitTorrent in December 2013 ; the release was cancelled due to unknown circumstances .

" Do What U Want " achieved top @-@ ten peaks on the record charts in Canada , South Korea , and several European countries , and peaked at number 13 on the US Billboard Hot 100 . Live performances of the song were televised on the 2013 American Music Awards , Alan Carr : Chatty Man , Saturday Night Live , America 's The Voice , and Britain 's The X Factor . Several remixes of the song were released , including ones with vocals from Christina Aguilera and Rick Ross .

= = Writing and development = =

" Do What U Want " was co @-@ written by Lady Gaga , Blair , R. Kelly , Martin Bresso , and William Grigahcine . It was produced by Blair and Gaga and features vocals by Kelly . Gaga had been living in Chicago and completing the songs for Artpop , which was being influenced by the R & B and hip hop music predominant there . One day , the singer came to know about an article discussing her weight and she was angered with such news . She decided that it was through her music that she could take a stance against " shallow journalism " . After the release of the first single from the album , titled " Applause " , the singer was also determined to create something different and unfamiliar to her past hit singles , and " Do What U Want " stemmed from these thoughts .

Blair recalled how in 2011 his friend Martin was playing him a particular beat from his own remix project . Blair liked the music and presented it to Gaga who had begun writing the song 's lyrics while on the Born This Way Ball tour . Blair described its beat as " some space age George Jetson R & B sound " . After the lyrics were completed in September 2013 , Blair suggested bringing Kelly on board as a collaborator . Kelly was in the process of completing his album , Black Panties , and agreed to participate following a telephone conversation with Gaga . Kelly told Billboard that working with the singer was " natural jelling " . Gaga told MTV News about the song :

" I 've been living in Chicago and spending a lot of time there , and that 's where R. Kelly hails from . I was working on Artpop and I wrote [ ' Do What U Want ' ] on tour . It was about my obsession with the way people view me . I have always been an R. Kelly fan and actually it is like an epic pastime in the Haus of Gaga that we just get fucked up and play R. Kelly . This is a real R & B song and I [ said ' I ] have to call the king of R & B and I need his blessing . ' It was a mutual love . "

= = Recording and composition = =

" Do What U Want " is a mid @-@ tempo synthpop and R & B track , drawing influence from 1980s @-@ inspired throbbing synths and an electronic beat . Eric R. Danton of Rolling Stone described it as a " muscular club beat " . James Montgomery from MTV News said that a " lurching , lascivious beat " was the main backbone of the song , interspersed with Gaga 's loud @-@ voiced vocals , a "

corky " chorus and Kelly 's " cool , coital " singing . The song 's chorus is built around arpeggios . Complex described its " Do what you want , what you want with my body " hook as " catchy and somewhat raunchy " . The song 's lyrics represent themes of sexual submissiveness , with Gaga telling off detractors that her thoughts , dreams , and feelings are her own , no matter what one does with her body . Jim Farber of New York Daily News suggested " Do What U Want " to be a response to " everyone who ever made a tart comment about her ? which , by now , involves half the planet " . Gaga and Kelly alternate singing the lines " Do what u want / What u want with my body / Do what u want / What u want with my body / Write what you want , say what you want about me / If you want you know that I 'm not sorry " .

According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com , " Do What U Want " is set in the time signature of common time , with a moderate tempo of 96 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of A major with Gaga 's vocals spanning the tonal nodes of E3 to F ? 5 . The song follows a basic sequence of D ? E ? F ? m ? E ? D ? E as its chord progression . " Do What U Want " was recorded at Record Plant Studios in Hollywood , California and at PatchWerk Recording Studios , in Atlanta , Georgia . Gaga 's vocals were recorded by Dave Russell and Bill Malina , while Kelly 's by Abel Garibaldi and Ian Moonness . Russell held primary mixing of the track at Record Plant , with additional support from Benjamin Rice , Ghazi Hourani , Zane Shoemake , and Dino " SpeedoVee " Zisis . The song 's instrumentals include guitars by Tim Stewart , programming by Rick Pearl , and audio mastering done by Gene Grimaldi at Oasis Mastering Studios in Burbank , California .

= = Release and promotion = =

On September 3 , 2013 , Gaga asked her fans through Twitter to help her choose the second single : options given were " Manicure " , " Sexxx Dreams " , " Aura " , and " Swine " . On September 20 , 2013 , Gaga announced that " Venus " had been chosen as the second single , and that it would be released before the album . A snippet of " Do What U Want " debuted in a US commercial for Best Buy / Beats on October 17 , 2013 . It was also used in promotion for British mobile company , O2 , as part of their " Be More Dog " campaign . Subsequently , Gaga and her label decided to release " Do What U Want " as the second official single from Artpop , instead of " Venus " . " Do What U Want " officially impacted Italian radio stations on October 25 , 2013 , and five days later in the UK . The song impacted Mainstream Top 40 and Rhythmic radio stations in the United States on November 5 , 2013 . Lipshutz compared the song 's last @-@ minute release to that of " Judas " from Born This Way in April 2011 . After quick commercial success , the label soon decided to rush a single release .

The first promotional artwork features Gaga naked with moss covering her genitals . The single 's official cover art was released on October 21 , showing Gaga 's backside , wearing a floral thong . The cover art was shot by photographer Terry Richardson . In an interview with German television station ProSieben , Gaga explained that the explicit imagery for the cover art was due to the constant criticism and discussion surrounding her , adding that " When I look at how society has changed , I feel like this is a good time to show you my ass , because it 's all I choose to give you . " .

According to Digital Spy 's Catherine Earp , the shoot resembles a polaroid . Leigh Silver from Complex magazine compared it to Andy Warhol 's polaroid series , where the artist shot pictures of blonds and their rear . Hilary Hughes from Esquire called the cover art " awful " but felt that the image paved way for much imagination in lieu of the suggestive theme of the song . The night before the song 's release , Gaga tweeted lyrics of " Do What U Want " in reference to critics and rumors that had surfaced throughout her career , including those claiming the singer to be a hermaphrodite , gaining weight in 2012 , and her drug addiction . She also addressed media fabrications on her alleged negative relationships with Madonna and Katy Perry . Alex Camp from Slant Magazine felt Gaga 's stunt cheapened the song 's intent , pointing out how it highlighted the singer 's preoccupation with social media and her public image .

= = Critical response = =

Upon release , " Do What U Want " received generally positive response from reviewers . Critics complimented the simplicity of the song , with some comparing Gaga 's vocals to those of Tina Turner and Aguilera . Alexa Camp , writing for Slant Magazine , describes the track as " a measured electro banger that smartly doubles as a love song . " Lars Brandle of Billboard complimented the song as " radio @-@ friendly " and concluded that " Gaga is in good form . " Lipshutz from the same publication wrote that the song and its lyrics were a " thrilling listen , intoxicatingly defiant " . Writing for The Daily Beast , Kevin Fallon was highly enthusiastic toward the song , calling it " pure pop heaven " and giving his praise to its " chorus that will make it a radio hit ..... and driving , danceable beat throughout . " Carl Williot of Idolator website summarized the song as " a pretty flawless piece of R & B . " Dharmic X from Complex praised " Do What U Want " as " catchy " . Latifah Muhammad from Black Entertainment Television felt that " Between the two , Kelly seems the furthest of his sonic comfort zone but nestles into a groove over the dance beat " and described the track as " musical genius " .

Jim Farber of New York Daily News gave the song four out of five stars , saying that the " music provides its own quirk . To match the R & B @-@ style beat ? and the guest appearance by R. Kelly ? Gaga finds a new soul edge to her voice . She belts , scoring a hit in every sense . " Slate magazine 's Aisha Harris felt that Gaga and Kelly 's efforts worked " surprisingly well " . Nidhi Tewari of International Business Times said that Gaga sounded her " rebellious best " on the upbeat song . Lewis Corner from Digital Spy gave the song four out of five stars , stating that its " ear @-@ snagging melody revives some of her earlier pop perfection . " Hilary Hughes from Esquire felt that Kelly 's guest appearance on the song , improved its quality much more than the preceding single " Applause " . Hughes added that Gaga 's Whitney Houston @-@ esque vocals are elevated further by Kelly 's " standard , soaring tenor " . " Do What U Want " was listed as one of the 100 Best Songs Of 2013 by Rolling Stone , ranked at number 17 .

A mixed review came from Kyle Anderson from Entertainment Weekly , who felt that Gaga and Kelly 's vocals track did not " come together " since Gaga 's singing style interfered with the composition of the song as well as Kelly 's R & B vocals . Anderson also felt that the lyrics sung by Kelly were rehash and subpar . He concluded saying that the song is " an intriguing mind @-@ meld nonetheless " . March Hogan from Spin magazine said that the song was " as usual " about fame but felt that the cover art complemented the theme the song portrayed .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , " Do What U Want " was predicted by industry prognosticators to sell between 150 @,@ 000 and 160 @,@ 000 digital downloads in the week ending November 11 , 2013 . Nielsen SoundScan reported that the song had sold 156 @,@ 000 digital downloads , entering the Hot Digital Songs chart at number three and becoming Gaga 's 14th top ten on that chart . Consequently it debuted at number 13 on the Billboard Hot 100 . The song is Kelly 's 52nd Hot 100 entry and highest rank since " I 'm a Flirt " peaked at number 12 in 2007 . The song plummeted down to number 58 the following week . In its third week , " Do What U Want " climbed to number 48 on the chart , aided by its move upwards on the Radio Songs chart , from number 64 to 51 , with an audience impression of 23 million , up by about 22 % from the second week . Following the release of Artpop , the song returned to the top twenty of Hot 100 , moving in to number 18 . The song has sold 1 @,@ 220 @,@ 000 copies in the US as of April 2015 , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . On the Pop Songs chart , " Do What U Want " debuted at number 39 for the issue of November 11 , 2013 , and moved up to number 29 the next week with a spin increase of 991 on the US radio stations . Next week , the song acquired a further 1 @,@ 096 spins and moved to number 23 on the chart . It has reached a peak of number seven on Pop Songs , with 9 @,@ 237 spins . The song also peaked at number eight on the Rhythmic chart with 2 @,@ 662 spins . " Do What U Want " became the second single by Gaga ? the first being her debut single " Just Dance " ? not to reach the top of the Hot Dance Club Songs chart , where it stalled inside the top @-@ ten at number seven .

In Australia , " Do What U Want " entered the Australian Singles Chart at number 21 ; also debuting

on the New Zealand Singles Chart at number twelve . The song entered the Irish Singles Chart at number nine and in The Netherlands ' Mega Single Top 100 at number 27 . It also entered the Finnish Download Chart at number two . In South Korea , the song sold 10 @, @ 576 digital downloads , reaching number eight in the Gaon Digital Chart . It fell to number 13 the next week , selling a further 7 @, @ 184 copies . Following the album release , the song sold 20 @, @ 309 copies and reached a new peak of number two . " Do What U Want " reached the top of the charts in Greece , and also reached the top @- @ ten in Finland , France , Italy , and Spain . The song had debuted at number 50 on the Japan Hot 100 , but rose to position 26 , after two weeks . " Do What U Want " also debuted at number seven on the Canadian Hot 100 and in its eleventh week on the chart , the song reached a new peak of number three . It was certified gold by Music Canada , for selling over 40 @, @ 000 digital downloads .

In the United Kingdom " Do What U Want " was deemed ineligible to enter the UK Singles Chart . The Official Charts Company released a statement explaining that the song would be allowed to chart only after the associated album 's pre @- @ order offer ended . The rules of the Official Chart Company " allow one ' instant grat ' promotion per album , i.e a single track download given away as an album pre @- @ order incentive . ' Do What U Want ' is the second track [ following ' Applause ' ] to be delivered to fans who pre @- @ order Artpop " . Thus the song was not eligible to enter the chart until the promotion finished and the album was released . According to Alan Jones from Music Week , in the week following its release the single sold 22 @, @ 915 copies in the UK ; had it been eligible to chart , Jones predicted it would have entered at number ten . After the release of Artpop , " Do What U Want " debuted at number nine on the UK charts with sales of 29 @, @ 657 copies becoming her 11th top @- @ ten single there . It also entered the Scottish Singles Chart at the same position . " Do What U Want " became Gaga 's 13th best selling single in the United Kingdom , and was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for selling over 400 @, @ 000 copies .

= = Live performances = =

Gaga performed the song live along with " Venus " on the tenth series of The X Factor ( UK ) on October 27 , 2013 , at Fountain Studio in Wembley . Jason Lipshutz from Billboard denoted it as " intoxicatingly weird " . ITV , which aired the performance , and Ofcom , the British media regulator , received around 260 complaints regarding the performance , due to Gaga 's costume and the suggestive lyrics of the track , which was broadcast before the 9pm watershed . A spokesperson from the channel released a statement that they did not believe the performance to be inappropriate . During her ArtRave party for the release of Artpop , Gaga performed eight songs from the album , closing the set with " Do What U Want " . The performance ended with the singer mirroring the pose of the album cover art ? a Jeff Koons sculpture ? on the stage , by sitting down and spreading her legs apart , while cupping her breasts . On November 16 , 2013 , Gaga performed " Do What U Want " at episode 751 of the 39th season of comedy show Saturday Night Live . Kelly appeared as the guest vocalist , doing the similar routine with Gaga , and picking her up from the stage on his shoulder . There was also sex simulations , dry humping and they ended the performance in an embrace . According to Zach Johnson from E ! , the performance drew mixed reaction from the media .

Gaga had revealed during ArtRave that she and Kelly would perform " Do What U Want " at the American Music Awards of 2013 on November 24 . During the performance , Gaga enacted the role of a secretary for the President of the United States , which was played by Kelly . The stage was set up to be reminiscent of the Oval Office . Gaga belted out the final chorus of the song alone , as the backdrops displayed a video of the singer playing a piano as a child . The epilogue featured self @- @ depreciating newspaper headlines in the backdrops , proclaiming " Lady Gaga is Over " and " Lady Gaga is Fat " . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard called it " the most elaborate performance " of the ceremony and found parallels with Kelly 's own rap opera Trapped in the Closet in its storytelling .

At the British chat show , Alan Carr : Chatty Man , Gaga performed another acoustic version of the track . Wearing a Kansai Yamamoto bodice with an iPad attached to it , Gaga belted out the song

while playing the piano . Another performance took place at the 2013 Jingle Bell Ball on December 8 , 2013 , where she sang " Do What U Want " along with other songs from her discography . It was first announced that Gaga would perform on the fifth season finale of The Voice on December 12 , 2013 , with the assumption that R. Kelly would accompany her during a performance of " Do What U Want " . However , a television commercial aired on December 17 , the evening of the finale , teased that " Christina joins Lady Gaga for one epic performance " ; they sung " Do What U Want " as the final performance of the evening . Both appeared in " matching clothes " with few differences , Gaga wore a " jumpsuit all sharp , off @-@ kilter angles " , while Aguilera was dressed in a " slinky @-@ sexy gown emphasizing her smooth curves " . A writer from Rap @-@ Up praised it as an " over @-@ the @-@ top " performance . Los Angeles Times writer Amy Reiter commended the pair 's vocal ability as " triumphant " . On the 2014 ArtRave : The Artpop Ball tour , the song was performed after " Paparazzi " . Gaga perched atop a silver chair shaped like a hand , and sang the song . Kelly 's verses were removed from the live rendition . Eric Leijon from The Gazette praised the song saying that it had " earned [ its ] place alongside crowd pleasers ' Paparazzi ' and ' Bad Romance ' " from Gaga 's catalogue of hits .

= = Music video = =

Gaga confirmed the director during her ArtRave party , along with Kelly 's presence in the video and spoke about their " chemistry " . Richardson and Gaga had previously shot the " Cake Like Lady Gaga " snippet video , featuring the singer playing with cake . He had been wanting to do music videos for some time , and started his work in the medium with the video for Miley Cyrus ' single " Wrecking Ball " and Beyoncé 's " XO " . After her provocative performance of the song on Saturday Night Live , many interviewers had questioned Gaga regarding her chemistry with Kelly , leading the singer to tweet the following message : " Many interviewers quelped today about my ' SHOCKING ' performance w / R Kelly on SNL I'm beginning to think y 'all aren 't ready for the video . "

On November 26 , 2013 , Interscope announced that the video would be released through file sharing service BitTorrent and Vice , sometime in December 2013 . This is BitTorrent 's second initiative , following a similar release for singer Madonna and her secretprojectrevolution video . The bundle would consist of the music video , pictures , a separate clip in 4K resolution documenting the making of the release , and interviews with Gaga and director Richardson . Interscope described the bundle as a means of " explor [ ing ] the link between open expression and open technology ; providing an inside look at the creative process , with original film , music , archival content and behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage direct from artists . "

On December 4 , 2013 , Gaga tweeted that she was intent on making the video " perfect " since it was unlike her previous endeavors , adding that it was " very personal " . Two days later , Richardson posted a black @-@ and @-@ white photo from the set of the video , which showed Gaga being held by Kelly ; with her legs wrapped around his waist . She wore nothing but a black bikini , while Kelly gestured his middle finger towards the camera in a leather pant / kilt dress . One week later , a colored behind @-@ the @-@ scenes photo was released , showing the singers in the same garments as the previous image , while Kelly stood with his legs spread apart as Gaga crawled in between them .

However the bundle as well as the video was not released in December ; Gaga later released a statement in her social networking website Little Monsters that the video was delayed since the singer was given just one week to plan and complete it , like the video for " Applause " . She added that it was unlike her since she preferred planning her videos over a period of time to honor her creativity . The video remained unreleased despite Gaga releasing the official video for follow @-@ up single , " G.U.Y. " On June 19 , 2014 , celebrity news website TMZ published previously unseen footage from the video showing sexually suggestive scenes . In one of them , Kelly , playing a doctor , reaches under a sheet covering a naked Gaga , causing her to moan . In another scene , Richardson appeared to be photographing Gaga as she writhes on newspapers . According to the TMZ report , the video was cancelled possibly due to weariness and fear of backlash for Kelly 's past trial on child pornography , as well as sexual harassment claims by several models who had

previously worked with Richardson .

