

= Sparks Fly ( song ) =

" Sparks Fly " is a song written and recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift for her third studio album Speak Now ( 2010 ) . Swift wrote the song when she was 16 years old , prior to the release of her debut single " Tim McGraw " in 2006 . Following a 2007 live performance of the song , " Sparks Fly " grew in popularity among Swift 's fanbase . While Speak Now was under production , she received requests from fans to include the song on the album . Produced by Swift and Nathan Chapman , the song was serviced to country radio in the United States by Big Machine Records on July 18 , 2011 , as the fifth single from Speak Now . A CD single was released on Swift 's official store for a limited time on August 10 , 2011 .

" Sparks Fly " received generally positive reviews by music critics , who praised it for its upbeat tempo . Others praised Swift 's lyrics of the song and have claimed that the song is a crossover between country and pop . Following the release of Speak Now , the song debuted at number 17 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and at number 28 on the Canadian Hot 100 , due to strong digital sales . After the song was released as a single , it re @-@ entered the US Billboard Hot 100 at 84 . It peaked at number one at the US Billboard Hot Country Songs chart and was certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for sales of over 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies . " Sparks Fly " was used as the opening song for the Speak Now World Tour ( 2011 ? 12 ) . A music video for the song was released , featuring clips of various performances during the Speak Now World Tour .

= = Background and release = =

Swift began work on her third studio album Speak Now two years prior to its release in 2010 . " Sparks Fly " was written by Swift when she was sixteen years old , prior the release of her eponymous album in 2006 . She performed the song live during several bar shows " of forty and fifty people " . A recorded live performance of the song during one of her concerts made its way onto the internet in 2007 . The song became a favorite among Swift 's fans , leading Swift to rework the song and include it on Speak Now after having so many requested for it to be included on the album . Of the song , Swift said that : " This is a song I wrote a few years ago and I have been working on it ever since . It 's been awesome to see it change over the years . The fans have heard it before in concert , but there have been some really cool changes that I am very proud of and can 't wait for them to hear . "

The song was sent to country music radio stations on July 18 , 2011 , as the fifth single from Speak Now . An exclusive package was released to Swift 's official store including a " Speak Now " necklace and an individually numbered " Sparks Fly " CD single . Only 2 @,@ 500 copies of the CD single were made and the package was made available for a limited time . The single was later included in another package that is exclusive to Swift 's official store . The package included the Target exclusive deluxe edition of Speak Now , a free pair of headphones , and the choice between either the " Sparks Fly " , " The Story of Us " , or the " Mean " CD single . The song was featured on a promotional trailer for the CW show , Hart of Dixie . It was also featured on the annual " Macy 's 4th of July Fireworks Show " last 2012 . The song was released on Now That 's What I Call Country Volume 5 .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Sparks Fly " is a country pop song with a length of four minutes and 22 seconds . The song , written solely by Swift , is in the key of D minor with Swift 's vocals spanning two octaves , from F3 to C5 . Johnathan Keefe claimed that " the a capella " Drop everything now " exclamation simply commands attention , with the desperation in Swift ? s call @-@ to @-@ action answering the common criticisms that her work is sexless and chaste . " Bobby Peacock stated that " I wouldn 't mind if the banjo from the 2007 version were left in , but its omission is hardly make @-@ or @-@ break . Perhaps my biggest problem is that the song 's chorus undermines itself in the second half ?

it starts out emphatic and anthemic as usual , but there 's just no " oomph " on the hook . It almost feels as if she 's trailing off mid @-@ sentence . " Blake Boldt of Engine 145 stated " " Sparks Fly " centers around a simple but effective hook ? " I see sparks fly whenever you smile " ? that further cements Swift ? s reputation as one the craftiest songwriters in popular music . " Amanda Hensel of Taste of Country commented on the chorus of the song stating , " Though Swift implies that this particular crush is a " bad idea , " she still insists that they should try to make it work in the chorus : " Drop everything now , meet me in the pouring rain / Kiss me on the sidewalk , take away the pain / ? Cause I see sparks fly / Whenever you smile , " she sings insistently . "

According to Swift , the song is about " falling for someone who you maybe shouldn 't fall for , but you can 't stop yourself because there 's such a connection and chemistry . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Sparks Fly " received positive reviews from music critics . Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone praised Swift 's vocals on " Sparks Fly " , commenting that her voice in such an upbeat song is unaffected enough to mask how masterful she has become as a singer . Rahul Prabhakar of The Oxonian Review considers it " dopamine @-@ infused , hair @-@ whipping stuff " . Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine calls the song " the purest iteration of Swift ? s template and repertoire " , also saying that it " could turn things around for Swift , as it ? s perhaps the most perfectly constructed single in a career built on tracks that are marvels of pop production and songwriting . " He concluded by stating that the song " proves how evocative those turns @-@ of @-@ phrase can be in the right context . To that end , ? Sparks Fly ? plays as a template as much as it does as a standalone single , and it ? s a testament to everything Taylor Swift gets right . " Bobby Peacock of Roughstock claims that he gets " a sense that Taylor is starting to experience a little burnout at radio . Her songs drop like rocks once they peak , and she 's currently 0 for 3 on hitting the top of the Billboard charts . While I don 't think this song has that *je ne sais quoi* to get her another ' You Belong with Me ' -level hit , I still think that even a slightly lesser effort from her is a worthwhile listen . " Blake Boldt of Engine 145 praised Swift , saying " Her infusion of individual lines with urgency ( ? Drop everything now , ? she insists ) and earnestness ( ? Take away the pain , ? she pleads ) are a tribute to her talent , not so much as a distinguished vocalist but as an excellent communicator . Each frazzled note is freighted with meaning . Should I stay or should I go now ? , she wonders , wiling [ sic ] away the hours before he calls her again . " Amanda Hensel of Taste of Country claimed the song is " just another one of those so @-@ Swift tracks that continually toes the line between country and pop to create a genre that is 100 % Taylor Swift . " Erin Thompson of Seattle Weekly stated he wasn 't to " hot on " the song and compared the song to Swift 's earlier works , " Fearless " , " Hey Stephen " , and " Forever and Always " , and stated that Swift " puts in a line about standing in the rain in so many of her songs that I 'm beginning to think she watches The Notebook every time she gets ready to sit down and write a song . " Mikael Wood of Spin considered it a bubbly tune along with Swift 's song , " Long Live " .

= = Commercial performance = =

Following the release of *Speak Now* , on November 4 , 2010 , " Sparks Fly " debuted at number 17 on the Billboard Hot 100 due to strong digital sales of 113 @,@ 000 downloads making it one of the songs to make Swift the first act to have ten songs debut on the Billboard Hot 100 in the same week . With the addition of " Mine " , Swift had a total of 11 songs charting in one week , making Swift the female act to have the most songs charting on the Billboard Hot 100 in the same week . The song made a Hot Shot Debut on the Hot Country Songs at number 49 . Billboard included the song in their Five Potential Pop Hits for 2011 list . The song jumped from 39 and settled on 31 on the Hot Country Songs on the week ending August 6 , 2011 . After its single release , the song re @-@ entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number 84 on the week ending August 27 , 2011 . On the week ending October 8 , 2011 the song jumped from 13 to 10 on the Hot Country Songs . The song has peaked at number 24 on the Billboard Radio Songs Chart . It peaked at number one on the Hot

Country Songs in the week of November 26 , 2011 . The song became Swift 's first single in two years to reach atop the aforesaid chart since " You Belong with Me " in 2009 . On November 29 , 2011 , the song was certified Gold by the RIAA . The song was number 37 on the 2011 year @-@ end chart of Hot Country Songs . As of August 2012 , " Sparks Fly " has sold over a million copies in the United States . In Canada , " Sparks Fly " debuted at 28 on the week of November 13 , 2010 .

" Sparks Fly " was nominated for " Favorite Song " on the Nickelodeon Kids ' Choice Awards 2012 . The song won the award for " Choice Music : Country Song " on 2012 Teen Choice Awards .

= = Live performances and music video = =

The live performance that was uploaded to YouTube was captured at the Gold Country Casino in Orville , California on May 30 , 2007 . The song was , at the time , unreleased and was performed using banjos and violins and contained different lyrics than the album version . " Sparks Fly " was the opening song of the Speak Now World Tour . The performance begins with an opening montage about how people should " speak now " about how they feel , and Swift then raises from a cloud of smoke and sings " Drop everything now " before starting the actual song performance . Swift also uses a longer interlude into the final chorus of the song . Fireworks were also used during the performance . The performance uses electric guitars instead of banjos and was released on Swift 's first live album , Speak Now World Tour Live . In his review of Speak Now World Tour Live , Matt Bjorke of Roughstock cited Swift 's perforation of " Sparks Fly " a standout during the concert . Swift has also performed the song at the CMA Music Festival . Before beginning the performance Swift walked through the crowd to the stage and began singing .

" Sparks Fly " was the first song Taylor Swift performed on her debut in the iHeart Radio Music Festival 2012 in Las Vegas , Nevada . As introduced by Nina Dobrev , Swift appeared from the audience and opened the performance of the song 's imminent hook , " Drop everything now " , as she walks through the crowd to the stage .

A music video for the song was announced on August 8 , 2011 on Swift 's official website . It premiered on August 10 , 2011 on her official website at 4 : 30 pm CDT . It is directed by Christian Lamb . The video features clips of various performances from her Speak Now World Tour , such as " Speak Now " , " Back to December " , " Better Than Revenge " , " Mean " and other performances , as well as never before seen footage at beginning . Many of the footage for the video was captured at four different tour date locations including one from the show in Newark , New Jersey . The footage with the rain was captured during one of the summer shows at Gillette Stadium . Billy Dukes of Taste of Country praised the video saying , " The magic and theatrics she ? s able to capture on stage rival what almost anyone else is able to dream up for a more Hollywood @-@ like ? produced ? music video . " During the week of its release , the music video had over 400 @,@ 000 views and helped push Swift up the Billboard 's Social 50 , moving her from number nineteen to ten . Jocelyn Vena of MTV News praised the footage of the video saying that it " perfectly encapsulates the tour 's high @-@ octane energy including theatrical set changes , dancers , aerialists , fireworks , pyrotechnics , costume changes and the occasional rainstorm . " The video was number one on the week 's most streamed videos on August 27 , 2011 for Yahoo ! Music . To date , the video has over 38 million views on YouTube .

= = Track listing = =

Limited Edition CD single

" Sparks Fly " ? 4 : 20

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =

