

= Angel Beats ! =

Angel Beats ! (???????? ! , Enjeru B?tsu !) is a 13 @-@ episode Japanese anime television series produced by P.A.Works and Aniplex and directed by Seiji Kishi . The story was originally conceived by Jun Maeda , who also wrote the screenplay and composed the music with the group Anant @-@ Garde Eyes , with original character design by Na @-@ Ga ; both Maeda and Na @-@ Ga are from the visual novel brand Key , who produced such titles as Kanon , Air , and Clannad . The anime aired in Japan between April 3 and June 26 , 2010 . An original video animation (OVA) episode was released in December 2010 , and a second OVA was released in June 2015 . The story takes place in the afterlife and focuses on Otonashi , a boy who lost his memories of his life after dying . He is enrolled into the afterlife school and meets a girl named Yuri who invites him to join the Afterlife Battlefront , an organization she leads which fights against the student council president Angel , a girl with supernatural powers .

Key worked in collaboration with ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki G 's Magazine to produce the project into a media franchise . Three manga series are serialized in Dengeki G 's Magazine and Dengeki G 's Comic : two illustrated by Haruka Komowata , and one drawn by Yuriko Asami . A series of illustrated short stories written by Maeda and illustrated by GotoP were also serialized in Dengeki G 's Magazine between the November 2009 and May 2010 issues . Two Internet radio shows were produced to promote Angel Beats ! . The first volume in a six @-@ part episodic visual novel adaptation produced by Key was released for Windows on June 26 , 2015 .

Angel Beats ! received generally positive reviews by critics . The integration of various individual elements together , such as musical performances , humor and action , was commended in one review but panned in another , saying that the story was overloaded with too many elements . P.A.Works was praised for the animation of the action sequences and attention to detail with the weapons used . A major flaw noted by critics , however , is that the anime is too short , which leaves many of the characters with untold back @-@ stories . The anime was selected as a recommended work by the awards jury of the 14th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2010 .

= = Plot = =

Angel Beats ! takes place at a high school acting as a limbo for those who have died , where students learn to give up any lingering attachments they still have from life before passing on . Those in the afterlife school can still feel pain as they did when they were alive , as well as dying again , only to awaken later with no injuries . The story follows the main protagonist Otonashi , a boy who has lost his memories of his life after dying . He meets Yuri , a girl who invites him to join the Afterlife Battlefront (???????? , Shinda Sekai Sensen , (SSS)) , an organization she founded and leads which fights against God for the negative experiences the SSS members went through in life . In the SSS , there is a four @-@ girl band named Girls Dead Monster that acts as a diversion during missions , and an organization called the Guild that mass @-@ produces weapons out of dirt and supplies them to the SSS . Their only enemy is Angel , a girl who uses her supernatural powers to fight against the SSS . Angel creates her powers with the aid of a computer program called Angel Player . The rest of the afterlife school is populated by a large number of " normal " students and teachers Yuri deems " non @-@ player characters " (NPCs) , which are not human but look and act the part .

The first of the characters to fulfill her dream and pass on is Iwasawa , the leader of Girls Dead Monster . Angel , whose real name is Kanade Tachibana , loses her position as student council president and the vice president Naoi succeeds her . Naoi uses powers of hypnosis to control NPCs to fight for his own interests against the SSS , but Otonashi stops him after acknowledging Naoi 's existence and he subsequently joins the SSS . Otonashi regains his memories with the aid of Naoi 's hypnosis and agrees to continue with the SSS . Otonashi befriends Kanade and invites her to join in on SSS activities . After Otonashi fully remembers the details of his life and death , he starts cooperating with Kanade to help the other SSS members move on , and Kanade is reinstated as student council president in accordance with their plan . Yui , the girl who replaced Iwasawa after

she passed on , is the second of the characters who passes on .

When mysterious shadow monsters begin attacking the SSS , Takamatsu gets devoured by one , only to reappear as an NPC . Otonashi reasons with the other SSS members and many of them agree to pass on in lieu of becoming an NPC , including the rest of Girls Dead Monster , Chaa of the Guild , and several unnamed members . Yuri destroys the computers responsible for the shadow program , which was programmed to activate when love was detected in the world , to prevent it from becoming a true paradise and maintain its limbo state . Those who are left ? Otonashi , Yuri , Kanade , Hinata and Naoi ? hold a graduation ceremony where they thank each other for their support . After Naoi , Yuri and Hinata pass on , Otonashi learns that Kanade 's regret was not being able to thank him for the heart she received from Otonashi after his death . Otonashi is heartbroken after she thanks him and passes on , as he has fallen in love with her . In the epilogue , two people resembling Otonashi and Kanade meet each other on the street in the real world . In an alternative epilogue , Otonashi is shown to have stayed behind in the afterlife to help people pass on .

= = Characters = =

= = = Main characters = = =

Yuzuru Otonashi (?? ?? , Otonashi Yuzuru)

Voiced by : Hiroshi Kamiya (Japanese) ; Blake Shepard (English)

Otonashi is the main protagonist of Angel Beats ! . Due to his past , he has a caring personality and does not want anyone to experience pain or sadness . After dying , he lost his memories of the time when he was still alive , but later regains them . He had a younger sister , Hatsune (?? , Voiced by : Mai Nakahara (Japanese) ; Jessica Boone (English)) , who died of cancer and whom he cared for very much . When she died , he decided to go to school to become a doctor , but died in a train accident before he could take the entrance exam to college . Initially unskilled in any equipment , he starts to practice his marksmanship , and pulls through for the team when they are in danger . He carries a Glock 17 .

Yuri Nakamura (?? ?? , Nakamura Yuri)

Voiced by : Harumi Sakurai (Japanese) ; Brittney Karbowski (English)

Yuri , also known as Yurippe (????) , has a determined personality but is secretly very sensitive and protective . She invites Otonashi to join the SSS , an organization she founded and leads which fights against God . She is smart and decisive when making operations and decisions . She carries a silver Beretta 92 . Not only is she skilled with a gun , but she is also capable in close range hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat , which is shown when she fends off Angel 's hand sonic with a combat knife . She vowed to fight against God after her three younger siblings were murdered by burglars looking for valuables and never forgave herself for failing to prevent their deaths . She is an effective leader , but does not think so . She regrets even fighting with Kanade later in the story , because she feels she could have been great friends with her . She disappears after the graduation ceremony .

Angel (?? , Tenshi) / Kanade Tachibana (?? ??? , Tachibana Kanade)

Voiced by : Kana Hanazawa (Japanese) ; Emily Neves (English)

Angel is the student council president at the afterlife school . This places her at odds with the SSS as her responsibilities require her to suppress delinquency and other disruptive activities that the team does . The SSS initially calls her " Angel " since they do not know her real name , but they still refer to her by it even after finding out her real name to be Kanade Tachibana . It is difficult to understand what she is thinking due to her rarely showing any outward emotions and her way of talking bluntly . She is personally dedicated to helping others overcome their regrets and pass on . However , she often lacks a proper understanding of others , as she never thinks to try to explain to the SSS why she was doing what she did . She enjoys eating mapo doufu , a spicy dish .

Despite her gentle demeanor and small frame , she is incredibly powerful and near indestructible to the point of ejecting bullets out of her wounds during battle . She creates her powers known as "

guard skills " via a computer program called Angel Player . Her primary ability is " hand sonic " , a blade on one or both forearms with five forms . Other skills include but are not limited to : " distortion " , an invisible barrier that deflects bullets or other projectiles ; " delay " , which creates an after @-@ image to disorient opponents ; and " harmonics " , where a clone with a consciousness of its own is formed from the original . These abilities are activated at will ; however , her ability " overdrive " , which gives her great physical strength , is always on .

Hideki Hinata (?? ?? , Hinata Hideki)

Voiced by : Ry?hei Kimura (Japanese) ; David Matranga (English)

The protagonist of Angel Beats ! Heaven 's Door , Hinata is a bright , dependable guy who is the closest to Otonashi . He always tries to save his friends if he can and is a reliable force in the team . He and Yui constantly irritate one another on a daily basis , but deep down , he cares for Yui , as shown when he helps her pass on by telling her he would marry her . He is a talented baseball player , and his regret in life was his failure to catch a baseball , which cost his team an important baseball game . He nicknamed Yuri as Yurippe when they co @-@ founded the SSS as he did not feel comfortable calling her Yuri , because his mother has the same name . He has shown romantic feelings towards Yuri in Heaven 's Door . He died from getting hit by a truck . He uses an RPK @-@ 74 and an S & W 645 .

= = = Supporting characters = = =

Ayato Naoi (?? ?? , Naoi Ayato)

Voiced by : Megumi Ogata (Japanese) ; Greg Ayres (English)

Naoi is a human originally thought to be a non @-@ player character (non @-@ human) . After he died , Naoi developed hypnotic powers that allow him to control others and cause them to enter a dream @-@ like state . In life , he was the son of a famous potter . However , it was his twin brother who had the talent in pottery and as a result , Naoi was ignored by everyone . When his brother died , he was made to replace him by his father and was given strict training in pottery . As a result , he felt as if his own life was fake and all he wanted was to be acknowledged for his own existence . He later befriends Otonashi after he acknowledges him and joins the SSS . As acting student council president for a time and self @-@ proclaimed God , Naoi is strict and arrogant , but this is quick to disperse when Otonashi chastises him . He is affectionate to Otonashi , much to the latter 's chagrin , and always tries to earn his affection . He uses dual USP 45 handguns .

Takamatsu (??)

Voiced by : Takahiro Mizushima (Japanese) ; Kalob Martinez (eps . 1 ? 7) , Illich Guardiola (eps . 8 ? 13) (English)

Takamatsu is an honor student who has a polite personality and wears glasses . He mainly contributes to the SSS through intelligence gathering and other affairs but does not actively fight . Yuri herself says to not be fooled by his glasses and that he is actually an idiot . Though appearing to be slender , he works out and is actually well @-@ built muscle @-@ wise . After he first reveals this , he tends to take his shirt off , much to everyone 's discomfort . He is absorbed by a shadow and is turned into an NPC . However , having strong enough feelings (according to Yuri) , he is able to regain his senses and manages to disappear like the others . He carries a Desert Eagle as a side @-@ arm , but is also seen using a Sig 552 .

Noda (??)

Voiced by : Shun Takagi (Japanese) ; Leraldo Anzaldua (English)

Noda is a self @-@ reliant young man who executes the strategies formed by the SSS and fights with a halberd . He does not listen to anyone other than Yuri , for whom he has adoration , and is antagonistic to almost everyone else . He has a one @-@ sided rivalry with Otonashi . He is a complete idiot whose weakness is education ; at one point , Takeyama is able to knock him out by reciting pi . He is not afraid to harm or kill anyone who gets in Yuri 's way . Though he prefers to fight with his halberd , he sometimes uses guns out of necessity , the type of weaponry that he hates .

Eri Shiina (?? ?? , Shiina Eri)

Voiced by : F?ko Sait? (Japanese) ; Melissa Davis (English)

Shiina is a female ninja who fights with dual @-@ wielding kodachi and shuriken . She is able to sense when danger is coming and is a highly capable fighter . Despite her serious demeanor , she has a weakness for cute things like stuffed animals . She is strict in her training and is very self @-@ critical when she fails , especially to a newcomer like Otonashi . She decides that her weakness is having little concentration . She is shown balancing a broom and other objects with her fingers for long amounts of time . She rarely speaks but will normally remark " how shallow @-@ minded " or " how foolish " (" this is so stupid " in the English dub) whenever the obvious or something stupid is said . As she did not have a name when she arrived in the afterlife , Yuri named her Shiina after her callsign , ' C7 ' (Shi @-@ nana) .

Yusa (??)

Voiced by : Yui Makino (Japanese) ; Serena Varghese (eps . 1 ? 9) , Elizabeth Bunch (ep . 10 , OVA) (English)

Yusa is an operator in the SSS who conveys the state of the battlefield to Yuri . She is a calm and gentle mannered girl with a straightforward character . Much like Angel , she does not express her emotions and is called scary by Otonashi and Hinata . She cannot calm down without her earphone . She rarely talks , and she sometimes hurts others ' feelings even though she does not mean it .

Fujimaki (??)

Voiced by : Y?ki Masuda (Japanese) ; Andrew Love (English)

Fujimaki is a delinquent who fights with a long shirasaya , and he is similar in character to Noda . He picks on Otonashi when he initially joins the SSS . He cannot swim . He uses a PPSH @-@ 41 submachine gun .

TK

Voiced by : Michael Rivas (Japanese) ; Adam Van Wagoner (English)

TK is a mysterious character who wears a large bandanna over his eyes and tends to break out in dance every so often . No one knows his real name or past . He speaks in semi @-@ nonsensical English phrases depending on the situation , mainly quoted from pop culture , but apparently does not know English fluently . He saves the team many times and does know some Japanese but rarely speaks it . He carries Browning Hi @-@ Power and LAR Grizzly handguns or a PP @-@ 19 Bizon submachine gun during missions .

Matsushita (??)

Voiced by : Eiichir? Tokumoto (Japanese) ; Rob Mungle (English)

Matsushita , also known as " Matsushita 5 @-@ dan " (" Matsushita the Fifth " in the dub) , has a large build and is a master at judo . He never forgets a debt he owes , especially when it involves food (specifically niku udon) . He carries heavy weapons such as rocket launchers or machine guns into battle . He later loses weight after training in the mountains . He uses a H & K P7 and an MG3 light machine gun .

?yama (??)

Voiced by : Yumiko Kobayashi (Japanese) ; Corey Hartzog (English)

?yama is an ordinary boy who has no special talents . He does not excel at anything , but is as capable as any normal person ; in other words , he is a Jack of all trades . He is an innocent boy whose feelings are hurt from things like making fake confession or watching his teammates " die " . He carries a Remington 700 sniper rifle or a P226 handgun .

Takeyama (??)

Voiced by : Mitsuhiro Ichiki (Japanese) ; Dylan Godwin (English)

Takeyama is an intelligent boy who is good at hacking computers . He wrote the " Briefing Manager " program that Yuri uses to brief the SSS prior to a mission . He insists that he be addressed by his username " Christ , " but no one ever does so . He tries to execute all plans as perfectly as possible . He does not engage in combat or any other physical operations , but rather gathers data and information .

Chaa (???)

Voiced by : Hiroki T?chi (Japanese) ; Illich Guardiola (English)

Chaa is the leader of the Guild . Despite looking much older , he is about the same age as Otonashi and the others . He is the fourth member to join the SSS , at which time he had no facial hair . He

first met Yuri and Hinata by holding the principal of the school hostage at gun point in an attempt to learn more about God , causing him to get stabbed by Kanade .

= = = = Girls Dead Monster = = = =

Masami Iwasawa (?? ??? , Iwasawa Masami)

Voiced by : Miyuki Sawashiro (Japanese) ; Luci Christian (English) , Marina (singing)

Masami Iwasawa is the original leader of Girls Dead Monster who is in charge of the vocals and is the rhythm guitarist . She also writes the lyrics and composes the music for the band 's songs . She plays a Sienna Sunburst / Maple Fender Stratocaster guitar . While usually a quiet girl , she is able to fascinate listeners by striving to create music that speaks her thoughts . She used music as an escape from her constantly fighting parents in life , but ended up dying from a brain injury she received . She disappears playing her own song , " My Song " . She accepts that she will use her voice to someday influence others .

Yui (??)

Voiced by : Eri Kitamura (Japanese) ; Hilary Haag (English) , LiSA (singing)

Yui is a big fan and initially an assistant to Girls Dead Monster . She is known to be hyperactive and talks extremely fast . Hinata finds Yui annoying , which results in bouts between the two of them though in truth , they truly care about one another , saying that had they met before they died , they would have fallen in love with one another . She wears a devil tail and shackle bracelets on her wrists , giving her an image of an imp or devil . She also has wings hidden by her hair on her back . After Iwasawa 's departure , Yui becomes the new rhythm guitarist and vocalist of Girls Dead Monster , as well as its leader . Yui plays a Gibson SG Special electric guitar . She later becomes a part of the main SSS , following them along on missions , though she does not contribute much . In life , she was hit by a car and was paralyzed from a young age as a result . Her regret was not being able to do anything with her body . Otonashi helps fulfill most of her wishes that include many things she saw on TV when she was alive .

Hisako (???)

Voiced by : Chie Matsuura (Japanese) ; Elizabeth Bunch (eps . 3 ? 4) , Jessica Boone (eps . 5 ? 6 , 12 , OVA) (English)

Hisako is second @-@ in @-@ command of Girls Dead Monster who plays a Fender Jazzmaster electric guitar as lead guitarist . She has a candid personality and likes to play mahjong , which she has incredible luck with . As noted by Hinata , Hisako is also athletic and is greatly admired by Yui for her guitar riffs . In life , she was a part of a band whose main vocalist ended up committing suicide , but after meeting Iwasawa , she forms Girls Dead Monster with her .

Miyuki Irie (?? ??? , Irie Miyuki)

Voiced by : Kana Asumi (Japanese) ; Luci Christian (English)

Irie is the drummer of Girls Dead Monster who , despite being dead herself , is bad with hearing stories about ghosts or spirits , which Sekine likes to take advantage of . She is best friends with Sekine and joined Girls Dead Monster at the same time as her .

Shiori Sekine (?? ??? , Sekine Shiori)

Voiced by : Emiri Kat? (Japanese) ; Serena Varghese (English)

Sekine plays a G & L L @-@ 2000 bass guitar in Girls Dead Monster . She likes to play pranks on those around her to see the surprised faces of her victims . She also likes to abruptly improvise during performances , much to Hisako 's chagrin . She is privately jealous of the attention Iwasawa gets as the leader and center of the band .

= = Production = =

= = = Creation and conception = = =

The original creators of Angel Beats ! , Jun Maeda and Na @-@ Ga of Key , were interviewed in

the July 2009 issue of ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki G 's Magazine . Around the time Key completed the first release of their sixth visual novel Little Busters ! , Hironori Toba of Aniplex (himself a fan of Key 's works) approached Maeda around October 2007 about collaborating to produce an original anime series . Maeda began meeting with Toba and Aniplex on a monthly basis and the story started to gradually progress . Aniplex wanted Maeda to write a screenplay that would be very " Key @-@ like , with touching moments of laughter and tears , " but initially Maeda found himself at a loss to write a story more amusing than Little Busters ! , because he thought that he had reached a limit with Little Busters ! in regards to a " Key @-@ like story " . However , one day Maeda was struck by inspiration , where he thought up the initial idea of a story set in the afterlife . Furthermore , with everyone already dead , Maeda conceived of flashy battles where the combatants go all out without fear of death . According to Maeda , the theme of the series is " life " , which in Angel Beats ! is depicted as a precious and wonderful thing , despite the characters in Angel Beats ! who fight against their fate .

Maeda nominated Na @-@ Ga to begin work on the character designs near the beginning of 2008 . Na @-@ Ga was worried that other computer graphics (CG) work for Key would get delayed , but he took the position because of his accumulated experience in CG . Maeda nominated Na @-@ Ga because of the popular characters he designed in Little Busters ! , and because of his frankness . Na @-@ Ga designed Yuri based on her personality as a leader , though it was per Maeda 's request that he added the black headband , taken from the character Yukiko Amagi from Persona 4 , who was Maeda 's favorite heroine from that game . The length of Yuri 's hair and the addition of a green ribbon were decided from production committee meetings . Angel 's original concept began with the idea of a brave , fighting girl . Maeda cited that Angel 's image had changed considerably over the development process and that originally she was similar to Shiki Ry?gi from Kara no Ky?kai . Eventually , Angel 's concept changed to being a " silent and mysterious girl " . Before Na @-@ Ga decided on Otonashi 's design , Maeda told him that anything would be fine and to just draw something , and eventually drew up a prototype for Otonashi and Hinata , among others . Some of the characters had vague initial conditions given by Maeda , such as asking Na @-@ Ga to draw an " all female band bass guitarist " in the case of Girls Dead Monster member Sekine and particularly the cryptic " character who speaks in puzzling English phrases " for TK .

= = = Development = = =

The Aniplex producer of Angel Beats ! , Hironori Toba , was interviewed in the November 2009 issue of Dengeki G 's Magazine , where he commented that a 13 @-@ episode anime with about 21 minutes per episode was not enough to tell the whole story of Angel Beats ! Maeda had envisioned . Therefore , the various additional media , such as the illustrated short stories and manga , contain some of the story that was unable to make it into the anime because of time constraints . Toba wanted fans of the series to be able to enjoy it to the fullest by exploring all of the media types . Maeda found it tiring to go back and forth between Osaka and Tokyo for business meetings when he was in the process of writing the script , and found it difficult to write an entire script by himself , since he had never done that before with any of the games he produced as a member of Key . It was only after the script was done that Maeda was able to work on the music , which he greatly enjoyed and never tired of it . Maeda composed about 15 songs for Girls Dead Monster and spent about two days each composing each song . He made sure to create songs for Girls Dead Monster that high school girls would compose , including the lyrics . Due to this , Maeda pointed out that the opening and ending theme songs for Angel Beats ! , which Maeda also composed , sound like they were composed by a different person compared to the Girls Dead Monster songs .

In regards to bringing in P.A.Works as the animation studio , Toba had taken notice of the company from back when they provided in @-@ between animation and production assistance for Fullmetal Alchemist (2003 ? 4) and Darker than Black (2007) , respectively ; Aniplex helped produce both series . After watching just the first three episodes of P.A.Works ' True Tears (2008) , however , he was shocked at the high quality and immediately went to P.A.Works ' studio in Toyama Prefecture to meet with the production staff in the hope that one day Aniplex could collaborate with them on a

project together . The following week , Maeda brought up the subject of deciding on an animation studio for Angel Beats ! and mentioned that he too had seen True Tears and had become interested in P.A.Works. Shortly after that , Toba formally made the proposal to P.A.Works to animate the project .

Maeda focused on making jokes an important part of Angel Beats ! , leading Toba to seek out Seiji Kishi to be the director , because of his experience in directing and his pulling power influence on the staff of P.A.Works , where there are many that are still young . Kishi was ultimately approached by P.A.Works representative director Kenji Horikawa about working on a " school comedy written by a game scenario writer " and was shocked after taking the director 's position to discover Maeda was the screenwriter . Kishi commented how , far from just being a comedy , the series contains many different aspects , including flashy action scenes , live musical performances , and drama . Kishi stated that normally he would be hard pressed to cover this range of aspects , but was motivated by Maeda 's uncompromising attitude in regards to the script . The decision to add in the all female band Girls Dead Monster was due to Maeda 's intent to add in many different and interesting elements into the series .

Kishi specifically requested that sound and music director Satoki Iida work on the project , who also helped with the proofreading of the script due to Maeda 's fixation on the music production . Iida was interviewed in the April 2010 issue of Dengeki G 's Magazine , where it was stated that Maeda and the group Anant @-@ Garde Eyes received Iida 's approval to employ a minimalist approach to the background music (BGM) used throughout the anime . Iida admitted that it was uncustomary to use this music genre in anime and that he had to go through various trials and errors with Maeda and Anant @-@ Garde Eyes to get the music right . Maeda and Anant @-@ Garde Eyes strove to create individual quality music tracks , while Iida pursued the goal of having music that would be useful as BGM tracks , which caused problems during the creation process . Iida realized that it was important for the music and the visuals to combine together to create a synchronization between the two . Toba first took notice of Angel Beats ! character designer and chief animator Katsuz? Hirata during the production of Gurren Lagann (2007) with his skill as an artist and ability to finish work quickly , but thoroughly . It was after Toba saw Hirata 's work as chief animator of Strike Witches (2008) , however , that he pursued Hirata to join the Angel Beats ! staff ; Maeda also gave his seal of approval for Hirata .

= = Broadcast and distribution = =

The 13 @-@ episode Angel Beats ! anime TV series is directed by Seiji Kishi and produced by P.A.Works and Aniplex . It aired in Japan between April 3 and June 26 , 2010 on the CBC television network . The first episode was previewed on March 22 , 2010 to a selected number of people who participated in a lottery held earlier that month . The screenplay was written by Jun Maeda , who originally conceived the series . Chief animator Katsuz? Hirata based the character design used in the anime on Na @-@ Ga 's original designs . Sound and music direction was headed by Satoki Iida .

The series was released on seven BD / DVD compilation volumes between June 23 and December 22 , 2010 in limited and regular editions . Three drama CDs , written by Maeda and performed by the anime 's cast , were released with the first , fourth and sixth limited edition BD / DVD volumes . The seventh BD / DVD volume featured an original video animation (OVA) episode , as well as a bonus short which serves as another epilogue to the series . Each of the BD / DVD volumes contained commentaries by the characters performed by the voice cast and written by Maeda . A BD box set was released in Japan on June 24 , 2015 and also included another OVA episode . Sentai Filmworks licensed the anime , and along with distributor Section23 Films , released the series on BD / DVD on July 26 , 2011 . Siren Visual licensed the anime for Australia and New Zealand . The series has also been licensed in the United Kingdom by Manga Entertainment and released the series on BD / DVD on June 25 , 2012 .

= = = Music = = =

The anime's music is composed by Maeda and the group Anant @-@ Garde Eyes , who also provided the musical arrangement . The music is released on Key's record label Key Sounds Label . The opening theme is " My Soul , Your Beats ! " sung by Lia and the ending theme is " Brave Song " sung by Aoi Tada . The single containing both songs titled " My Soul , Your Beats ! / Brave Song " was released on May 26 , 2010 in limited (CD + DVD) and regular (CD) editions ; the limited edition's DVD contains the opening and ending videos without the credits . The in @-@ story band Girls Dead Monster is made up of the real @-@ life singers Marina and LiSA . Five singles for Girls Dead Monster were released in 2010 . The first , " Crow Song " , was released on April 23 featuring songs sung by Marina . The second and third singles , " Thousand Enemies " and " Little Braver " , followed on May 12 and June 9 , respectively , with songs sung by LiSA . The fourth single was " Last Song " by Marina and the fifth single was " Ichiban no Takaramono (Yui final ver .) " (?????? ? Yui final ver . ?) by LiSA ; both singles were released on December 8 . A Girls Dead Monster album titled Keep The Beats ! was released on June 30 , 2010 . A version of Keep The Beats ! containing instrumental tracks was released on July 28 , 2010 bundled with a 256 @-@ page band score book . The anime's original soundtrack was released on July 28 , 2010 as a two @-@ CD set . A Girls Dead Monster mini @-@ album titled Rare Tracks was released on December 28 , 2014 .

== == Events == ==

There were several live performance events to promote the music from Angel Beats ! . The first was on April 24 , 2010 at the Tower Records in Shibuya , Tokyo where Marina and LiSA performed four songs . The first two , " Crow Song " and " Alchemy " , were duets , while the third song " My Song " was sung by Marina , and LiSA sang " My Soul , Your Beats ! " . On June 5 , 2010 at the same venue , Lia and Aoi Tada sang their songs from " My Soul , Your Beats ! / Brave Song " , Tada and LiSA sang " Crow Song " as a duet , and Lia and LiSA also sang " My Soul , Your Beats ! " as a duet for the encore . An event titled " Angel Beats ! Fes . : Thousand Bravers " was held on August 1 , 2010 at Studio Coast in Shingiba , Koto , Tokyo featuring singers Lia , Tada , Marina , LiSA and Karuta , as well as several voice actors from the anime .

A national concert tour featuring LiSA titled " Girls Dead Monster starring LiSA Tour 2010 : Keep The Angel Beats ! " was held across Japan August 3 and September 2 , 2010 ; all of the venues ultimately sold out . A BD / DVD video album box set titled Girls Dead Monster starring LiSA Tour 2010 Final : Keep The Angel Beats ! of the tour's final performance was released on June 1 , 2011 by Key Sounds Label bearing the catalog numbers KSLV @-@ 0001 ? 0003 . The last concert of Girls Dead Monster was held on December 27 , 2010 at an event called " Girls Dead Monster Last Live : Final Operation " featuring Marina and LiSA at the Tokyo International Forum .

== Related media ==

== Internet radio shows ==

A four @-@ episode Internet radio show to promote Angel Beats ! called Jun Maeda's Brutal Radio (?????????? , Maeda Jun no Satsubatsu Rajio) aired between May 30 , 2009 and March 31 , 2010 . The show was hosted by Jun Maeda , though guests did make appearances , such as Hironori Towa , the producer for Angel Beats ! , and Na @-@ Ga . One month after each regular broadcast , an additional shorter broadcast called Postwar Disposition (???? , Sengo Shori) was released . Another Internet radio show to promote the series titled Angel Beats ! SSS Radio had a pre @-@ broadcast on March 18 , 2010 , and had 51 regular weekly broadcasts between April 1 , 2010 and March 31 , 2011 . Produced by Hibiki Radio Station , the show was hosted by Harumi Sakurai (the voice of Yuri) , Kana Hanazawa (the voice of Angel) and Eri Kitamura (the voice of Yui) . Seven CD compilation volumes containing all 51 episodes were released between June 23 , 2010 and July 29 , 2011 .

== Books and publications ==

A series of seven illustrated short stories written by Jun Maeda and drawn by GotoP titled Angel Beats ! Track Zero were serialized between the November 2009 and May 2010 issues of ASCII Media Works 's Dengeki G 's Magazine . Track Zero is a prequel to Angel Beats ! featuring Hinata as the main character and tells the story of how the SSS was formed . A special extra chapter focusing on Girls Dead Monster was published in the sixth volume of Dengeki G 's Festival ! Deluxe on March 29 , 2010 . The short stories were collected into a bound volume released on June 23 , 2010 and included an additional chapter along with the other eight chapters . The chapter titles for the stories are taken from song titles from various musical artists . The first chapter was posted online with illustrations by ASCII Media Works . ASCII Media Works published the Angel Beats ! Official Guidebook on December 22 , 2010 . The guidebook contains story summaries of the anime episodes including the OVA , information on the cast of characters , interviews from the voice acting cast and production staff , and illustrations featuring art from the anime .

== Manga ==

A four @-@ panel comic strip manga , illustrated by Haruka Komowata and titled Angel Beats ! The 4 @-@ koma : Bokura no Sensen K?shinkyoku (Angel Beats ! The4?? ???????? ? , Angel Beats ! The 4 @-@ koma : Our Battlefront March Song) , was serialized between the December 2009 and October 2013 issues of ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki G 's Magazine . Komowata was also in charge of illustrating a manga which showcased the progress of the Angel Beats ! project and was serialized between the September 2009 and July 2010 issues of Dengeki G 's Magazine . Four tank?bon volumes for Angel Beats ! The 4 @-@ koma were released between December 18 , 2010 and November 27 , 2013 under ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki Comics EX imprint . Komowata also illustrated the Angel Beats ! The 4 @-@ koma : Osora no Shinda Sekai kara (Angel Beats ! The4?? ?????????) four @-@ panel comic strip manga , which was serialized between the December 2013 and January 2016 issues of Dengeki G 's Magazine . Two volume were released between October 24 , 2014 and April 26 , 2016 .

A manga illustrated by Yuriko Asami , titled Angel Beats ! Heaven 's Door , began serialization in Dengeki G 's Magazine in the May 2010 issue . The manga ended serialization in the magazine 's May 2014 issue and was transferred to Dengeki G 's Comic starting with the June 2014 issue . Heaven 's Door is based on the Angel Beats ! Track Zero short stories . The first volume for Angel Beats ! Heaven 's Door was released on December 18 , 2010 under ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki Comics imprint ; 10 volumes have been released as of April 27 , 2016 . Heaven 's Door is available in English on Kadokawa Corporation 's ComicWalker website and app , and is licensed in North America by Seven Seas Entertainment . An anthology titled Angel Beats ! Comic Anthology was published by ASCII Media Works on December 18 , 2010 .

Angel Beats ! The 4 @-@ koma : Bokura no Sensen K?shinkyoku

Angel Beats ! The 4 @-@ koma : Osora no Shinda Sekai kara

Angel Beats ! Heaven 's Door

== Visual novel ==

It was reported in 2010 that Jun Maeda was writing the scenario for a video game adaptation of Angel Beats ! , and the game was officially announced in September 2013 . Developed by Key , Maeda leads the production team as the designer and one of the scenario writers . Two additional writers include Kai , who previously contributed on the scenario of Clannad , and Leo Kashida , who had worked on the scenario of Tomoyo After : It 's a Wonderful Life and Little Busters ! . The art director and character designer is Na @-@ Ga . Rated for all ages and split into six volumes , the first visual novel volume , titled Angel Beats ! 1st Beat , was released on June 26 , 2015 for Windows PCs . The first volume covers up to the tenth episode of the anime as well as Iwasawa 's ,

Matsushita 's and Yui 's routes with Otonashi as the main protagonist . The subsequent volumes will cover the rest of the character routes .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Angel Beats ! received generally positive reviews . In a review by Anime News Network , reviewer Theron Martin praised the series for integrating individual elements together , including the Girls Dead Monster musical performance scenes , scenes where humor dominates , and action scenes . A common theme in supernatural anime , according to Martin , are souls discontent with their former lives , but the concept of Angel Beats ! is described as " quite unusual " because it features all the main characters as such souls and gathers them in one place . In the series , " maintaining distinctiveness is essential for survival as an individual , " which Martin calls a " sly condemnation of the rigorous conformity impressed upon students by Japanese schooling . " Overall , Angel Beats ! was lauded for " requir [ing] no great familiarity with anime to enjoy . "

On the DVD Talk website , reviewer John Sinnott praised the plot for advancing and changing in unexpected ways : " The plot evolves quickly and by the end of the series it 's quite a different show than what it was at the beginning . " Both Martin and Sinnott agree that a major flaw in the anime is that it is too short , and does not go into detail for a large number of characters . Stig Høgset at THEM Anime Reviews , however , panned the series in part because it " overloads the story with too many elements in an attempt to please as many people as possible . " Høgset went on to describe Angel Beats as not having " any compelling characters " and the series ' humor is largely thought to be annoying . However , Høgset praised P.A.Works for the animation of the action sequences , as did Martin , who added that there is " great detail work on the weapons and instruments used . "

The sixth episode of Angel Beats ! , which aired on May 8 , 2010 on Osaka 's MBS station in Japan , achieved a record 4 @. @ 9 % rating for an anime series broadcast during the late @- @ night " Anime Shower " timeslot in the past three years . The Angel Beats ! anime was selected as a recommended work by the awards jury of the 14th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2010 .

= = = Sales = = =

Each of the Angel Beats ! Blu @- @ ray Disc (BD) compilation volumes ranked in the top three on Japan 's Oricon weekly BD sales chart . Volumes one and four ranked at No. 1 , volumes two and five ranked at No. 2 , and volumes three , six and seven ranked at No. 3 . The DVD volumes , however , ranked lower than the BDs on Oricon . Volume one ranked at No. 5 , volume two at No. 10 , volume three at No. 13 , volume four at No. 11 , volume five at No. 8 , volume six at No. 12 , and volume seven at No. 15 .

The opening and ending theme song single " My Soul , Your Beats ! / Brave Song " debuted at No. 3 on Japan 's Oricon weekly singles chart , selling about 80 @, @ 000 copies in its first week of sales . " My Soul , Your Beats ! / Brave Song " was awarded a Gold disc by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) in May 2010 for shipping over 100 @, @ 000 copies . Girls Dead Monster 's single " Crow Song " debuted at No. 7 on the Oricon singles chart , selling approximately 16 @, @ 400 copies in about four days . " Crow Song " sold over 25 @, @ 000 more copies over the next three weeks after its release . " Crow Song " was awarded a Gold disc by the RIAJ in November 2011 for shipping over 100 @, @ 000 copies . The Girls Dead Monster single " Thousand Enemies " debuted at No. 4 on the Oricon singles chart , selling about 28 @, @ 000 copies in its first week of sales . " Thousand Enemies " sold over 18 @, @ 000 more copies over the next two weeks after its release .

Girls Dead Monster 's third single " Little Braver " debuted at No. 2 on the Oricon singles chart , selling about 38 @, @ 800 copies in its first week of sales . Girls Dead Monster 's fourth and fifth singles , " Last Song " and " Ichiban no Takaramono (Yui final ver .) " , ranked at No. 2 and No. 3

on the Oricon singles chart , respectively , both selling about 35 @,@ 000 copies in their first week of sales . The Girls Dead Monster album Keep The Beats ! ranked at No. 6 on the Oricon albums chart , selling about 51 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of sales . Keep The Beats ! was awarded a Gold disc by the RIAJ in September 2010 for shipping over 100 @,@ 000 copies . The version of Keep The Beats ! with instrumental tracks and a band score book ranked at No. 14 on the Oricon albums chart , selling just under 9 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . The Angel Beats ! Original Soundtrack ranked at No. 9 on the Oricon albums chart , selling about 13 @,@ 300 copies in its first week .