

= Silly Love Songs (Glee) =

" Silly Love Songs " is the twelfth episode of the second season of the American musical television series Glee , and the thirty @-@ fourth overall . The Valentine 's Day @-@ themed episode was written by series creator Ryan Murphy , directed by Tate Donovan , and premiered on Fox on February 8 , 2011 . In this episode , Director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) assigns the McKinley High School glee club to perform love songs in honor of Valentine 's Day . Club member Finn Hudson (Cory Monteith) sets up a kissing booth for the occasion , to take advantage of his rising popularity and raise money for the club . At the Dalton Academy , Blaine Anderson (Darren Criss) and the Dalton Academy Warblers make plans to perform a musical number outside of the campus , and Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) confesses his love for Blaine .

" Silly Love Songs " was met with critical acclaim , with much of the praise stemming from the character development and the musical performances . Melissa Maerz of the Los Angeles Times , Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club , and Lisa de Moraes of The Washington Post all deemed the storyline as entertaining , while Joel Keller of the TV Squad went on to call the episode " the best episode of the season . " The episode features cover versions of six songs , including a cover of " P.Y.T. " by Michael Jackson and " My Funny Valentine " from the musical Babes in Arms . Many of the covers and performances were met with positive reception from critics and fans alike , with much of the praise going to the Glee covers of " Fat Bottomed Girls " by Queen and " Silly Love Songs " by Paul McCartney , respectively . All songs with the exception of " My Funny Valentine " were released as singles and made available for digital download .

Upon its initial airing , the episode was watched by just under 11 @.@ 58 million American viewers , and it garnered a 4 @.@ 6 / 13 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . Both the total viewership and ratings were significantly down from the previous episode , " The Sue Sylvester Shuffle " , which aired immediately after the Super Bowl .

= = Plot = =

Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) gives New Directions a love song assignment . Having fallen for the group 's newest member Lauren Zizes (Ashley Fink) , Puck (Mark Salling) serenades her with Queen 's " Fat Bottomed Girls " . Lauren finds his song choice insulting and stands him up on a pre @-@ Valentine 's date , but eventually agrees to spend Valentine 's Day with him as friends .

Artie Abrams (Kevin McHale) and Mike Chang (Harry Shum , Jr .) celebrate their respective relationships by performing Michael Jackson 's " P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) " for their girlfriends , Brittany Pierce (Heather Morris) and Tina Cohen @-@ Chang (Jenna Ushkowitz) . Tina later begins to sing " My Funny Valentine " to Mike , but is too overcome with emotion , and begins to cry while continuing to sing .

Finn Hudson (Cory Monteith) sets up a kissing booth , to take advantage of his popularity in the hope of kissing his ex @-@ girlfriend Quinn Fabray (Dianna Agron) . He also wants to donate the proceeds to the glee club . Quinn initially refuses to buy a kiss from Finn , but does so at the insistence of her boyfriend Sam Evans (Chord Overstreet) , who is suspicious of their relationship . The kiss further re @-@ ignites Finn and Quinn 's feelings for one another , and they begin an affair . Santana Lopez (Naya Rivera) , angry for having recently had her bad behavior highlighted by the other club members , conspires to give them mono and reveal Quinn 's infidelity . Finn 's most recent ex @-@ girlfriend Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) is dismayed by his renewed feelings for Quinn , but resolves to concentrate on her career instead of romance , and leads the female New Directions members in a performance of Katy Perry 's " Firework " .

At Dalton Academy , a private school attended by former New Directions member Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) , the object of his affection Blaine Anderson (Darren Criss) announces his intention to sing a love song to his crush . Kurt believes that Blaine has feelings for him , so is disappointed when his crush turns out to be Jeremiah (Alexander Nifong) , the assistant manager at a local Gap store . The Dalton Academy Warblers accompany Blaine as he serenades Jeremiah with Robin

Thicke 's " When I Get You Alone " . Jeremiah is subsequently fired and rebuffs Blaine . Kurt confesses his feelings to Blaine , who tells Kurt that he cares for him but is terrible at romance , and does not want to risk damaging their friendship . The episode ends with New Directions assembled at Breadstix , a local restaurant , where the Warblers perform the titular " Silly Love Songs " .

