

= Far Away (Ayumi Hamasaki song) =

" Far Away " (stylized as " Far away ") 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 May 17 , 2000 as the second single from the album . The song is part of a trilogy from Duty ; the other two singles being " Vogue " and " Seasons " .

Musically , " Far Away " is a Japanese pop song . The lyrics highlights theme of nostalgia , describing Hamasaki 's past . Upon its release , the track garnered positive reviews from music critics , who praised Hamasaki 's song writing and selected it as an album and career stand out track . It also achieved success in Japan , peaking at number two on the Oricon Singles Chart and on the TBS Count Down TV chart . " Far Away " has sold over 510 @, @ 000 units in Japan .

The accompanying music video for " Far Away " was directed by Wataru Takeishi , and serves as a sequel to the video for " Vogue " ; it features two children in a post @-@ apocalypse city , reading a book that has video imagery of Hamasaki in a cherry blossom field . Hamasaki then appears in the 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 including her 2000 Japan tour and her Power of Music tour .

= = Background and release = =

" Far Away " was written by Hamasaki , while production was handled by Japanese producer Max Matsuura . The song was composed by long @-@ term collaborators Kazuhito Kikuchi and Dai Nagao , whilst arrangement was handled by Japanese production team H?L . This was one of Kikuchi 's final collaborations with Hamasaki , until he returned as the main composer for her sixth studio album , My Story (2004) . For the track 's instrumentation , H?L played the keyboard and mixed the final composition , Naoki Akimoto played the guitar , and Junko Hirotsu provided background vocals . Atushi Hattori co @-@ mixed the final composition alongside H?L . It was selected as the second single from Duty , and was released on May 17 , 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 " Seasons " , the singles were released as DVD singles and on VHS ; it included the three mini @-@ music videos , alongside the making videos and a TV commercial . The CD and digital cover sleeve has a polaroid photo of Hamasaki in water . The standalone CD cover was used as the digital EP cover for the iTunes Store and Amazon.com.

= = Composition = =

" Far Away " was recorded in 2000 at Avex Studios and Prime Sound Studios in Tokyo , Japan . As part of the trilogy set with " Vogue " and " Seasons " , " Far Away " highlights theme of nostalgia , describing Hamasaki 's past . Following the same theme , " Vogue " details the present and " Seasons " discusses Hamasaki 's future . The trilogy set also focuses on hopelessness , a reflection of Hamasaki 's disappointment that she had not expressed herself thoroughly on any of her previous lyrics . 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 .

= = Critical response = =

" Far Away " received generally 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 ; he compared the song

writing to the rest of the songs from Duty , and praised Hamasaki 's ability to write about both " positive " and " negative " topics in the song . 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 , " Far Awa " 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 , " Far Away " was ranked at 22 , with 19 @.@ 9 percent of the votes .

= = Commercial performance = =

In Japan , " Far Away " debuted at number two on the Oricon Singles Chart ; it lasted for 13 weeks on the chart , selling 510 @,@ 460 units by the end of 2000 . This became Hamasaki 's fifth highest selling single at the time ; the song is currently Hamasaki 's 15th best selling single according to Oricon Style . The DVD single , released under the title of Vogue / Far Away / Seasons reached at 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 . " Far Away " was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for shipments of 400 @,@ 000 units . The single entered at number two on Japan 's TBS Count Down TV Chart ; it stayed there for one week , and lasted 14 weeks in the chart . It was placed at number 51 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 " Seasons " , only a portion of the song was shot for the video . As a result , the video for " Far Away " lasts for two minutes and 21 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 " Far Away " . 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 close @-@ up shot of Hamasaki , similar to the one in " Vogue " . Two children are seen in the distance , both of whom were in the " Vogue " music video " . Hamasaki holds up a fishbowl with a goldfish inside , where it is then digitally edited with textile layers and gradients . As Hamasaki continues singing the song , she is then standing in the middle of the post @-@ apocalyptic world from " Vogue " . Both the children look into the distance , with inter cut scenes of Hamasaki singing and different fish swimming in the fish bowl . As the children look into the distance , a storm starts in the sky . The kids drop the picture book in the " Vogue " video , and run of into the distance . The final scene has Hamasaki singing on the front cover of the book .

= = Live performances and other appearances = =

Hamasaki has performed " Far Away " on several concert tours throughout Asia . The song was performed on both of Hamasaki 's 2000 concerts in Japan , where it was included during the first segment . It was included on two live DVD 's (Vol.1 and Vol.2) released on September 27 , 2000 . The song was performed on her 2011 Power of Music tour in Japan , where it was included in the trilogy segment with " Vogue " and " Seasons " . It was included on the live DVD , released on March 21 , 2012 . 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 . 1 live

performance was included on Hamasaki 's live DVD compilation , A 50 Singles : Live Selection (2011) , and the DVD edition of A Summer Best .

" Far Away " has been remixed by several professional disc jockeys and producers , and has appeared on several remix albums by Hamasaki , including the Hex Hector and Rank 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 Ayu @-@ Ro remix on Super Eurobeat Presents Ayu @-@ ro Mix 2 (2001) , and the Alex Morph remix on Ayu @-@ mi @-@ x 7 Presents Ayu Trance 4 (2011) . The orchestral acoustic remix and its instrumental version , were included on her third orchestral remix album , ayu @-@ mi @-@ x III Acoustic Orchestra Version (2001) .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the singles liner notes :

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =