

= Loser like Me =

" Loser Like Me " is a song performed by the cast of American television series Glee , taken from their sixth soundtrack album , Glee : The Music , Volume 5 . The song was written by the series ' music producer Adam Anders , Swedish pop music producer Max Martin , and Peer Åström , Savan Kotecha , and Johan Schuster ( Shellback ) . Anders , Martin , Åström and Shellback produced the track . The song , with another track " Get It Right " , were the first two original songs to be featured on the show . The song is their first official single , being sent to US radio on March 1 , 2011 . In order for the song to have radio appeal , Anders recruited Martin to produce " Loser Like Me " while he was in the United States working on Britney Spears ' Femme Fatale .

Lea Michele and Cory Monteith front the song , with Michele providing lead vocals in the chorus and a verse , and Monteith having a verse . Other cast members provide vocals in the chorus and in a rap breakdown . Naya Rivera and Heather Morris have some spoken words and some solo work during the chorus . Musically , the song is a dance @-@ pop song , and it features a " pop funk " guitar . The production drew comparisons to similar Max Martin productions released at the time , notably Pink 's " Raise Your Glass " ( 2010 ) . Lyrically , it follows in the footsteps of previous self @-@ empowerment anthems released around the same time , with the incorporation of lines about revenge fantasies .

Critics generally praised the song in Glee 's first step at original music , including its production , lyrics , and the vocals of Lea Michele . However , common criticisms were that the song sounded like a cover of another song , and that it would have been better suited for other artists Martin usually works with , such as Pink or Avril Lavigne . The song debuted at number six on the US Billboard Hot 100 and became the cast 's third top @-@ ten hit to date . It reached number thirty @-@ six on the US Adult Pop Songs chart , becoming their first song other than a Christmas song to appear on an airplay chart . Internationally , it reached the top thirty in at least five other markets . The song 's performance was featured in the Glee episode " Original Song " which first aired on March 15 , 2011 , and included choreography and the group throwing confetti from slushie cups at the audience . The song was redone by Jenna Ushkowitz , Kevin McHale , Darren Criss and Chord Overstreet in the second part of Glee 's two @-@ part 100th episode , " New Directions " , which aired on March 25 , 2014 .

= = Background = =

On February 23 , 2011 , it was announced that Glee , for the first time , would feature two original songs , entitled " Loser Like Me " and " Get It Right " on their March 15 , 2011 episode . The series ' music producer , Adam Anders , called the song a " Gleek anthem , " and it was " a very uptempo , kind @-@ of @-@ summery hit " . It was also revealed that pop music producer , Max Martin , known for his work with Britney Spears , among other singers , would produce " Loser Like Me " . Tim Stack of Entertainment Weekly called this a " major pop music coup " by Glee . Anders also went on to comment , " The thing about Max is that he ? s a huge fan of pop culture and he just loved the idea of being part of something that ? s such a cultural phenomenon . So it was actually not hard to convince him at all . He was all about it . "

According to Anders , the Swedish @-@ based Martin was in the United States at the time working on Spears ' then @-@ new record , and then was " exposed to exactly how enormous [ Glee ] is " . According to the American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers database , co @-@ writers on the song include Anders , Peer Åström , Savan Kotecha , and Johan Schuster . " Loser Like Me " and " Get It Right " both premiered on On Air with Ryan Seacrest on February 25 , 2011 , and were performed in the episode " Original Song " , on March 15 , 2011 . The song was also released on iTunes in the United States on March 15 , 2011 .

= = = Radio impact = = =

" Loser Like Me " became the first radio single for Glee , and was sent to radio on March 1 , 2011

for mainstream and Hot AC stations . Pete Cosenza , senior vice president of promotion and adult formats for Columbia Records told Billboard ,

We 've promoted Glee music to radio for the past couple of years and week @-@ by @-@ week , programmers have embraced the show and its music more and more . ( Adult radio ) has created weekly , and , in some cases , daily , features , and played snippets of songs . Now , more have put " Loser Like Me " into regular rotation . Glee is one of the biggest shows on television and it 's a music show . What a win for us and radio .

Barb Richards , director of music for WAJI said that the cast 's introduction of new music prompted the station to finally add music from the cast . Richards referenced the 21 @.@ 9 million downloads and 5 @.@ 2 million albums sold since the series since its May 2009 premiere , but commented , " Still , I believe that people want to hear originals over remakes , so up until the ' Glee ' cast 's original music it didn 't make sense for us to play each latest cover , other than to spotlight it the day of the show . " However , Richards complimented the original " Loser Like Me " saying its lyrics would " resonate with kids and parents " and said that she liked it when she first heard it and when she saw it on the show . She also commented that it " is good on its own , and having the Glee name on it gives it a leg up " . Dave McKay , program director at WPST also echoed Richards ' sentiments that the Glee sales were reason to add them to airplay , adding " Not many artists or songs enjoy the type of exposure that ' Glee ' provides . Plus , the audience that watches the show is the audience we target , so the fit seems perfect [ ... ] since ' Glee ' music sells , there is definitely an appetite for it . "

Responding to the song being an original as opposed to their traditional covers , McKay said , " If ' Loser Like Me ' were a bad song , then it wouldn 't matter whether it was original or a cover : we wouldn 't be playing it . That the song is good , and that it has the ' Glee ' reach , makes it an easy song to play . " Keith Kennedy , program director at WKDD said the single made him ponder why they haven 't played Glee songs prior to " Loser Like Me " . Kennedy said , " How many times have you heard radio programmers claim that they use sales numbers to shape their stations ' playlists ? Look at iTunes every Wednesday : Glee often dominates the top 10 . " Kennedy 's station , WKDD , holds a " Glee O 'clock " segment daily and he said " While some of the remakes have leaned toward show tunes , several probably should have received more airplay . "

= = Composition = =

" Loser Like Me " is a song that features " pop @-@ funk chicken @-@ scratch guitars , " and according to Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone , a hopped @-@ up beat . The song is fronted by Lea Michele singing lead on the chorus and a verse , with Cory Monteith providing an additional verse . Other Glee cast members back the two up the chorus and a rap breakdown . It bears resemblance to then @-@ recent Max Martin @-@ produced singles , particularly " Raise Your Glass " , which contains a similar guitar @-@ intro . Robert Copsey of Digital Spy even called " Loser Like Me " a sequel to " Raise Your Glass " .

After the guitar riffs , Michele sings about becoming a future superstar , " Yeah , you may think that I 'm a zero / But hey , everyone you wanna be / Probably started off like me " . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard said " Loser Like Me " is " a sunny pop track that finds Lea Michele and Cory Monteith railing against conformity and celebrating their individuality in their verses " . Other cast member lyrics include the lyric " You may think I 'm a freak show " , responded to by Naya Rivera with the spoken " I don 't care " . The song features self @-@ empowerment lyrics which revolve around revenge fantasies , such as in Monteith 's lines - " I could be a superstar / I 'll see you when you wash my car " . According to Melinda Newman of HitFix the song is about " being a loser now , but turning in to a winner now who never , ever looks back " . Aly Semigran of MTV News said the lyrics of the " peppy pop ditty " keep " in tune with the themes of the show " .

= = Critical reception = =

Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone gave the song four out of five stars , and called it " predictably fizzy "

and " fiendishly catchy " . Rosen also said that the " lyric , belted out with bright @-@ sided earnestness by Lea Michele and Cory Monteith , distills the show 's theme : the mystical power of a good tune and a well @-@ choreographed jazz hands routine to turn geeks into gods " . Robert Copsey of Digital Spy wrote , " Max Martin and Shellback chuck the Pinks , Keshas and Katy Perrys into the kitchen sink and add a generous coat of gloss and shimmer ( and Auto @-@ Tune ) to create what is ultimately an audacious , unabashed and , crucially , authentic pop stomper that remains true to what Glee is all about " . Melinda Newman of HitFix liked the song , but said that it could have had " more of an edge " . Newman also said , " For any kid who ? s ever been bullied or adult who remembers being bullied , it 's a bulls @-@ eye . " Newman wrote that that Michele , who opens the song , had a " classic voice " but it had no " grit " to it , and recommended that Pink cover it . Becky Bain of Idolator said that the song could have been a track for Pink or Avril Lavigne , two common artists who work with Martin . Bain said the song fit in with " Raise Your Glass " , and better yet , Kesha 's " We R Who We R " . Christopher Rosen of Movieline said the song had " total home run potential " , and that it " sounds like a blend of Pink , Katy Perry , Avril Lavigne , early Mandy Moore , and Kidz Bop . And that ? s a good thing ! " On the point that the song sounds like a cover itself , Rosen asked , " who wants to listen to an original song on a television show that relies on covers unless it sounds like a cover itself ? "

Upon first listen , Kirsten Coachman of the Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer said that she was " semi @-@ horrified " at the song , but since it was a Max Martin @-@ produced track she " gave it another chance " , and commented : " It ? s definitely a Max Martin song . It has a good beat and cheesy , yet catchy lyrics . " However , Coachman said that the song should have been sung by Mark Salling ( Puck ) and Jenna Ushkowitz ( Tina ) rather than Monteith and Michele . Coachman liked the fact that this song and " Get It Right " fit in with the episode , and wrote , " I think both songs are pretty good anthems , and hopefully they do speak to the audience . She stated , however , that she " probably won ? t be singing along to them in my car anytime soon " . In an album review giving Glee : The Music , Vol . 5 a total of two out of five stars , Andrew Leahey of Allmusic said that the new Glee songs " aren ? t good enough to make much of a difference " . Brett Berk of Vanity Fair gave the song four stars for its lyrics , but said that the tune " sucked " .

= = Chart performance = =

On the week ending March 26 , 2011 , " Loser Like Me " debuted at number six on the US Billboard Hot 100 selling 210 @,@ 000 downloads in its first week . The debut was the cast 's largest sales frame since their cover of Katy Perry 's " Teenage Dream " , which sold 214 @,@ 000 downloads . The song became their third top @-@ ten US hit , following " Teenage Dream " , which debuted at number eight , and their first cover , " Don 't Stop Believin ' " , which debuted at number four . For the week ending April 9 , 2011 , the song debuted on the US Adult Pop Songs chart at number thirty @-@ seven . " Loser Like Me " became the first entry on the Adult Pop chart , and became their first song to appear on an airplay chart since a string of Christmas songs from Glee : The Music , The Christmas Album charted on the Adult Contemporary Songs chart in 2009 and 2010 . " Loser Like Me " remains the fourth best @-@ selling recording in the history of the show , having sold 617 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . Outside the United States , the song appeared on several other charts worldwide , debuting at number nine on the Canadian Hot 100 , as well as appearing at number fifteen on the Australian Singles Chart , number twenty @-@ five on the Irish Singles Chart , and number twenty @-@ seven on the UK Singles Chart .

= = Glee performance = =

" Original Song " first aired on March 15 , 2011 , and is the sixteenth episode of the second season of the television series . The episode 's plot revolves around McKinley High 's glee club , New Directions , decides to prepare original songs for the Regionals competition . In order to do better in the competition , due to Rachel Berry ( Lea Michele ) ' s assistance the group decided to sing original songs . " Loser Like Me " falls in line after Rachel performs her solo ballad " Get It Right " .

In the performance the Glee club girls donned light @-@ blue dresses tied with black ribbons , and black boots . The guys wore black dress shirts and slacks with black ties . During the performance , the group performs sectional and group choreography . Midway , it is received by a standing ovation led by Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) . The performance ends with the club throwing slushie cups filled with confetti at the audience , alluding to the numerous slushie cups taken in the face by them earlier in the show .

Bobby Hankinson of Houston Chronicle said " It 's fun and summery and it 's all capped off with a confetti slushee attack to the crowd . Loved it . " Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone wrote , " It 's a true anthem , and it ends triumphantly , with the New Directions tossing confetti @-@ filled Slushie cups into the crowd ? and then going on to win regionals . " Brett Berk of Vanity Fair noted that " the lovable dorks sing about being the lovable dorks we fell in love with ( even if we often no longer recognize them as such ) " .

= = Charts = =

= = = Certifications = = =