

= Ventus (Kingdom Hearts) =

Ventus (Japanese : ?????? , Hepburn : Ventusu) , commonly referred to as Ven (???) , is a fictional character from Square Enix 's video game franchise Kingdom Hearts . Having first made cameos in Kingdom Hearts II and other related titles , Ventus was introduced in the 2010 prequel Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep as one of the three protagonists . In its story , Ventus is introduced as the youngest apprentice of Master Eraqus who trains him alongside his best friends , Terra and Aqua , to become experienced warriors with the Keyblade . When Terra goes on a mission to find Master Xehanort , Ventus follows him , having also become concerned about his fate . As Ventus journeys through various worlds , he learns about his origins as well as his relation with Xehanort and his apprentice Vanitas .

Ventus was designed by director Tetsuya Nomura who wanted to create a character with an important connection with the series ' main character Sora . Ventus bears a strong resemblance to the character of Roxas , both of whom are voiced by K?ki Uchiyama in Japanese and Jesse McCartney in English . After Ventus ' first cameo , Nomura had to state that both of them are different characters , and the reason for such connection would be revealed in Birth by Sleep . Video game websites also commented on Ventus ' first appearance , initially confusing him for Roxas during the development of Birth by Sleep , but has since been well received .

= = Appearances = =

Before being introduced in Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep , Ventus first made cameos in the secret endings of Kingdom Hearts II and its re @-@ release , Kingdom Hearts II Final Mix , which depicted him and his friends Terra and Aqua battling Master Xehanort and Vanitas . Ventus is also shown in a cameo in Kingdom Hearts 358 / 2 Days when Xion , a replica of Roxas , appears as Ventus while fighting Xigbar from Organization XIII . Ventus is also constantly referenced by Xigbar in Kingdom Hearts II and 358 / 2 Days while Xemnas , the Nobody of Xehanort , is in search of him in Castle Oblivion .

Prior to the start of Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep , Ventus was the apprentice of Master Xehanort , who trained him to complete the legendary ? @-@ blade (pronounced as " key blade ") . However , due to Ventus ' reluctance to use darkness , Xehanort extracted it from his heart , resulting in the creation of Vanitas , but also leaving his heart incomplete and on the verge of collapse . He is brought by Xehanort to Destiny Islands , where his heart merges with that of the newborn Sora to keep it safe . Having lost his memories , Ventus is placed in the care of Master Eraqus as his youngest Keyblade apprentice alongside Terra and Aqua . At the games beginning , Vanitas taunts Ventus into following Terra who is on a quest to find Xehanort . Ventus travels through various worlds , fighting mysterious creatures called the Unversed and meeting various people . Vanitas attacks Ventus during his journey to test his strength , but he is defeated when Ventus is aided by the Keyblade apprentice Mickey . Upon meeting Xehanort , Ventus is forced to remember his purpose as being used to create the ? @-@ blade . Ventus refuses to battle Vanitas to avoid creating the ? @-@ blade , but is forced to after Vanitas threatens to kill Terra and Aqua if he does refuse . They battle within the Keyblade Graveyard , where Vanitas merges with Ventus and obtains the ? @-@ blade . However , this fusion is incomplete , which allows Ventus to destroy Vanitas within his heart and Aqua to destroy the ? @-@ blade . As a result , Ventus loses his heart and his body is placed within Castle Oblivion by Aqua until he awakens . Ventus ' wandering heart is able to find its way back to the young Sora , who accepts Ventus ' heart into his body . In the game 's secret ending , he is seen in the Land of Departure with Terra , and the two utter Sora 's name with newfound hope .

Ventus is mentioned in the secret ending of Kingdom Hearts Re : coded , when Mickey reveals he has learned where Ventus ' heart is , having searched for his whereabouts for the past ten years . In Kingdom Hearts 3D : Dream Drop Distance , Sora briefly takes the form of Ventus during a dream , and when his heart is wounded , Ventus ' armor appears to protect his body . In the ending of the game , Ventus is shown in Castle Oblivion , still in his catatonic state , his face drawn into a smile .

= = Creation and development = =

When first designing Ventus , Tetsuya Nomura already decided the character should look like Sora or Roxas , and decided to choose the latter when thinking that Vanitas being revealed to have Sora 's appearance would give a big impact to the gamers . Nomura wanted Ventus ' personality to more closely resemble Sora 's , which led to his outgoing personality , yet at the same time he wanted him to become more serious as the game progressed to make them distinct . Ventus was first shown in the secret endings of Kingdom Hearts II and its rerelease Kingdom Hearts II : Final Mix . Ventus ' name first appeared as a code in a 2006 Tokyo Game Show promotional video of the games . While making Final Mixs ending , Nomura had only developed the backstory for Terra , Aqua and Ventus and not their appearances , but had to finish their design for the end of game cameo . Nomura did not reveal their identities , and only stated that the three character were from the chronological past of the Kingdom Hearts series . Following their release , Nomura stated that his nickname was Ven . Ventus was first mentioned by the character Lingerin Sentiment in Final Mix as Ven , while his full name was still unrevealed . He also mentioned a connection between him and Xemnas but wanted to leave it up to people 's imaginations as he still could not reveal his identity .

Nomura commented that , despite how similar they are , Roxas and Ventus are not the same character . Additionally , he stated that by playing Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep , players will be able to distinguish Roxas from Ventus and that the game explores his true personality . In another interview , Nomura implied both characters are related , specifically to Sora , but he wanted fans to imagine reasons for such connection . The guidebook Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep Ultimania clarified the connection , stating that Roxas and Ventus look alike because Ventus ' heart entered Sora 's body and Roxas ' birth allowed Ventus ' heart to reside in Roxas . In early versions of development , Nomura planned to have Ventus ' broken heart be healed by the heart of Sora before he was born , but after negative feedback from overseas coworkers it was abandoned . Like Roxas , Ventus has been voiced K?ki Uchiyama in Japanese and Jesse McCartney in English .

Ventus ' name means " wind " in Latin ; both it and his Keyblade are called Wayward Wind , known in Japan as Fresh Breeze (?????????? , Furesshu Bur?zu) , and have a " sky " theme similar to that of Sora 's . During development of Birth by Sleep , the Osaka team in charge of developing the game suggested that Ventus should be related with Vanitas , something which Nomura liked as he wanted to add more connections within the story , so Vanitas ' name was made to sound similar to Ventus ' name . Nomura had trouble designing the armor for Ventus , Terra and Aqua since the gameplay mechanism for activating their armor had not been fleshed out . Therefore , an " X " was added to their clothes as a way to activate the armors as well as due to the fact it was one of the game 's keywords . Ever since development of Birth by Sleep started , the staff already decided that Ventus ' , Aqua 's and Terra 's stories would be told in separate scenarios , with Ventus ' story being the second one written . They also wanted emphasize the lack of coincidences in the series , leading to the interaction between the three scenarios . In gameplay perspective , Ventus was designed to be the easiest character to play with in Birth by Sleep , although Nomura recommended to players that Ventus should be the second character to play with in order to understand the story better . Additionally , the way Ventus handles his Keyblade backwards is meant to show the gameplay differences between his and Terra 's and Aqua 's scenarios . Nomura also remarked Ventus ' encounter with the characters Lea and Isa as an important event from the game , hoping both newcomers and older gamers will also find it important from Ventus ' perspective .

= = Reception = =

Due to his resemblance with Roxas , video game publications initially thought that Roxas would be one of the protagonists from Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep when seeing one of Ventus ' images . However , when it was revealed that the two were different , publications continued to discuss how similar they were and if there was a connection between them . GamesRadar particularly thought that there would be an eventual connection between the two of them and Sora . Amanda L.

Kondolojy from Cheat Code Central also commented on speculations regarding the similarities between both of them , but mentioned that due to the existence of Nobodies in series , it is hard to find them as coincidences . When Jesse McCartney confirmed he was working on the English localization of Birth by Sleep , sites thought that he would voice Ventus , as he also voiced Roxas in previous titles . The character 's story and actions shown in the demonstrations were praised for being the " most original take on Kingdom Hearts " and yet " frustratingly traditional " . Upon Ventus ' introduction in Birth by Sleep , X @-@ Play found the character to be very similar to Sora 's due to his friendly attitude . Kevin VanOrd from the same site gave praise to Ventus ' character for his " well @-@ meaning " and yet not " annoying " personality . The site also said that the time players spend playing with Ventus would be " rewarding " and commented on the English voice acting . PlayStation LifeStyle 's Thomas Williams found the trio of Ventus , Terra and Aqua as welcome additions to the franchise , finding their stories enjoyable even though the three travel to the same worlds . On the other hand , PALGN found the three characters unappealing , labelling Ventus as " just a Roxas clone , but without his personality . " In contrast to 1UP 's comments towards Ventus ' actions in Cinderella 's world , VanOrd commented that such interactions to be " more bothersome than boisterous . " Writing for GamesRadar , Chris Antistaer called Ventus a " Roxas @-@ clone " , and did not understand why he was briefly featured in Kingdom Hearts II .

= (You Drive Me) Crazy =

" (You Drive Me) Crazy " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her debut studio album , ... Baby One More Time (1999) . Written and produced by Max Martin , Per Magnusson and David Kreuger , with additional writing by Jörgen Elofsson and remix by Martin and Rami Yacoub , it was released as the album 's third single on August 23 , 1999 , by JIVE Records . It was remixed for the soundtrack of Drive Me Crazy . " (You Drive Me) Crazy " is a pop song . The song garnered positive reviews from music critics , some of whom praised its simple formula and noted similarities to Spears ' debut single , " ... Baby One More Time " .

" (You Drive Me) Crazy " was a commercial success , and peaked inside the top ten on the singles charts of seventeen countries . In the United Kingdom , it became Spears ' third consecutive single to peak inside the top five , while it reached number 10 in the United States ' Billboard Hot 100 , and peaked at number one in Belgium (Wallonia) . An accompanying music video , directed by Nigel Dick , and portrayed Spears as a waitress of a dance club , and performed a highly choreographed dance routine with the other waitresses . The video premiered on MTV 's Making the Video special , and featured cameo appearances of actors Melissa Joan Hart and Adrian Grenier . As part of promotion for the song , Spears performed the song at the 1999 MTV Europe Music Awards and 1999 Billboard Music Awards . It has also been included on five of her concert tours .

= = Background = =

Before recording her debut album , Spears had originally envisioned it in style of " Sheryl Crow music , but younger [and] more adult contemporary " . However , the singer agreed with her label 's appointment of producers , who had the objective to target a teenage audience at the time . She flew to Cheiron Studios in Stockholm , Sweden , where half of the album was recorded from March to April 1998 , with producers Max Martin , Denniz Pop and Rami Yacoub , among others . " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was written by Jörgen Elofsson , while song production and additional songwriting was done by Martin , Per Magnusson and David Kreuger . Spears recorded the vocals for the song in March 1998 , at Cheiron Studios in Stockholm , Sweden . It was also mixed at Cheiron Studios by Martin . Esbjörn Öhrwall and Johan Carlberg played the guitar , while bass guitar was done by Thomas Lindberg . Keyboards and programming was done by Kreuger , and additional keyboards by Magnusson . Background vocals were provided by Jeanette Söderholm , Martin , Yacoub and THE FANCHOIR , formed by Chatrin Nyström , Jeanette Stenhammar , Johanna Stenhammar , Charlotte Björkman and Therese Ancker . In May 1999 , Martin and Spears went to

the Battery Studios in New York City , New York , to re @-@ record the vocals of the track , due to the fact that a remixed version called " The Stop ! Remix " was going to be included on the original motion picture soundtrack of the film Drive Me Crazy (1999) . " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was released as a remix package as the third single from ... Baby One More Time on August 23 , 1999 .

= = Composition = =

" (You Drive Me) Crazy " is a pop song . The song 's composition follows a simple formula and infuses edgy synthesized instruments , including a recurring cowbell , and having a roughly similar sound to Spears ' debut single " ... Baby One More Time " (1999) . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Universal Music Publishing Group , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " is composed in the key of C minor and runs through a moderately slow dance beat infused metronome of 92 beats per minute . Spears ' vocals were deemed as heavily processed when compared to the ones of her previous single , " Sometimes " . Her vocal range spans over an octave , from the low @-@ key of G3 to the high @-@ note of D ? 5 . The song 's primary chord progression is Cm ? A ? -G (vi @-@ IV @-@ III) , with a few deviations .

= = Critical reception = =

The song garnered positive reviews from music critics . Kyle Anderson for MTV considered " (You Drive Me) Crazy " as " a similar @-@ sounding anthem [to ' ... Baby One More Time '] with some streamlined rock guitar taking center stage (there 's even a solo) . It 's catchy enough . " Spence D. of IGN considered " (You Drive Me) Crazy " a " [Max] Martin 's glossy grown @-@ up pop " song , while Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone called " (You Drive Me) Crazy " a " further hit " from ... Baby One More Time , along with " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " and " Sometimes " . Music critic Walt Mueller wrote " When Spears starts to sing on this one , she sounds a lot like Janet Jackson . " Christy Lemire of the Associated Press noted that the song and " Stronger " are " so lamely feel @-@ good " tracks that they " could have been the theme song to a ' Karate Kid ' sequel . " Evan Sawdey of PopMatters called it a " lightly dorky " song , and Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic deemed it as a " fluffy dance @-@ pop at its best . " In a list compiled by Sara Anderson of AOL Radio , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was ranked ninth in a list of Spears ' best songs . During the 2001 BMI Pop Awards , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was honored with the award of Most Performed BMI Song .

= = Chart performance = =

" (You Drive Me) Crazy " was a commercial success . The song peaked at number two on the European Hot 100 Singles , being held off the top spot by R. Kelly 's " If I Could Turn Back the Hands of Time " . In the United Kingdom , it was Spears ' third consecutive single to reach a top five position . The track debuted and peaked at number five on the chart issue dated October 2 , 1999 , and stayed on the chart for a total of eleven weeks . It was eventually certified Silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , for shipments over 200 @,@ 000 units . According to The Official Charts Company , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " is Spears ' seventh best @-@ selling single in the United Kingdom , with sales over 275 @,@ 000 physical units . The song peaked at number two in France and number four in Germany , being certified Gold in both countries for shipping over 250 @,@ 000 units . It also peaked at number one in Belgium (Wallonia) , finishing the year of 1999 as the 17th best @-@ selling single . " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was also able to peak inside the top five in Belgium (Flanders) , Finland , Ireland , Netherlands , Norway , Sweden , and Switzerland , while reaching top ten positions in Denmark and Italy . Later in 2012 , the song managed to peak at number 65 in Czech Republic due to high airplay .

In the United States , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " peaked at number ten on Billboard Hot 100 on the chart issue dated November 13 , 1999 , and became Spears ' second single to peak inside the top ten in the country . On the same week , it peaked at number four on the Pop Songs component

chart . On the chart compiled by RPM magazine , the song peaked at number three in Canada . However , on the Canadian Hot 100 compiled by Nielsen Soundscan , it peaked at number 13 . The latter revealed that " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was the 44th best @-@ selling single of 1999 in the country . The track peaked at number five in New Zealand , but failed to reach the top ten in Australia , where it peaked at number 12 on the chart issue dated November 12 , 1999 . However , the single was later certified Platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , and was one of the best @-@ selling singles of 2000 in the country . " (You Drive Me) Crazy " performed poorly in Japan , where it peaked at number 80 , and stayed on the chart for two weeks only . Despite the low sales , it is Spears ' 12th best @-@ selling CD release in the country .

= = Music video = =

The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Nigel Dick . Spears conceptualized the video 's treatment , and explained during an interview with MTV in 1999 that " it would be cool to be in a club , and we 're dorky waitresses , and we break out and start dancing . " At the time , Spears expected that the video would take her " to the next level " . To promote the film Drive Me Crazy , actors Adrian Grenier and Melissa Joan Hart were invited to make cameo appearances in the video , since the song had been included on the film 's soundtrack , however , Grenier did not want to participate . Dick commented on the issue , saying , " I was given instructions to ring him up and make sure he appeared in the video . I said , ' You know what , Adrian , I just think it would be great for your career , and Britney 's a great girl and she 's fun to work with . ' Eventually he came around . " Dick also revealed that he was impressed by the singer 's work ethic , adding that she " came to the set completely rehearsed . " The music video premiered on MTV 's Making the Video special that aired on July 18 , 1999 .

The video opens with Spears as a waitress of a dance club . She then goes with other waitresses to their dressing room , where they finish their make @-@ up and change costumes . Spears , now wearing a green sparkly outfit , goes through the corridor to the dance floor with her friends , and starts to perform a high profile choreography , including a chair dance sequence referencing Janet Jackson 's " Miss You Much " video , which Spears also referenced in live performances of the song on the " Crazy 2K Tour " . Scenes of Spears singing in front of a shining orange sign with the word " CRAZY " are also seen throughout the video . On August 24 , 1999 , the music video debuted at number four on Total Request Live . It is the longest running by a female artist on TRL , staying on the top ten for seventy @-@ three days . The video was nominated on the category of Best Dance Video on the 2000 MTV Video Music Awards ; it lost , however , to Jennifer Lopez 's " Waiting for Tonight " (1999) . An alternate footage of the video can be found on the DVD of Spears first compilation album Greatest Hits : My Prerogative (2004) . Jennifer Vineyard of MTV commented , " the alternate audio gives the feel of Spears singing the song as a round , where the beat is in sync but one layer of her vocals is just slightly ahead of the other . "

= = Live performances and covers = =

As part of promotion for " (You Drive Me) Crazy " ' s release as a single , Spears performed it at the 1999 MTV Europe Music Awards and at the 1999 Billboard Music Awards . It was also performed on five concert tours , the first being the ... Baby One More Time Tour (1999) . The show began with a dance introduction by Spears ' dancers among smoke effects . She appeared shortly after at the top of the staircase wearing a hot pink vinyl tube top and white vinyl pants with pink knee patches . During the 2000 leg of the tour , entitled Crazy 2k Tour , Spears changed the opening sequence of the show ; the show started with a skit in which the dancers came out of lockers and stayed in the stage until a bell rang . They all sat until a female teacher voice started calling their names . After the teacher called Spears , she emerged at the top of the staircase in a cloud of smoke , wearing a top and white stretch pants , to perform a short dance mix of " ... Baby One More Time " . She then entered one of the lockers and appeared in another one on the opposite side of the stage to perform " (You Drive Me) Crazy " , which included a chair dance

sequence referencing Janet Jackson 's " Miss You Much " music video that ended with Spears saying " Is that the end ? " , quoting Jackson 's phrase from the video . The song was once again performed in a dance @-@ oriented form on the Oops ! ... I Did It Again World Tour (2000) , while in 2001 's Dream Within a Dream Tour , the performance featured Spears being captured by her dancers . " (You Drive Me) Crazy " was also performed on The Onyx Hotel Tour (2004) . For the tour , the song was remixed with elements of latin percussion . " Crazy " would not be performed by Spears for another nine years until it was included on the setlist of her Las Vegas residency show Britney : Piece of Me .

In 2003 , American musician Richard Cheese covered " (You Drive Me) Crazy " and included it on his album Tuxicity . American pop band Selena Gomez & the Scene performed a homage to Spears during their 2011 We Own the Night Tour . They performed " (You Drive Me) Crazy " along with a medley of hits that included " ... Baby One More Time " , " Oops ! ... I Did It Again " , " I 'm a Slave 4 U " , " Toxic " and " Hold It Against Me " , mixed similar to the Chris Cox Megamix included in Greatest Hits : My Prerogative . In the 2012 Glee episode " Britney 2 @.@ 0 " , the characters of Marley Rose and Jake Puckerman performed a medley of the track with Aerosmith 's " Crazy " (1993) .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for " (You Drive Me) Crazy " are taken from the single 's liner notes .

Technical

Recorded and mixed at Cheiron Studios in Stockholm , Sweden .

Additional recording at Battery Studios in New York City , New York .

Personnel

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =