

= Lights and Sounds ( song ) =

" Lights and Sounds " is a song by the American pop punk band Yellowcard . The song was written collaboratively by all the band members for their fifth album , Lights and Sounds ( 2006 ) . The track is built around an instrumental guitar riff , which is then followed with a repetitive drumming beat , then it is followed by a roaring guitar sound .

The song 's lyrics are based on the band coping with the success they were enduring when writing songs for their second album . It is also based on how they have aged in the process . " Lights and Sounds " also goes with what vocalist Ryan Key described as when he was preoccupied with making the album .

The song was released on November 15 , 2005 , and peaked at number four on Billboard 's Modern Rock Tracks chart . It also appeared at number twenty @-@ six on the Hot Digital chart . The song peaked at number 50 on Billboard 's Hot 100 and Pop 100 in the 42 spot . Internationally , the track appeared for one week in the UK Singles Chart at number 56 . It also appeared in the Australian and New Zealand charts , respectively .

" Lights and Sounds " was well received by music critics , who noted the track 's general sound . The song won the 2006 Spike Video Game Award in the category for Best Song , after it was featured in the video game , Burnout Revenge . During promotion for the band 's album , the music video for " Lights and Sounds " was featured in a Verizon Wireless V @-@ cast commercial . The music video was shot in October 2005 and the video is a performance @-@ only video , in which the band play in a dark room with thin lights , a homage to the song 's title .

= = Background = =

In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine in June 2005 , Yellowcard vocalist Ryan Key revealed that the song was written " really late in the process " when development of the album began . Key also talked about the sound featured in the song , saying : " ... it 's got such an amazing , driving , rock- & -roll vibe to it , with none of that frickin ' pop @-@ punk and alternative rock stigma . Secondly , I hate yellowcard being tagged as an alternative rock band . It 's just a great rock song . That 's something we 've been striving to write for a long time , so when we were done , it was a relief . "

In another Rolling Stone interview , the band explained the meaning of the title track , saying that is based on a " whirlwind rocker about the pressures on the band members " and how they have changed as they have aged . Bassist Peter Mosely , in discussion of this , said : " We 're older than people think we are . [ ... ] We go through months of serenity , and then there 'll be this one night where there will be evil . " In another interview discussion about " Lights and Sounds " , Key noted that it is " about a band like us coming into a career that we didn 't think we 'd have . You find yourself surrounded by a lot of false people , a lot of people who are not doing it for the same reasons you are . That song is about the struggle of not giving in to that . " The band explained that the lyrics , " Make it new but stay in the lines / Just let go but keep it inside / Smile big for everyone / Even when you know what they 've done / They gave you the end but not where to start / Not how to build , how to tear it apart " , were written because of that particular reason . Key also revealed that the lyrics , " They gave you the end / But not where to start / Not how to build / But how to tear it apart " , were references to bands Nofx and Bad Religion . Key also explained that when he was preoccupied by distractions , in which he referred to them as " lights and sounds " , which ultimately resulted in the band naming the album and track title just that . Key also revealed that it was because that is how it surrounded the band , when working on the album .

= = Release and reception = =

Yellowcard released " Lights and Sounds " in the United States on November 15 , 2005 , as the lead single of their fifth album . The song peaked at number four on Billboard 's Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart . The song also appeared on the Hot Digital Songs chart on the number twenty @-@

six position . It also charted in Billboard 's Hot 100 and Pop 100 , respectively . Internationally , the song appeared in the UK Singles Chart on March 18 , 2006 , in the number 56 position , for one week . " Lights and Sounds " also appeared in the Australian chart , in the number twenty @-@ four spot . The track peaked on the New Zealand charts at number twenty @-@ three . Afterward , the song spent 11 weeks on the chart , before retiring on April 19 .

The song received positive reception from critics . In the Blender magazine review of the album , critic Andy Greenwald , wrote : " The title track [ Lights and Sounds ] , bursting with buzzing distortion , builds into a satisfying anti @-@ glitz rant . " Tom Beajour of Entertainment Weekly reported that the song " crams all of the genre 's essential tropes ? distorted power chords , abrupt dynamic shifts , and singsong melodies ? into three and a half minutes of radio @-@ friendly fire . " Chris Saunders of MusicOMH noted that the song is laden with " memorable hooks , quiet / loud dynamics and emotive lyrics which will no doubt cut through to many a disenchanted youth : ' They gave you the end but not the where to start / not how to build , how to tear it apart . ' " Saunders concluded that the song " is as lively and rousing as most of their best tracks . " Sputnikmusic wrote : " The adventure is only on the second track [ Lights and Sounds ] and the guys of Yellowcard are just getting started . This is by far the best tune on the album . " Bart Gottula of The Clarion wrote : " The album 's single and title cut , ' Light 's and Sounds ' , follows with an amazing performance by every band member . The song provides a quick , hard @-@ hitting beat that brings back Yellowcard 's hybrid punk and emo music that the band explored in its previous single , ' Way Away ' . "

" Lights and Sounds " was featured on a Verizon Wireless Vcast commercial around the time of the album 's release . The song was also featured in the video game Burnout Revenge and won the 2006 Spike Video Game Award for Best Song . The song is also featured in the 2010 video game Tony Hawk : Shred , and an episode of the teen drama One Tree Hill .

= = Music video = =

The video for " Lights and Sounds " was shot on a Van Nuys , California sound stage in October 2005 . Originally , the video was supposed to be directed by Ryan Key , when the time came to start production , it was instead directed by Marc Webb , who had previously worked with Yellowcard on their 2004 video for " Ocean Avenue " . The video premiered on November 7 , 2005 , on MTV2 .

In an interview with MTV News , Webb revealed that the band wanted a " performance video " and that they wanted to go back to their " rock roots " . When asked the concept behind the video , Webb said : " They provided the sound and I provided the lights . A whole lot of lights . We used the same guy who did the lighting setup for Lenny Kravitz 's ' Are You Gonna Go My Way ? ' and Coldplay 's ' Speed of Sound . ' But it 's also rough around the edges ? we used a bunch of different processes when developing the film . " He also concluded with , " ... it 's a big performance video . But it 's them performing inside of this wind @-@ tunnel of light . It 's a lot of smoke and mirrors , and a lot of camera tricks . There 's a big light wall , streaks of light , xenon lighting effects and strobe lights . [ ... ] But it 's all wrapped around this very simple performance environment " .

The video opens with a scene of the band in a stage room with a tunnel light , which is accompanied by the song playing in the background . The scene moves to the band grabbing their instruments , respectively . The band proceeds in performing the song . The scene then shifts to Key when he begins to sing . The camera shifts all around the room with different color lights , including a bullet hole scenery , as it then shifts to the band , as they continue performing . When Key sings " ' Cause nobody 's there " the light wall changes into a bright purple background . As the video shows the band continuing the song still at a fast pace , the effect is followed by a slow motion sequence . In the middle of the song , the lights are turned off , leaving the room pitch black . This is followed with the camera switching to the band members as they begin to play , once more , only with a bright yellow light on the tip of their instruments ; the tips of the drum sticks that Parsons is holding also have yellow lights . As Key sings " I 've got a way to work this out " blue lights emerge in the wall behind the group . The video ends with a focus on Key 's microphone .

= = Track listing = =

AU Single :

" Lights and Sounds " ? 3 : 28

" Three Flights Down " ? 4 : 44

" When We 're Old Men " ? 3 : 32

" Lights and Sounds " ( Live ) ? 3 : 38

Maxi :

" Lights and Sounds " ? 3 : 30

" When We 're Old Men " ? 3 : 32

" Lights and Sounds " ( Live ) ? 6 : 08

" Lights and Sounds " ( Multimedia Track )

= = Charts = =