

= Together When ... =

" Together When ... " is a song recorded by Japanese recording artist Ayumi Hamasaki . It was released by Avex Trax on December 5 , 2007 , and Rhythm Republic on April 9 , 2008 as a double A @-@ side with one of Hamasaki 's tracks " Game " as the third and final single from her ninth studio album , Guilty (2007) . It was released as Hamasaki 's first digital single in Japan , and was Avex Trax 's first single to be distributed as a digital download only . The track was written by Hamasaki herself , while production was handled by long @-@ time collaborator Max Matsuura . Musically , " Together When ... " is a power ballad . The lyrical content is about the finishing and separation of a relationship between lovers .

Upon its release , " Together When ... " received positive reviews from most music critics . Some of them selected the track as the best song from the album , while complimenting the composition and Hamasaki 's vocals / songwriting . Although it did not enter in Japan 's Oricon Singles Chart , it did peak at number one on the Reco @-@ ky? Singles Chart . It was certified in two categories by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) ; as of June 2016 , it has been downloaded over three million times , making this Hamasaki 's highest selling single . An accompanying music video was directed by Takahide Ishii , which displays Hamasaki waiting at a taxi stand , and another scene with her as a marionette . To promote the single , it was included on some of Hamasaki 's concert tours including her 2007 and 2010 New Years countdown shows .

= = Background and release = =

" Together When ... " was written by Hamasaki herself , while production was handled by long @-@ time collaborator Max Matsuura . The song 's instrumentation consists of piano and guitar by musician CMJK , drums by Makoto Izumitani , bass by Chris Chaney , conducting by David Campbell , and string arrangements by the David Campbell Strings Ensemble . It was then composed together and arranged by Kunio Tago and CMJK . " Together When ... " was one of the only tracks on Hamasaki 's ninth studio album , Guilty (2008) , that included instrumentation by Caucasian composers , instead of musicians in Japan . Musically , " Together When ... " is a power ballad . Bradley Stern from MuuMuse compared the composition and musical elements to the material from Hamasaki 's 2002 album I Am ... , and her 2003 EP Memorial Address . According to a staff reviewer at Japanese music magazine CD Journal , the song includes " quiet piano " riffs and " elegant string " arrangements . The lyrical content is about the finishing and separation of a relationship between lovers .

It was released by Avex Trax on December 5 , 2007 as the third and final single from Guilty . It was released as Hamasaki 's first digital single in Japan , and was Avex Trax 's first single to be distributed only on a digital download format . The digital single included the recording and its instrumental version . Then on April 9 , 2008 , " Together When ... " was re @-@ released by Rhythm Republic as a double A @-@ side single , issued on a 12 " inch vinyl , with one of Hamasaki 's previous songs " Game " (which appeared on her sixth studio album My Story (2003) .) . The vinyl included two remixes of " Game " by Japanese DJ Yoji , whilst the second side featured two remixes of " Together When ... " by Co @-@ Fusion .

= = Reception = =

Upon its release , " Together When ... " received positive reviews from most music critics . Bradley Stern , head writer from MuuMuse , awarded the song a maximum of ten points and labelled it one of the best tracks on Guilty . He commented , " Finally , a ballad with feeling ! ... Call me sadistic , but the best moments in an Ayumi song are the parts where it sounds like she 's about to break (" Memorial Address ") . This song is full of those moments . " In a similar review , a staff member at Channel @-@ Ai awarded it five stars out of five , and believed that the song is one " of her strongest ballads " . The reviewer further explained , " The emotion within the ballad is so infectious that the audience cannot help but feel empathy towards Ayumi . " A staff member at CD Journal

enjoyed the song , labeling it a " beautiful performance " by Hamasaki ; the reviewer also complimented the instrumentation and production , and how it " melted together comfortably " .

" Together When ... " was unable to chart on Japan 's Oricon Singles Chart because of their restriction of digital sales and position . Despite this , it did peak at number one on the Reco @-@ ky? Singles Chart . The single was later certified in two categories by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) ; a triple platinum award certifying 750 @,@ 000 ringtone downloads , and a platinum award certifying 250 @,@ 000 cellphone downloads . This made it Hamasaki 's first and final million selling single since " Blue Bird " in 2006 , and her third and final single to sell over one million digital shipments (behind " Carols " and " Heaven ") . As of June 2016 , it has been downloaded over 3 @.@ 3 million times , making this Hamasaki 's highest selling single .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video was directed by Takahide Ishii . It opens with a couple arguing in a taxi , which later has them leaving the car and walk down the street . Behind them has Hamasaki sitting on a bench observing a puppet show , smiling in the distance . The taxi driver questions her smiling , and looks at the show . It then shows several camera angles with Hamasaki singing the song , and then has the second verse with Hamasaki and a male companion as the marionette dolls . As marionette dolls , they both walk past each other in a dark atmosphere , whilst the chorus has Hamasaki singing the song again at the bench . As the second chorus is about to begin , several children start to play with the dolls , to Hamasaki 's delight . However , the children decide to purchase the male doll , and leaves the female doll (portrayed by Hamasaki) on the small puppet show 's stage .

As the town , where Hamasaki is sitting on the bench , starts to rain , the atmosphere where Hamasaki is the doll starts to rain as well . Just after Hamasaki finishes singing the second chorus , an instrumental break happens and has Hamasaki looking at the now abandoned puppet show . A truck then drives past , which vibrates the puppet show 's stage , causing the doll to fall on the ground and its strings become tangled . This happens to Hamasaki as the doll ; she faints in the dark atmosphere land , with strings attached to her . Hamasaki , sitting on the bench , starts to cry and sings the remaining of the song . It ends with the taxi driver , who finishes day dreaming about the marionettes dolls , opening the door for Hamasaki to enter .

= = Promotion and live performances = =

To promote the single , Hamasaki performed the song on several concert tours and was used as commercials in Japan . It was used as the commercial track for Gemcerey jewellery , which Hamasaki appeared as the spokeswoman for the company . It was then used for Music.jp in Japan . The song was included on some of Hamasaki 's concert tours , including her : 2007 @-@ 2008 Anniversary Tour , the 2010 @-@ 2011 : Do It Again Tour , and the 2012 @-@ 2013 : Wake Me Up Tour .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from the CD liner notes of Guilty ;

Recording

Recorded at Record Plant Recording Studio , Los Angeles , California ; Conway Recording Studios , Los Angeles , California ; Clinton Recording Studios , New York City , New York .

Credits

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =