

= Birthday ( Selena Gomez song ) =

" Birthday " is a song by American recording artist Selena Gomez for her solo debut album Stars Dance ( 2013 ) . It was written and produced by Mike Del Rio , with additional writing by Crista Russo and Jacob Kasher Hindlin . Matt Beckley also provided additional vocal production for the song . Musically , " Birthday " combines deep electronic dance beats and police sirens with elements of trap music . The song 's instrumentation is created by blending purring , synthesized bass , snappy beats , handclaps , " oxygen @-@ sucking " sub @-@ bass , and trap snares with sexual moans and elements of hip hop music . Sparse drum beats and vocal chants are woven throughout the song 's composition , which has been described by critics as a mixture of electropunk and EDM , with trap and dubstep elements . The song was originally announced as a single , but was never officially released from the album .

Thematically , " Birthday " is a party song which discusses topics such as sexual appeal , self @-@ entitlement , and girl power , while its risqué lyrics speak of a night of hard partying . The song has received comparisons to the music of several artists , including Dev , M.I.A. , and Icona Pop . Upon release , " Birthday " received favorable reviews from music critics , who praised the song for its unique sound and production . Upon the release of Stars Dance , the song charted at number 12 on the US Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles . " Birthday " has charted at number 191 on the South Korea Gaon International Chart due to high digital downloads . An accompanying music video for the song was released on July 22 , 2013 , to coincide with Gomez 's 21st birthday , and features Gomez and her friends partying and singing the song in different locations , including an underground nightclub and a dark room .

= = Background and recording = =

" Birthday " was written by Crista Russo , with additional writing by Mike Del Rio and Jacob Kasher Hindlin , under his stage name " J. Kash " . Production of the song was handled by Del Rio and Matt Beckley , who provided the song 's vocal production . It was recorded at Conway Studios in Los Angeles , California , and was engineered by Jonathan Sher . Additional background vocals were done by Russo and Del Rio , while Serban Ghenea mixed the song at MixStar Studios in Virginia Beach , Virginia . John Hanes served as the engineer for mix , and Del Rio provided the song 's programming and sequencing .

= = Composition = =

" Birthday " was written and produced by Mike Del Rio , with additional writing by Crista Russo and Jacob Kasher Hindlin . Additional vocal production was handled by Matt Beckley . The three @-@ minute and twenty @-@ second track is an electropunk and EDM song , which draws influence from dubstep and trap music genres . The beat is composed of deep electronic dance beats , and is built around the sound of police sirens and sexual moans , while containing purring , synthesized bass , snappy beats , handclaps , " oxygen @-@ sucking " sub @-@ bass and trap snares . Sparse drum beats and vocal chants are woven throughout the song 's composition , which according to Christina Drill of Popdust , is reminiscent of Gwen Stefani 's debut solo album , Love . Angel . Music . Baby . ( 2004 ) .

Thematically , " Birthday " has been described as a " party anthem " , with the song exploring topics such as self @-@ entitlement , partying , girl power , and sex appeal . Lyrically , the song has been described as risqué , with lyrics such as " blow your dreams , blow your dreams , blow your dreams away " . According to Gomez , the song has a vibe similar to that of the Gwen Stefani song " Hollaback Girl " . " Birthday " has received comparisons to several artists for its unique genre , most notably Dev , M.I.A. , and Icona Pop . Julia Rubin of Headlines and Global News described the song as a " candy @-@ coated , clap @-@ happy club anthem with plenty of girl power and sex appeal , much like a bubblegum version of Rihanna 's " Cockiness ( Love It ) " , while Jim Farber of New York Daily News said that " Birthday " " has the bratty sense of entitlement , flagrant delivery and

braying hook of Icona Pop ? s smash ? I Love It . ?

= = Critical reception = =

Upon its release , " Birthday " received favorable reviews from music critics . Natalie Palmer of Entertainment Wise said Gomez should be praised for trying something new , saying that the song " isn't what you would expect from Selena but the genre suits her well . " In a positive review , August Brown of The Los Angeles Times jokingly said the song was " almost as good as having shorts in every color . " Kia Makarechi of The Huffington Post was critical of " Birthday " , criticizing the song 's lyrics , as well as calling the song 's panting and moaning " overwrought " and " excessive " . Christina Drill of Popdust gave the song a highly positive 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 review , declaring it " super fun " and catchy , while later going on to say " Birthday " is " the weirdest and greatest thing Selena 's ever done " .

= = Music video = =

On July 22 , 2013 , Gomez unexpectedly uploaded a music video for " Birthday " to her official YouTube channel to coincide with her 21st birthday . Gomez left a short message , saying " I wanted to celebrate my 21st Birthday with all of you , so we made this video for us all to celebrate together . Thank You for all the love and support you have shown and continue to show me . I love you all so much ! ! " In the video , a " smiley " Gomez is seen in a black crop top and shorts with a flannel shirt around her waist , and is shown singing the song with her friends in a dark room . The video is also interspersed with clips of a party in an underground night club , as glitter falls from the ceiling . The video ends with Gomez 's friends singing " Happy Birthday " to her . Within the first 24 hours of being released , the video had garnered over a million views .

= = Awards and nominations = =

= = Chart positions = =

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Birthday " ? 3 : 20