= = Remixes = =

= = = DJWS Remix = = =

The DJWS Remix of " Do What U Want " featuring R. Kelly and rapper Rick Ross was released on December 20 , 2013 . Ross told in an interview with MTV that he was not prepared for collaborating with Gaga . The remix starts with Kelly 's vocals with a new introduction , followed by Ross rapping on a verse , adding new lines like " Photos of the Bawse just to post ' em on a blog / Get alotta views cause they know we be the top / Jean Basquiats in the hall , she my work of art so I pin her to the wall . " During Gaga 's vocals , the " groove " of the song is updated which was described by Fuse as " nostalgic , banging , sex @-@ freaky and new all at the same time . It 's a 2013 ode to another era of synth R & B. " Molly Wardlow from the channel was however dismissive of Ross ' verse , calling it unnecessary . Spin magazine 's Chris Martin noted that Ross ' contribution to " Do What U Want " sounded " awkward " and found similarity with Jay @-@ Z 's rap verse in singer Beyoncé 's song , " Drunk in Love " . Mike Wass from Idolator commented that the remix felt unnecessary , following controversy in the media surrounding Ross ' lyrics in the song " U.O.E.N.O. " about date rape , and recapitulation of Kelly 's child @-@ sex abuse case .

= = = Remix featuring Christina Aguilera = = =

An alternate studio version of " Do What U Want " featuring Christina Aguilera was released on January 1 , 2014 ; it marks their first collaboration . The song was released in the US , Canada and Mexico on January 1 , 2014 and then released a day later worldwide . On December 24 , Aguilera tweeted that she was " working on something special " and attached an image of her singing in a recording studio . The session took place in the living room of singer Carly Simon 's home at Martha 's Vineyard , with assistance from Oak Bluffs @-@ based producer Jimmy Parr . The following week , it was announced that a revised studio version of " Do What U Want " would be released , where the original vocals by Kelly are substituted for a verse performed by Aguilera .

The final product was digitally released shortly after midnight on January 1 , 2014 . On February 11 , 2014 , Gaga uploaded four other remixes of the version with Aguilera , all commissioned by Interscope and mixed by Steven Redant . The Aguilera remix received generally favorable reviews from music critics ; Melissa Locker from Time felt that the re @-@ recorded version of the track " will allow more sales of the track without the moral dilemma that comes with supporting Kelly " , who had previously been charged and acquitted for child pornography in the 2000s , and also complimented Gaga as a " savvy marketer " for releasing " two versions of a hit song with two different megastars " .

= = Formats and track listings = =

Digital download

" Do What U Want " feat . R. Kelly ? 3 : 48

Digital download ? remix single

" Do What U Want " feat . R. Kelly and Rick Ross ( DJWS Remix ) ? 4 : 19

Digital download ? remix single

" Do What U Want " feat . Christina Aguilera ? 3 : 36

Digital remixes EP

" Do What U Want " feat . R. Kelly ( DJ White Shadow Remix ) ? 4 : 03

" Do What U Want " feat . R. Kelly ( Samantha Ronson Remix ) ? 4 : 27

" Do What U Want " feat . R. Kelly ( Kronic Remix ) ? 5 : 12

" Do What U Want " feat . Christina Aguilera ( Steven Redant Madrid Radio Remix ) ? 4 : 00

" Do What U Want " feat . Christina Aguilera ( Steven Redant Madrid Club Remix ) ? 7 : 31

" Do What U Want " feat . Christina Aguilera ( Steven Redant Barcelona Remix ) ? 6 : 28

" Do What U Want " feat . Christina Aguilera ( Red Ant & Amp Lexvas Deep House Remix ) ? 6 : 50

= = Credits and personnel = =

#### Management

Recorded at Record Plant Studios , Hollywood , California and PatchWerk Recording Studios , West Midtown , Atlanta , Georgia

R. Kelly appears courtesy of RCA Records , a division of Sony Music Entertainment

Stefani Germanotta P / K / A Lady Gaga ( BMI ) Sony ATV Songs LLC / Haus of Gaga Publishing , LLC / GloJoe Music Inc . ( BMI ) , Maxwell and Carter Publishing , LLC ( ASCAP ) , Administered by Universal Music Publishing Group , Etrange Fruit ( SACEM ) , Fuzion ( SACEM ) , Administered by Get Familiar Music ( ASCAP ) , R. Kelly Publishing Inc . / Universal Music ? Z Music LLC ( BMI )

#### Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Artpop .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =