

= Go to the Top (song) =

" Go to the Top " is a song recorded by Japanese recording artist Kumi Koda for her eleventh studio album , Bon Voyage (2012) . It premiered on October 24 , 2012 as the lead single from the album . The song was written by Kumi , while production was handled by Clarabell . It was used as the opening theme song for the Âge ? developed anime series Muv @-@ Luv Alternative : Total Eclipse . Musically , the track was described as an electronic dance song with elements of 8 @-@ bit music , dance @-@ pop , and dubstep .

Upon its release , " Go to the Top " garnered positive reviews from music critics . Many critics commended the song 's dance @-@ influenced composition , lyrical content , and Kumi 's vocal delivery . Minor criticism was towards the songs inclusion of 8 @-@ bit music elements . The song was successful in Japan , peaking at # 1 on the Japanese Oricon Singles Chart and becoming Kumi 's eighth number one single . It also reached 10 on Billboard 's Japan Hot 100 chart , and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for physical shipments of 100 @ , @ 000 units .

The accompanying music video for " Go to the Top " was shot in Tokyo by Tomoe Nakano ; it features an animated Kumi flying a large robot in a racing circuit with another racer . Koda performed the single during several of her concerts , including Premium Night : Love & Songs and the Hall Tour 2014 : Bon Voyage .

= = Background = =

" Go to the Top " was Kumi 's first single since her promotional recording " Whatchu Waitin ' On ? " from her sixth remix album Beach Mix , and giving birth to her and Kenji 's son in July 2012 . On June 30 , Koda Kumi 's record label Rhythm Zone confirmed that she was to perform the theme song for the Âge ? developed anime series Muv @-@ Luv Alternative : Total Eclipse . The song was Kumi 's seventh collaboration effort with anime series ; the previous six songs being " Real Emotion " and " 1000 Words " for the 2003 video game Final Fantasy X @-@ 2 , " Go Way " for the 2006 film Crayon Shin @-@ chan : Densetsu o Yobu Odore ! Amigo ! . Koda also performed the theme songs the live @-@ action film of the anime series ; the title track for Cutie Honey , " Crazy 4 U " for Gilgamesh , " No Regret " for The Law of Ueki , and the title track for Re : Cutie Honey .

It was selected as the lead single from Bon Voyage and was released in Japan on October 24 , 2012 by Rhythm Zone . The Maxi CD version of the single contains the B @-@ side " Darling " , and the DJ AKI and Takeo Yatabe remix for " Go to the Top " . The DVD version of the single contains the accompanying music video , and a limited " Total Eclipse Edition " with Slipcase includes all tracks and the video except " Darling " . There are four cover sleeves to " Go to the Top " . The CD , DVD , and Fan Club formats feature close @-@ up shots of Kumi wearing a bejewelled masquerade mask . Red construction tape superimposes her , with Kumi 's and the song 's title inserted in it . The Total Eclipse Edition features a shot of Total Eclipse character Takamura Yui . The digital single uses the original DVD cover .

= = Composition = =

" Go to the Top " was written by Kumi , while production was handled by Clarabell . Clarabell was in charge of the song 's arrangement and production , including the synthesizers , keyboards , and drum machine . Kiyoto Konda played the electric guitar during the chorus and song breaks . The song was described as an electronic dance song that , according to Patrick St. Michel from The Japan Times , " featured elements of contemporary stateside electronic dance music (EDM) . " The song was noted for its numerous musical elements including 8 @-@ bit music , dance @-@ pop , and dubstep . Koda said that she had become " languish [ed] " after having " life @-@ changing events such as marriage and having a baby , " . She felt the effects left her " not knowing what direction I was going to take , " in terms of her musical sound and lyrical delivery .

= = Critical reception = =

" Go to the Top " received mostly positive reviews from music critics . Vixen Ninetails from Comic Buzz stated that the song was the reason she loved the episodes , particularly the first two . Ninetails said that the song was " worth listening to " . Julie from the website GoBoiano.com listed Koda as their Music Spotlight Arist of the Week , and listed " Go to the Top " as her third most essential career track . The other five were , in order : " Juicy " , " Taboo " , " Freaky " and " You " . Tetsuo Hiraga from Hot Shot Discs praised the composition and production of " Go to the Top " . He commended how Kumi " played " with the lyrical content , and complimented the " futuristic " and " robotic " sounds . He went on to compliment her vocal abilities and the " attitude " portrayed in the track . A reviewer from CD Journal labelled the 8 @-@ bit elements were " cheap " , he commended Kumi 's " strong " delivery . The NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) listed the song in the Red Team for their annual New Years Eve countdown show , K?haku Uta Gassen .

= = Commercial performance = =

" Go to the Top " debuted at two on the Daily Japanese Oricon Singles Chart , moving to number one the following day ; it later reached the top spot in its first week on the top 100 . Its first week sales in Japan were an estimated 54 @,@ 559 units . It became her eighth number one single and her first inside the 2010 decade . Despite this , this became Kumi 's second number one single with the lowest first week sales ; her lowest to date is her 2009 double a @-@ side single " Alive / Physical Thing " with an estimated 32 @,@ 468 units . Regarding the number one position , Kumi stated , " I decided to come back to the stage and I am thrilled beyond words to be back in the No. 1 spot . " The song stayed in the top 100 for three weeks , and an additional three weeks inside the top 200 .

It has sold over 69 @,@ 390 units in Japan , her second lowest selling number single after " Alive / Physical Thing " with 44 @,@ 725 units . As of October 2012 , the single is her last single to reach number one on the Oricon Singles Chart and her last single to sell over 50 @,@ 000 units . As of January 2016 , Oricon 's database has ranked " Go to the Top " as her 21 best selling single . It also reached number 10 on Billboard 's Japan Hot 100 chart . " Go to the Top " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for physical shipments of 100 @,@ 000 units , her last single to be certified for physical shipments .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Go to the Top " was directed by Tomoe Nakano . This is Kumi 's first animated music video , and her only collaboration with Nakano . The video opens with people inside a late @-@ night cafe . In the distance , a television screen reads " The next single is a winter ballad single in December " ; this is a reference to Kumi 's December single Koishikute . The music video features an animated Kumi inside a giant robot , ready to race an opponent . The two robots get ready to race around a city circuit , with the crowd cheering them on . As they race , several obstacles are in the way . The opponent attacks Kumi , but crashes into the stadium . Due to some damage of her robot , she jumps out of the robot with a cyber ? motorcycle and races to the end . Winning , the opponent 's robot is completely damage as the opponent emerges from it . The opponent , a woman , throws a pendant of Kumi and her . The video finishes with the pendant changing to the song 's title . The music video premiered on October 24 on Japanese music television .

= = Promotion and other appearances = =

Koda performed the song for the first time on her Premium Night : Love & Songs concert tour in Japan . It was later included on the live album , released on March 20 , 2013 . The song was included on Koda 's Hall Tour 2014 : Bon Voyage concert tour in Japan . It was included on the

special medley segment , which also included the tracks : " Real Emotion " , " Last Angel " , " Crazy 4 U " , " Gentle Words " , " Anata Dake Ga " , " Take Back " , " Taboo " , and " Lady Go ! " . It was later included on the live album and DVD release , released on October 3 and October 10 , 2014 @.@ respectively . The DJ Aki and Asy remix was included on her Koda Kumi Driving Hit 's 5 remix compilation (2013) .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Kumi Koda ? vocals , background vocals , song writing

Clarabell ? composer , producer , arranger , programmer , engineer

Yoichiro Nomura ? composer , producer , arranger , programmer , engineer

Kiyoto Konda ? guitar

DJ Aki ? composer , remixer

Takeo Yatabe ? composer , remixer

Tomoe Nakano ? director

Rhythm Zone - management , label

Avex Trax - parent label , management

Credits adapted from the CD and DVD version of the single :

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =