

= Seasons (Ayumi Hamasaki song) =

" Seasons " (capitalized as " SEASONS ") is a song recorded by Japanese recording artist Ayumi Hamasaki for her third studio album , Duty (2000) . It was written by Hamasaki , while production was handled by Max Matsuura . It premiered on June 7 , 2000 as the third single from the album . The song is the final part of a trilogy from Duty ; the other two singles being " Vogue " and " Far Away " .

Musically , " Season " is a Japanese pop song . The lyrics highlights theme of the hopelessness , describing Hamasaki 's future . Upon its release , the track garnered positive reviews from music critics , who praised Hamasaki 's songwriting , the songs composition and selected it as an album and career stand out track . It also achieved success in Japan , peaking at number one on the Oricon Singles Chart and on the TBS Count Down TV chart . " Seasons " has sold over 1 @. @ 367 million units in Japan , making it Hamasaki 's best selling single .

The accompanying music video for " Seasons " was directed by Wataru Takeishi , and leads on from the videos of " Vogue " and " Far Away " ; it features Hamasaki in a black gown in the middle of a post @- @ apocalypse city . Both the music video and the song has appeared on several compilations by Hamasaki , including A Best (2001) and A Complete : All Singles (2008) . For additional promotion , the song was featured on several concert tours by Hamasaki .

= = Background and release = =

" Seasons " " was recorded in 2000 at Nowadays Studios and Prime Sound Studios in Tokyo , Japan . As part of the trilogy set with " Vogue " and " Far Away " , " Seasons " highlights theme of hopelessness and predicts Hamasaki 's future . With this , " Vogue " details Hamasaki 's presence , whilst " Far Away " discusses her past . Based on her song writing , she described her feelings after the writing all the tracks from Duty as " unnatural " and was constantly " nervous " for the final result . A staff reviewer from Amazon Japan noticed that the trilogy set had a " healing effect " that was absent on Hamasaki 's two previous studio albums .

" Seasons " was written by Hamasaki , while production was handled by Japanese businessman and musician Max Matsuura . The song was composed by long @- @ term collaborators Dai Nagao , whilst arrangement was handled by Naoto Suzuki . For the track 's instrumentation , Suzuki played the keyboards , Naoki Hayashibe played the guitar , Takahiro Iida programmed and mixed the final composition , and Junko Hirotsu provided background vocals .

It was selected as the second single from Duty , and was released on June 7 , 2000 by Avex Trax . The maxi CD of the single contains the original composition and its instrumental version , plus nine remixes . As a single from the Duty trilogy , which included Hamasaki 's singles " Vogue " and " Far Away " , the singles were released as a DVD single and VHS . It included the three mini @- @ music videos , alongside the making @- @ of videos and a TV commercial . The CD and digital cover sleeve have an image of Hamasaki holding a polaroid of the cover artwork for " Far Away " . The song 's title , " Seasons " , is present on cover . The standalone CD cover was used as the digital EP cover for the iTunes Store and Amazon.com.

= = Critical response = =

" Seasons " received favourable reviews from music critics . Alexey Eremenko , who had written her extended biography at AllMusic , highlighted the song as an album and career stand out track . Morimosa from Nifty.com complimented Hamasaki 's songwriting in the song . A staff reviewer from Yahoo ! GeoCities was positive towards the song , and selected it as one of the best tracks from the album . Hamasaki hosted an online voting poll for fans to choose their favourite tracks to be featured on her Ayumi Hamasaki 15th Anniversary Tour Best Live Tour . As a result , " Seasons " was included on the list . In early 2014 , in honor of Hamasaki 's sixteenth @- @ year career milestone , Japanese website Goo.ne.jp hosted a poll for fans to rank their favourite songs by Hamasaki out of thirty positions ; the poll was held in only twenty @- @ four hours , and thousands submitted their

votes . As a result , " Seasons " was ranked at the top spot . According to their separate review , the website commented on its win ; " ' Seasons ' was an instant classic ... Fans cite the song 's heartfelt and resonating lyrics as some of her best . "

= = Commercial performance = =

In Japan , " Seasons " was a success on the Oricon Singles Chart . It debuted at the top spot of the chart , lasted for 21 weeks on the chart , and sold 1 @.@ 367 million units by the end of 2000 . This is Hamasaki 's best selling single ; as of today , the song is Hamasaki 's second best selling single according to Oricon Style . The DVD single , released under the title of Vogue / Far Away / Seasons reached number one on the Oricon DVD Chart , spending seventeen weeks in the top fifty . It is Hamasaki 's second best selling DVD single , and her eighth best seller overall . " Seasons " was certified million by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for shipments of one million units . In August 2014 , the song was certified gold by RIAJ for digital sales of 100 @,@ 000 units . The single entered at number one on Japan 's TBS Count Down TV Chart ; it stayed there for two consecutive weeks , and lasted 21 weeks in the chart . It was placed at number seven on their Annual Count Down TV chart in 2000 .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video was directed by Wataru Takeishi . Because the music video was part of the trilogy set with " Vogue " and " Far Away " , only a portion of the song was shot for the video . As a result , the video for " Seasons " lasts for two minutes and 27 seconds . Two outtake shots from the " Vogue " video were then used for the artworks of " Far Away " and " Seasons " . The music video was included on the DVD and VHS formats of " Seasons " . The music video also appeared on Hamasaki 's DVD compilation box sets : A Clips Vol.2 (2002) , Complete Clip Box (2004) , A Clip Box 1998 ? 2011 (2011) , and the bonus DVD version with A Complete : All Singles .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The video opens with a cover of a photo album , superimposed with a scene of two children from the videos of " Vogue " and " Far Away " . It then has a blurry image of Hamasaki in the post @-@ apocalyptic city , which has now left behind a series of hills . As Hamasaki walks towards the camera , the photo album opens with the city before its destruction . Hamasaki stands in the middle of a grainy surface , with projectile flames coming from underneath the ground . As she sings , scenes from the " Vogue " and " Far Away " videos appear in the photo album . She walks through the hill surface , finding the photo album the two children left behind . She opens the book , and witnesses the " Vogue " video . The final scene has Hamasaki close the book , which its back cover is a title @-@ less shot of the artwork to " Vogue " .

= = Live performances and other appearances = =

Hamasaki has performed " Seasons " on several concert tours throughout Asia . The song was performed on Hamasaki 's 2000 concert in Japan , where it was included during the first segment . It was included on the live DVD , released on September 27 , 2000 . It was performed on her 2000 @-@ 2001 New Years countdown concert tour , where it was included during the last segment . It was included on the live DVD , released on June 20 , 2001 . It was performed on her Dome Tour (2001) , where it was included during the last segment . It was included on the live DVD , released on December 12 , 2001 . It was performed on her Stadium tour (2002) , where it was included as an encore track . It was included on the live DVD , released on January 29 , 2003 .

It was performed on her A Museum tour (2004) , where it was included as an encore track . It was included on the live DVD , released on February 25 , 2004 . It was performed on her Tours of Secret

concert tour (2007) , where it was included as an encore track . It was included on the live DVD , released on March 12 , 2008 . The song was performed on her Power of Music tour (2011) in Japan , where it was included in the trilogy segment with " Vogue " and " Far Away " . It was included on the live DVD , released on March 21 , 2012 . The song was performed on her 15th Anniversary tour (2013) in Japan , where it was included in the trilogy segment with " Vogue " and " Far Away " . It was included on the live DVD , released on October 30 , 2013 . The song has been included on three of her greatest hits compilations : A Best (2002) , A Complete : All Singles (2008) , and A Summer Best (2012) . The 2000 vol . 2 live performance was included on Hamasaki 's live DVD compilation , A 50 Singles : Live Selection (2011) , and the DVD edition of A Summer Best .

" Seasons " has been remixed by several professional disc jockeys and producers , and has appeared on several remix albums by Hamasaki : the Hex Hector and Bump and Flex remix on ayu @-@ mi @-@ x III Non @-@ Stop Mega Mix Version (2001) and Ayu @-@ mi @-@ x 4 + Selection Non @-@ Stop Mega Mix Version (2002) , the A Eurobeat remix on Super Eurobeat Presents Ayu @-@ ro Mix 2 (2001) , and the John O 'Callaghan (musician) remix on Ayu @-@ mi @-@ x 7 Presents Ayu Trance 4 (2011) . The orchestral acoustic remix , and its instrumental version , was included on her third orchestral remix album , ayu @-@ mi @-@ x III Acoustic Orchestra Version (2001) .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the singles liner notes :

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =