

= Young Girls =

" Young Girls " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Bruno Mars . It was composed by Bruno Mars , Philip Lawrence and Ari Levine , Jeff Bhasker , and Emile Haynie for Mars ' second studio album Unorthodox Jukebox ( 2012 ) . " Young Girls " is a midtempo pop ballad , which incorporates elements of doo @-@ wop , and reminiscent of the song " It Will Rain " and Lana Del Rey 's work . Its music is largely based on drums , synths , piano and " bits of " electronic music . " Young Girls " was released as the first promotional single and later as the fifth overall single from Unorthodox Jukebox , being first serviced to Contemporary hit radio in Australia on November 26 , 2013 .

It received generally mixed to positive reviews . Many music critics noted the complex instrumental and praised Mars ' vocals on the record . Its lyrics , detail the fact of the singer being unable to resist to his attraction to young girls were met with criticism ; with reviewers calling it a " recognizing sin " and " impassioned shame " . The single was recognized as the Best Pop of 2013 at the MelOn Music Awards . Commercially , " Young Girls " charted in some countries , along with the released of its parent album , such as South Korea , where it reached number one , United Kingdom and Canada . Before it was cancelled as the second single it peaked in Australia and New Zealand at 62 and 23 , respectively . As the fifth single it reached the position of 19 in Canada and 32 in the United States . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , denoting digital sales of over half a million copies in the US . The track was performed live on Saturday Night Live and occasionally on the Moonshine Jungle Tour ( 2013 @-@ 2015 ) .

= = Background and writing = =

During a MTV interview , Mars explained why the track was the first on the tracklist of the album " It really shows you what this album is going to be , and just where I was when I started this album " . He felt that anyone can easily relate to the record " There 's a moment in your life where you start going out every night , and it 's so fun , but then you start to lose yourself ; you get lost in the sauce " . The singer compared the song 's sentiment to " Lookin ' for Love In All the Wrong Places " , adding " It 's another confession " .

Mars stated that he wasn 't willing to stay too far from his roots when it comes to writing lyrics for his album . " I 'm not there yet ... to sing about politics " . He concluded , that writing and singing songs about girls is what he knows best , " I 'm not going to preach what I don 't know . As much as I love 2 Chainz 's " All I Want For My Birthday " .

A demo of the song , only featuring the vocals and an acoustic guitar , was exclusively released as bonus track on the Target edition of the album , on December 11 , 2012 . Almost a year later , on November 5 , 2013 , the demo of the song was also included on the deluxe edition of the album , released worldwide .

= = Production and release = =

" Young Girls " was written by Bruno Mars , Philip Lawrence and Ari Levine , Jeff Bhasker and Emile Haynie , while production was handled by the former three under their alias , The Smeezingtons , along with Bhasker and Haynie . The record was mixed by Manny Marroquin at Larrabee Sound Studios in North Hollywood , California and David Kutch mastered it . " Young Girls " was recorded by Levine at Levcon Studios in Los Angeles , California . Charles Moniz served as the track 's additional engineer , while the engineering of the Big Drums was handled by Brent Kolapalo and Ken Lewis .

" Young Girls " was first performed on Saturday Night Live and was released as the first promotional single taken from Unorthodox Jukebo , on November 6 , 2012 on iTunes . Later , it was reported by Mars that the record was scheduled to be the second single from the album . This release involved little planning according to Mars " I felt [ it ] was good . None of these things are planned , which one goes first , which one goes second . One day I wake up and I say , ' You know

what ? I want the world to hear this song that I wrote called ' Young Girls , ' and I put it out " . However , a week later , while performing " When I Was Your Man " on the third season finale of The Voice , he announced that the track played would be the second official single from the album . The fifth and overall single , " Young Girls " , was first liberated on Australian contemporary hit radio , on November 26 , 2013 , after being promoted by Mars in radio station , Nova . Subsequently , the song was released to United States and United Kingdom contemporary hit radios on December 10 , 2013 and February 17 , 2014 , respectively . Italian radio stations began adding the track onto their playlist on February 26 , 2014 .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Young Girls " is a pop song , performed as a " woeful " midtempo ballad . The " pop anthem " is also influenced by a groove from Mars ' debut studio album , noticeable on the backing vocals , and it contains elements of " the shaded earnestness " found in " It Will Rain " . According to the sheet music published at Music Notes by Alfred Music , the song is composed in the key of A major with a time signature in common time , and a moderate groove of 125 beats per minute . Mars 's vocals range spans from the low note of F4 to the high note C6 .

The song opens with " methodical strings " mixed with " quadruplets , floppy and fuzz wind in the opening bars " , along with synths and a piano as Mars ' vocal delivery " soars " . The music progresses with a " thumping martial beat " on the percussion of the " heavy drums " , reminding " Phil Spector ? esque tom @-@ toms " , and they " counterpoint to the ascendant melody " with " bits of electro " fading in the background . The chorus would fit in a " 60 's girl group " due to the join forces of Mars ' " retro crooner sensibilities with modern sonic flourishes " . Carl Williot of Idolator noted that the " delicate but dynamic production " on " Young Girls " is reminiscent of Lana Del Rey .

The lyrics to " Young Girls " follow the verse ? pre @-@ chorus ? chorus pattern . It begins with the singer " dumbly " trying to get noticed by " these bright @-@ eyed honeys " , since he can 't help to fall for their " dubious charms " , despite " recognizing [ the ] sin while indulging in it " . The song 's lyrics are in the same vein as Gary Puckett & The Union Gap 's " Young Girl " and The Knack 's " My Sharona " as pointed out by HitFix 's Melinda Newman . She added , the lyrics are " sweet " and tortuous as he sings " Oh , I still dream of a simple life / Boy meets girl / makes her his wife / But love don ? t exist when you live like this ... All these roads steer me wrong / But I still drive them all night long / all night long " . There is a sentiment of " lament " in the song , " Oh you young wild girls / You ? ll be the death of me " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Young Girls " debuted to mixed and positive reviews among critics . After its premiere during Mars ' performance on Saturday Night Live , it became available as a studio version with Chris Martins of Spin labeling it an " epic studio @-@ recorded glory " . On a more thorough review , Idolator 's Carl Williot found the production " dynamic " comparing it to compositions by Lana Del Rey and while " the pre @-@ chorus could be from a 60 's girl group " , the " percussion and electro flitting in the background " is what makes pop music nowadays . He concluded , that it 's " a flipside " to Mars ' lead single . HitFix 's critic Melinda Newman gave the track a B- rating , praising the melody and Mars ' vocal delivery , writing " he makes it all sound so sweet , and as if he really is tortured by these young girls " , but ultimately calling the lyrics " a little skeevy " . Jon Caramanica of The New York Times , while reviewing the album , believed that it " swells something serious . The ambition is undeniable " . He compared it to the works U2 and Daughtry . Jessica Sager , music reviewer , of Pop Crush thought the track was pleasant as " a woeful ballad " giving a positive note to Mars ' vocals , ultimately calling the song " a good choice as the first track " on the album .

On mixed review , Andy Gill of The Independent , while describing Mars ' " impassioned shame " on the lyrics called the track " enjoyable " . The lyrics have not gone undecided for PopMatters ' Matt Cibula who named them a " classic lament " and added " is as widescreen and wide @-@ open as

things get these days " . The same could be said for Jason Lipshut who , while writing for Billboard , found Mars ' " recognizing sin while indulging in it " on the " sleek " lyrics and composition . However , a " throwback vibe ( established from the backing vocals ) remain from Doo @-@ Wops " , while prospecting the earnest from " It Will Rain " . On the other hand , Paste 's Ryan Reed criticized Mars ' for playing safe on " Young Girls " , unlike most of the other tracks on the album . He explained that the singer " steps sideways " and the record " is a ' shout @-@ out @-@ to @-@ the @-@ honeys ' belter " for various reasons .

= = = Accolade = = =

In 2013 , " Young Girls " received an award at the MelOn Music Awards for the category " Best Pop " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Young Girls " was able to chart in the United States on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 , which acts as an extension of the Billboard Hot 100 , at number 2 and entered at number 64 on the Canadian Hot 100 on November 24 , 2012 , two weeks after the song was released as a promotional single . Following the release of Unorthodox Jukebox , on December 12 , 2012 , the track re @-@ entered at number 63 on the latter chart , it debuted in France at number 123 , in the United Kingdom at number 141 and the song debuted at the top spot on the South Korea International Singles chart . As of 2016 , it has sold over 431 @,@ 878 copies . In Australia , when the record was scheduled to be the second single from the album , it debuted at number 62 and it made its first appearance at number 27 in the New Zealand charts , peaking at number 23 around the same time .

On November 26 , 2013 , it was released as an official single in Australia . On the following week , it was the most added track to radio stations . Despite that , the highest position the single was able to peak was at number 62 , when the song was set to be released as the second single . Nevertheless , the record was certified gold by the Australian Record Industry Association ( ARIA ) . " Young Girls " reached its highest mark at number 83 in the United Kingdom , after its official release . The track peaked at number 32 on the Hot 100 and stayed there for 14 weeks . In the Mainstream Top 40 the aforementioned song peaked inside the top 10 , at number 9 , something which the previous single was unable to do , thus ending the top 10 streak . It was certified gold on June 26 , 2014 , by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . In Canada , the song peaked at number 19 and Music Canada ( MC ) awarded a gold certification to it , and made the 2013 year end list of the Canadian Hot 100 .

= = Live performances and covers = =

" Young Girls " made its debut during a performance on Saturday Night Live on October 2012 . On December 4 , 2012 Mars recorded performance on the Victoria 's Secret Fashion Show , aired on CBS . His performance happened during the Calendar Girls . Sam Lansky of Idolator said the performance during the Calendar Girls was " impressive " , despite the singer not being " runway @-@ friendly as RiRi " . On December 7 , 2012 , Mars and his band sung the record on , the German show , " Sat 1 Frühstücksfernsehen " and on December 31 , 2012 at the New Year Alan Carr 's Specstacular . It was performed occasionally on the Moonshine Jungle Tour ( 2013 @-@ 2014 ) . The song was recorded by Mark Kozelek for his 2013 acoustic cover songs album Like Rats . It was also covered by Chris Jamison and Jonathan Wyndham during their Battle Round in the season 7 of The Voice and was made available for purchase on October 13 , 2014 .

= = Music Video = =

On December 12 , 2012 , it was reported for the first time that " Young Girls " would be the second single , a music video was already in production as of December 6 , 2012 and was set to be directed

by Cameron Duddy . Mars addmited to be spending a lot of his time thinking about the processing of the video , saying " It ? s going to be something I ? ve never done before , I promise you that " . A day before the performance on Victoria 's Secret show an official audio video of the song was uploaded to YouTube . The official music video was never released .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Levcon Studios in Los Angeles , California

Mixed at Larrabee Sound Studios in North Hollywood , California .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Unorthodox Jukebox

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release = =