= = Production = =

" Silly Love Songs " was first announced by Glee co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy in an interview with a German journalist . The name of the episode and its airdate were announced shortly after the announcement of the show getting a short @-@ term hiatus due to various cast members contracting the flu . Inspiration for the episode may be partially related to a lobbying effort by Paul McCartney to have covers of songs by The Beatles incorporated into Glee . In an interview with various reporters at the 2010 Teen Choice Awards , Murphy revealed that he received a mixtape that was sent from McCartney , who is reportedly a fan of the series . Recurring characters who appear in this episode include glee club members Mike Chang (Harry Shum , Jr .) , Sam Evans (Chord Overstreet) , and Lauren Zizes (Ashley Fink) , football coach Shannon Beiste (Dot @-@ Marie Jones) , and Blaine Anderson (Darren Criss) the lead singer of the Dalton Academy Warblers .

" Silly Love Songs " features cover versions of six songs : Katy Perry 's " Firework " , Queen 's " Fat Bottomed Girls " , Michael Jackson 's " P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) " , " My Funny Valentine " from the musical Babes in Arms , " When I Get You Alone " by Robin Thicke , and " Silly Love Songs " by Paul McCartney and his band Wings . This was the fourth time a song by Katy Perry was used in a Glee episode , with the previous covers being " I Kissed a Girl " in the pilot , " Teenage Dream " on the episode " Never Been Kissed " and " California Gurls " on the previous episode " The Sue Sylvester Shuffle " . All songs with the exception of " My Funny Valentine " were released as singles and made available for digital download . All five singles were included on Glee soundtrack albums : " Firework " , " P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) " , and " Fat Bottomed Girls " were featured in the sixth soundtrack album , Glee : The Music , Volume 5 , while " Silly Love Songs " and " When I Get You Alone " were featured on the seventh , Glee : The Music Presents the Warblers .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Silly Love Songs " was originally broadcast in the United States on Fox on February 8 , 2011 . It received just under 11 @.@ 58 million American viewers upon its initial airing , despite airing simultaneously with NCIS on CBS , The Biggest Loser on NBC , No Ordinary Family on ABC , and One Tree Hill on The CW . It garnered a 4 @.@ 6 / 13 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , the highest rating of the night . This episode 's total viewership and ratings were significantly down from the previous episode , " The Sue Sylvester Shuffle " , which was watched by over 26 @.@ 8 million American viewers and received an 11 @.@ 1 / 29 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

In Canada , where it also aired on February 8 , 2011 , the episode was watched by over 2 @.@ 08 million viewers . It ranked number ten in the most @-@ watched television programs of the week . The total viewership slightly declined from the previous episode , which attained 2 @.@ 16 million viewers , as well as being the ninth most @-@ watched television program of the week . In Australia , where the episode aired on February 21 , 2011 , it was viewed by 921 @,@ 000 viewers upon its initial airing . It was the eleventh most @-@ watched program on the night . The episode 's total viewership declined at a marginal rate from the previous episode , which drew 1 @.@ 13 million viewers , and was the fourth most @-@ watched program of the night and the most @-@ watched in the 18 ? 49 demographic . It placed tenth in the weekly viewership rankings . In the UK , the episode was watched by 2 @.@ 629 million viewers (2 @.@ 233 million on E4 , and 396 @,@ 000

on E4 + 1) , becoming the most @-@ watched show on E4 and E4 + 1 for the week , and the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week .

= = = Critical response = = =

" Silly Love Songs " was met with critical acclaim from many television critics upon its initial airing . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone gave a very positive review of the episode , and wrote , " This was our favorite type of Glee episode . Though we enjoy over @-@ the @-@ top spectacles [...] , the show 's real cleverness shines when they take songs from across the board and fit them into a cohesive storyline . Sue Sylvester didn 't make an appearance and ? dare we say it ? we didn 't even miss her . " Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle enjoyed the episode , going on to write , " I thought it was a strong showing , if a little disjointed . Well , at least it was honest . If this show is one thing , it 's disjointed . It 's part of its spazzy appeal . " Melissa Maerz of the Los Angeles Times gave the episode a positive review : " On Tuesday night , Glee wasn 't only back at its usual time , it was back to doing what it does best : giving us entertaining [...] storylines involving characters we care about who sing songs that emerge organically and advance the story . It was like a perfect heart @-@ shaped bubble of an episode reminding the show 's fans about all the things we 've missed about the show these last couple of months . "

Robert Canning of IGN also gave the episode a positive review , and opined , " With the dissing of glee club temporarily put on hold , Glee the series was able to have a little fun with Tuesday night 's episode . And fun it was , with the gang of New Directions taking on Valentine 's Day , with flirting , kissing and , of course , singing . Without the bullying , this was a much lighter episode of Glee , and the results gave way to a lot more laughs and story development . " He went on to praise Ashley Fink 's performance as Lauren Zizes , and said of Puck 's falling in love with Lauren , " I can 't decide if I want to root for this couple , but I certainly know I 'm going to be rooting for Lauren . " Canning ultimately gave the episode an 8 @.@ 5 out of 10 . Wyndham Wyeth of Paste went on to praise the episode for its depiction of relationships in high school , as well as the backing vocals for Salling 's performance of " Fat Bottomed Girls " by Queen . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club gave the episode a positive review and a grade of " A ? " : " ' Silly Love Songs ' is a fine example of the show at what 's very nearly its absolute best . There 's nothing too heady here , but if the show has one tone that it 's nailed almost completely consistently , it 's the feeling of teenage romance , the sense that the person you 're in love with is the only person you will ever be in love with [...] followed almost immediately by the crippling feeling of heartbreak , of losing that person too soon . Teenage life moves fast and is filled with heightened emotions . And like most musicals , Glee has always been at its best when it embraces those two sides of its characters ' lives . As such , ' Silly Love Songs ' , which is pretty much just an excuse to play around with the show 's many romantic pairings among its glee club characters , is a lot of fun without trying all that hard . " In conclusion of his review , he wrote , " The best episodes play that elation and devastation off of each other . The worst episodes flounder about for some sort of emotional foothold . But when Glee just tells small , sweet stories about these kids and the ways they 're trying to cope with being in high school when they know they 're meant for bigger things , it can be terrific . Tonight was one of those episodes , and tonight 's episode was terrific . Here 's to a good February sweeps . "

Matt Richenthal of TV Fanatic gave the episode a 4 @.@ 6 out of 5 stars , and went on to describe the episode as " A funny , touching , entertaining Glee episode that didn 't feature a single line from Sue Sylvester ? I never thought I 'd see the day . But that 's exactly what transpired on ' Silly Love Songs ' , as the show stopped feeling like a Public Service Announcement for a week and actually focused on well @-@ paced , well @-@ written relationship developments among its core characters . " Joel Keller of TV Squad gave the episode a positive review , and wrote , " ' Silly Love Songs ' strikes an interesting contrast to Sunday night 's post @-@ Super Bowl episode in that tonight was more about the kids and where they are in their stories than about big production numbers and Sue 's cartoon evilness . It was also the funniest episode of the season , in no small part because we got some insight into the lives of two New Directions members we rarely get to hang out with for any length of time : Santana and Lauren . " James Poniewozik of Time Magazine

praised the storyline and the musical performances of the episode . However , Soraya Roberts of the Daily News gave the episode a negative review : " This show sometimes sounds like it was written by a PIT , prime idiot TV writer . It 's almost as bad as Tina breaking down into tears for no reason while singing ' My Funny Valentine ' to Mike and Blaine attempting to channel Frank Sinatra while singing Paul McCartney 's ' Silly Love Songs ' in the middle of Breadsticks . " Lisa de Moraes of The Washington Post praised the storyline , calling it cohesive .

= = = Musical performances = = =

The musical covers and performances for the episode were mostly well received by critics and fans alike . Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly stated that her favorite was " Silly Love Songs " by Paul McCartney , performed by the Warblers . In a review of the performance , she wrote , " This is much more Warbler @-@ esque than ' When I Get You Alone ' . I had also been worried we wouldn 't get our weekly dose of dorky Warbler dance moves . Plus , major points for the blink @-@ and @-@ you 'll @-@ miss @-@ it moment when Blaine sang the love ' won 't come at all ' line to Santana . It was probably my personal biggest laugh @-@ out @-@ loud moment of the episode . " She gave the performance an " A " . She also praised Puck 's performance of " Fat Bottomed Girls " , and opined , " In general , I 'm in love with Mark Salling 's voice . He 's right up there with Artie [...] in my book . And this song was smothered in awesome sauce . Bonus points for Puck 's sort @-@ of @-@ feminine head bob , Brittany 's background groovin ' , the club 's reactions to him singing to Lauren , and Mr. Schu 's mild eye @-@ roll . " She went on to give the performance an " A ? " . Kristin Coachman of the Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer was a bit more critical of Puck 's cover of the song : " This week Mark Salling [...] is singing Queen 's ' Fat Bottomed Girls ' . I know this song fits in with Puck 's storyline for the episode , but I feel like the song was in the wrong key for him . At times it sounded like he was straining to hit the higher notes . Because of this , I have to wonder if the backing vocals are purposely drowning his voice out . It seems depending on the song selection for him , Salling 's vocal performances continue to be very hit or miss this season . "

Tina 's cover of " My Funny Valentine " stirred mixed emotions in Gonzalez . She criticized the ending : " When she started sobbing , it got weird . Then weirder . Then downright uncomfortable . " However , she liked the earlier part of the performance , and wrote , " It was übersweet when Tina started getting choked up during her song , because let 's face it , it happens . You can love someone so much it hurts . If she would have continued the song with a mild lump in her throat , I think I might have gotten choked up with her . "

Rachel 's cover of " Firework " by Katy Perry was reviewed negatively by Coachman . She wrote , " I 'm not loving Michele 's vocals on this track . It was like they wanted to purposely make her sound like Katy Perry . As much as I really like Katy Perry , Michele has more of a tremendous voice . There are parts where I thought she sounded really great , but for the most part this song just wasn 't my cup of tea . Michele has such a beautiful voice ; I wish she was given songs that would allow her to showcase it to her advantage . " Katie Morgan of Billboard gave a positive review of the Warblers ' performance of " Silly Love Songs " , writing , " Not only do they sound great [...] , but the song brings a sugary sweet end to a super @-@ saccharine episode . " The Marquee Blog at CNN gave the music numbers a positive review . A notable segment reads : " I just loved seeing The Warblers get their groove on amidst the jeans and cotton T @-@ shirts . And Kurt was super gracious trying to be supportive of Blaine , in spite of his own feelings . I also totally loved the music [...] and overall this was one of my favorite episodes this season . Brett Berk of Vanity Fair praised Salling 's performance of " Fat Bottomed Girls " , as well as the casts ' performances of " P.Y.T. " by Michael Jackson and " When I get You Alone " by Robin Thicke . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone gave Salling 's performance a positive review . She wrote , " We were thoroughly entertained by Puck 's attempt to win newbie Lauren Zizes over with his tribute to her larger figure . Only in Puck 's world would Queen 's raucous song qualify as a serenade ? and our horror @-@ turned @-@ amusement was mirrored on his fellow New Directions ' faces . Puck is no Freddie Mercury , but he handles the melody well and makes up for lack of range with swagger . "

== Chart history ==

All five of the cover versions released as singles debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 , and appeared on other musical charts . With these new Hot 100 debuts , plus the debut the same week of " She 's Not There " from the prior episode " The Sue Sylvester Shuffle " , which had aired two days before " Silly Love Songs " , the Glee Cast passed Elvis Presley 's record of 108 singles on the Hot 100 , reaching 113 singles . The cast had nine songs on the Hot 100 that week , a new record for them . The show 's rendition of " Firework " debuted at number thirty @-@ four ; it was at number thirty @-@ five on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 . The other four songs from this episode on the Hot 100 were " Silly Love Songs " at number forty @-@ five , which also made number fifty @-@ four on the Canadian Hot 100 , " When I Get You Alone " at number forty @-@ seven , which also made number sixty @-@ one on the Canadian Hot 100 , " Fat Bottomed Girls " at number fifty @-@ six , which also made number fifty on the Canadian Hot 100 , and " P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) " at number fifty @-@ eight , which also made number sixty @-@ nine on the Canadian Hot 100 .