

Reviewing my Spotify Wraps

In a completely unrelated note to other blogs of recent times, I've decided to look at my previous musical tastes over the years. Specifically my review will focus on my Spotify Wrapped summaries from 2022 to 2025. Without further ado, let's get started.

2022: The First Year of Premium

Honestly looking back at this screenshot I'm kind of baffled. While I do recognize *some* of the artists and songs I could've sworn I listened to a lot of different genres during this time - mostly due to the fact that I was still playing osu! semi-regularly during this time.

I guess at a high level here are the artists I personally would've picked from my 2022 era. The criteria for this is referencing the Wrapped Top 5 Artists and whatever I remember listening to at the time:

1. Brymir
2. Aether Realm
3. Yoasobi
4. Taeyeon
5. First Fragment

The more I think about it, the more I'm sure that the **only** reason why First Fragment/In'El/Glorie Eternelle are so high was because I was listening to that album exclusively throughout my volunteering time in hackUTD - a 24 hour event.

If you're curious about my thoughts on the 3 artists I didn't mention on the list, they're all pretty good but I'm not sure they'd break my top 20 list nowadays. Gyze/Ryujin and Xanthochroid were relics from my osu! days and I literally barely remember Virvum...

Some shoutouts I'd like to mention from my 2022 stint include Ne Oblivcaris, deco*27, Xi, Lisa, Araki, Dia, and Dream Catcher



2023: Spotify Must Hate K-Pop

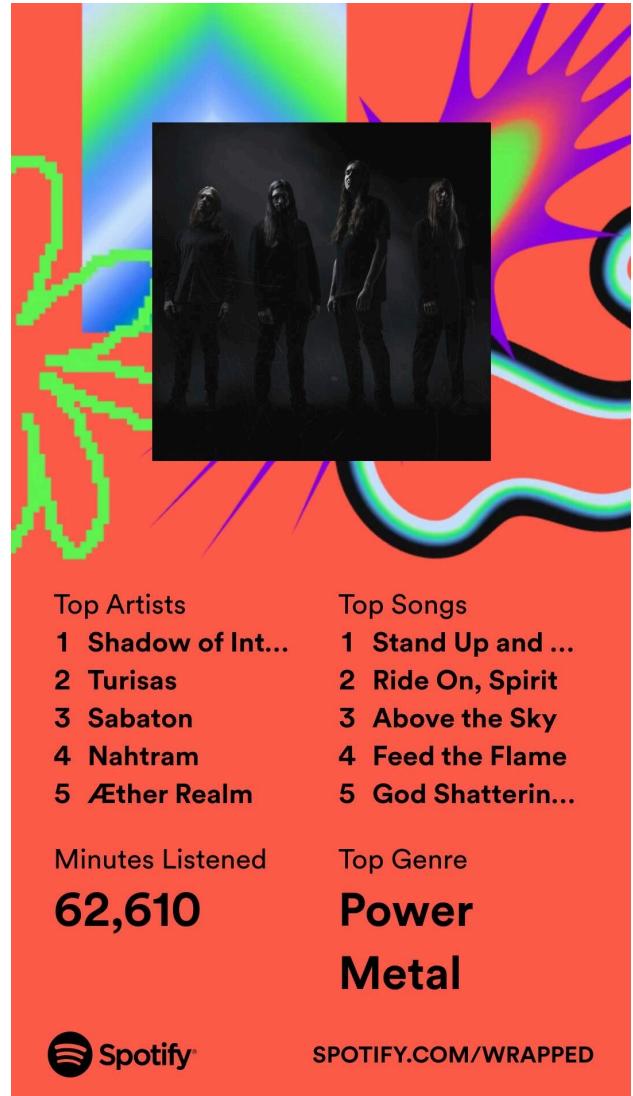
I swear I listen to other music but Spotify is just leaving them all out... As an act of defiance towards this obvious gap I'll put some more artists I listened to that aren't on the top 5:

- Fraser Edwards
- Polypnia
- Fractal Dreamers
- Shady Cicada
- Dom R Crey
- Twice (went to their concert in Oakland)
- Ado
- Yoasobi
- FIFTY FIFTY
- LE SSERAFIM
- Reol
- I Prevail
- Camellia
- DM DOKORO
- a hisa

Now that I've vented, the memory of why Shadow of Intent is number 1 has appeared. I'm pretty sure I was recommended their new album when I was in uni and I just listened to that on repeat for all of my CS projects. Honestly I don't actually like them **that** much and I definitely put them below Turisas, Dragonforce, Aether Realm, Van Canto, and Cain's Offering.

In fairness to Shadow of Intent, 2023 was when Spotify really started giving me the good stuff since most of the artists I still listen to were from the "Discover Weekly" playlists throughout this time. If you're curious on what I think my top 10 songs were at the time they were:

1. Stand Up and Fight - Turisas
2. Take to the Sky - Van Canto
3. God-ish - PinocchioP
4. By the Sword in My Hand - Tyr
5. Breaking Point - Shady Cicada
6. I Will Build You a Rome - Cain's Offering
7. Anima Mundi - Dionysus
8. Cupid - FIFTY FIFTY
9. vampire - Olivia Rodrigo
10. QUEEN - Futakuchi Mana



2024: Settling Down With Spotify

At this point graduation + all the bangers from 2023 made my Wrapped a lot less surprising but I still want to highlight my top 5 variety songs:

1. Help - Kobo Kaneru
2. Howling - Ookami Mio
3. Sashimio - Ookami Mio
4. BITE - San-Z, HOYO-MIX
5. SHINOBI - Reol

Actually one thing I found surprising so far is that Dragonforce hasn't appeared at all during these Spotify Wrappers despite them being one of my favorite artists. I suppose this is mostly because I did most of my listening during my osu! era and when using Spotify I tried to explore new artists.



2025: The Official™ Certified List of Bangers

Now we've returned to the present and would you look at that - the top artists and songs are relatively the same. While I'm still looking forward to discovering new artists and albums I also recognize the fact that my 2026 Spotify Wrapped will look very similar to this one...

That aside I want to cover some fun facts that Spotify derived from my listening history:

- I am Scandinavian
- I am 28
- I share 0-1 songs with my friends during jams
- I've been a uni student for a suspiciously long time

And now the final list of certified bangers (artists, albums, and individual songs) along with a short blurb on the number 1s further down!

Top Albums:

1. Night Walk - Ookami Mio
2. Anima Mundi - Dionysus
3. Return to the Kingdom of Fife - Gloryhammer
4. Tarot - Aether Realm
5. Dawn of the Dragonstar - Twilight Force



Top Songs:

1. The Sun the Moon the Stars - Aether Realm
2. Tomorrow's Kings - Dragon Force
3. Eyes of the World - Dionysus
4. Sayonara Mataitsuka! - Kenshi Yonezu
5. Help! - Kobo Kanaeru

Artists (Basically Honorable Mentions)

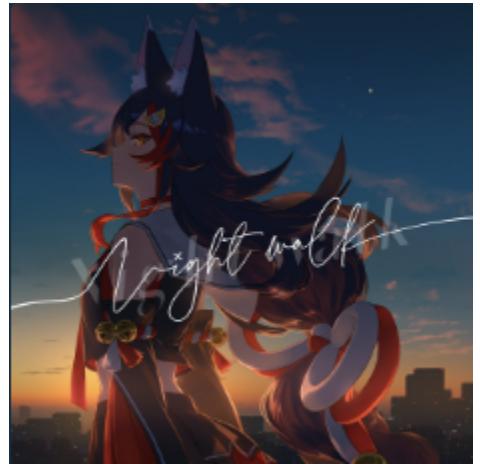
1. Shigure Ui: Primarily an artist but hosts creative streams, sings catchy songs, and roasts her viewers in a style unique to her
2. Dragonforce: If I had to pick one artist to listen to it'd be them since they've been releasing bangers for over 20 years at this point
3. Maplestory: While I'll always clown on the game design and culture, the music is a generational win. If you want chill but catchy background music then this is it

4. Polyphia: Not only are they from Plano but they also make insane bangers. Honestly I'm surprised their songs didn't show up much but I suppose I don't really listen to their stuff very often. Also the guitarist has insane forearms.
5. Ado: As a fellow college student she is surprisingly relatable (eg. not studying for classes, playing Minecraft on a potato PC, and having insane Tweets) while at the same time putting out really good music. And if you're wondering, I am NOT bitter that I missed her live concert in the area...

Night Walk - *Ookami Mio* (大神ミオ)

Fun fact this was actually one of the albums I tried to find in Japan since I just enjoy playing it on repeat. While I honestly haven't looked at the translation of the lyrics I will assume it's at worst melancholic and at best calm.

That aside I don't really have an analytical reason why I like this album so much - it's definitely just something that fits everything I'm looking for in a city pop album.



The Sun The Moon The Stars - *Aether Realm*

Ah yes, the legendary song in osu! back in like 2017 where all the top players were trying to full combo this 19 minute song. Actually I'm pretty sure the osu! map alone caused their album to go semi-viral since they later filmed a video thanking the osu! community for their positive fervor.

Usually I don't like albums that try to tell an overarching narrative but having a super long song tell a story works for me since it's all contained. (Actually the album *does* tell an overarching story but my point still stands). I won't go into too much detail about the lyrics or their meaning since I'm not really equipped to talk about that but what I will say is that it's a song I'd still happily listen to 8 years after I first discovered it.



Shigure Ui

I'll keep this one brief since I've already talked about her but yeah if you're interested then Yura has good translated clips of her streams and her YouTube channel has her songs which are way too viral for a side gig...



Anyways because I got distracted playing video games this blog is *technically* being released on the 10th day. However if I get people from the west coast to read the blog then it's also true that I'm still on that 9 day schedule grind 🔥

Regardless I'll still get something out on the 22nd and until then feel free to message me on my song preferences. Hololive preferences too. Bint my Boat please...