

Interview of Aimer and Vaundy for natalie.mu

Original untranslated source can be found [here](#).

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Aimer has released her sixth original album 'Walpurgis'. This album contains four lead tracks such as "STAND-ALONE", the theme song of TV drama "It's Your Turn", "Haru ha Yukuru", the theme song of the final chapter of the film edition "Fate/stay night [Heaven's Feel]", and a new song "wonderland" written by Kajiura Yuki, who wrote "Haru ha Yukuru". In addition to four lead tracks such as "Haruhaiku," the theme song of the final chapter of "Heaven's Feel," a total of 14 songs will be included.

One of the most innovative songs is "Chikyugi with Vaundy," which was written and produced by 20-year-old multi-artist Vaundy. For this interview, Music Natalie spoke with Aimer and Vaundy. The two artists, who respect each other, talked about the episodes during the creation of the song, and how they learned about each other's charms through their collaboration.

Interview and text by Reiko Hatsukaku

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*"I didn't expect it to happen so soon."*

—I heard that you have been listening to Aimer's songs for a long time.

Vaundy: It's been a long time, really. I started listening to it when I was in elementary school, and I first encountered it in the theme song "RE:I AM" from Gundam UC (Mobile Suit Gundam UC [Unicorn]). I love anime, especially Gundam, and when I hear Aimer's voice in the middle of a battle, I'm impressed and think, "Oh, cool! After that, whenever I heard Aimer's voice in an anime that I thought was good, I would always hear her singing, and I thought, "Wow, she's amazing! I thought to myself, "Wow!"

Aimer: Hmmm, I'm glad (laughs). I met Vau-kun (Vaundy) for the first time at the recording of "Chikyugi," which is included in my new album, and when we first met, I could tell that he was excited. I was so happy when he said, "I've been listening to your music since I was in elementary school," but at the same time, I was shocked to know that a kid who has been listening to your music since elementary school is now 20 years old. We talked about a lot of things at that time, didn't we?

Vaundy: I did. We talked about how I admired Aimer and often imitated her singing. By the way, I recently found the sound source of "Butterfly Knots" that I sang a long time ago.

Aimer: Oh my god, I want to hear that!

Vaundy: I've always wanted to work with Aimer because I don't think there are many singers who can surpass her. I didn't think it would come true so soon, though.

Aimer: It made me cry. .... I'm so happy to hear such a talented artist say that. I first encountered Vau's music last summer. Vau's music has a Western sound to it. Vau's music has a Western sound to it, and it's very difficult to pursue that while singing in Japanese, but he does it so effortlessly that I wondered what kind of person he was, and I wanted to meet him.

Vaundy: I'm so happy!

Aimer: I was shocked when I heard the sound for the first time, but I was also shocked by the live voice. When Vau started singing at the recording session, the destructive power of his voice was amazing. He has a great voice, and he has a great sense of rhythm.

Vaundy: It makes me happy (laughs).

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*I was happy that we could understand each other through song.*

—Vaundy-san said that you wanted to "offer a new Aimer to everyone" when you wrote the song for Aimer.

Vaundy: When Aimer offered me the opportunity to write a song for her, I hadn't really had an image of Aimer's music having a horizontal groove, so I thought it would be a great idea to combine songs with a horizontal groove to create a new appeal. This song, "Chikyugi," was created with this image in mind.

Aimer: I heard that this was the first time for Vau to direct vocals, but I didn't think so at all, I thought he was a producer in a previous life. (laughs). What I find particularly sympathetic about Vau is the balance between sensation and reason, and he is able to take what he has tried using his senses and put it into words and build it into a solid theory. When I sing, I always do it with my senses, but later I look back and wonder how it all worked, so I think we're similar in that way.

Vaundy: It's certainly important to verbalize your senses, and I think that's something you can only do if you have imagination and experience. I would like to be able to do that.

Aimer: I think Vau has already done that. Sometimes it's hard to interpret a song unless you break it down and say, "I guess this is what he means to me," but Vau's direction is unique and easy to understand. During the recording process, I took notes on his way of communicating, thinking that I could learn a lot from him.

Vaundy: Are you serious! I didn't know.

Aimer: I was also very happy to be able to understand each other through singing. Seeing is believing, but it was a challenge for me to sing while being inspired by the voices of those who actually said, "This is how I feel."

Vaundy: I'm glad, seriously! I was so nervous.

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*Aimer's "Hmmm..."*

Vaundy, what did you feel when you were communicating with Aimer?

Vaundy: To be honest, I thought you were really cute and funny (laughs). I sometimes help my friends with their recordings, and when they stand in front of the microphone, they tend to put a lot of effort into it. But Aimer just said, "Hmmm..." and did it right away, so it was really easy to do.

Aimer: Sure, I might say, "Hmmm..." (laughs).

Vaundy: I've never seen anyone say "hmmm..." so naturally before (laughs).

Is your recording session always so relaxed?

Aimer: I don't think I'm aware of it, but I think I might be. I think I get overwhelmed when I don't understand what I'm being told, or when my body and throat can't keep up even if I understand what I'm being told. I think I've gotten used to dealing with various situations through live performances and recordings. I also get some time to prepare my body before recording.

Vaundy: So you can afford [to do?] it.

Aimer: Vau's vocal style is a little different from mine, so it was fun to discover new things about myself as a vocalist while he was directing me.

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*"Why Vaundy was accepted in this era"*

—How exactly was it different from your previous recordings?

Aimer: The biggest difference is in the pronunciation of the vowels that Vau sings. The vowels that Vau sings are more like "u" when extended. This "u" is the key to the song, giving it a special rhythmic feel. I learned a lot about how to get into that rhythm.

Vaundy: I recently realized that I have a unique sense of rhythm when someone told me about it, but I really don't understand how you can do the same thing so quickly. Since you have a lot of experience as a singer, you have a strong ability to chew things up. Whenever she encounters something new, she chews and chews, and has the ability to absorb it.

Aimer: I'm really happy to hear that. It's true that some of Vau's songs are only possible because he sings them, and if you cover them in a normal way, they lose their originality. That's how much presence the songs have.

Vaundy: I think that's probably because I write songs so that my singing comes to the forefront. And I think that's the reason why my songs have been accepted in this age.

Aimer: That could be an interesting story.

Vaundy: Nowadays, I think people are naturally using music for self-expression. This is exactly how Vocaloid works. First, the creator shows a sample of the song and asks the audience to try singing it, and then the audience says, "This song is cool! Let's try singing it," and countless covers are created, and the song becomes widely known. It can be said that the creator who provides instrumental music for singing is distributing his own individuality.

Aimer: Mm-hmm, I see.

Vaundy: A song that is still attractive even after distribution means that the song is that much more attractive, and I believe that only a handful of people can write such a song. The same is true for singers. Among the countless people who sing, only a limited number of people can create a special charm. In today's world, it is extremely important for both creators and singers to be able to create a unique appeal. That's why I'm really happy to hear Aimer, who has a unique voice, say that my songs have a strong presence.

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*"Aimer's songs make the listener the hero."*

—What is it about Aimer's voice that you feel is unique?

Vaundy: Aimer's voice is airy and somehow a little sad. It's sad, but it gives a strong will to live. There are people who can express weakness with a weak voice, but I think only Aimer can show strength in weakness. Furthermore, Aimer's voice has a "protagonist" quality to it.

Aimer: Main character gender?

Vaundy: It makes the listener the main character. When you listen to Aimer's songs, you can enter the world and feel like "I'm fighting! I'm fighting! That's what makes me feel good and I love it.

Aimer: That's the first time I've been told that. That makes me happy.

Is this something that you yourself are not aware of?

Aimer: Yes, a large part of it comes naturally to me. However, I think that the voice is something that is cultivated over the course of one's life. For example, it is said that even if two twins look exactly alike, if they live completely different lives, their faces will change as time goes by. It is the same with my voice, and I feel that it is inevitable that I have developed this voice as I go through my life.

Vaundy: Aimer has sung songs written by many different people, so I think that's a big part of it. By accepting different types of songs into her body, she has gained a lot of experience on how to do this in this kind of situation, and I think she is updating her sense of singing. That's why I can quickly implement new methodologies and maintain my uniqueness in any situation. I make music to find my own diversity, and I really admire that.

I find Vaundy's words, "I make music to find my own diversity," to be refreshing. Recently, I've been feeling that the tide of the music scene is changing, including the rise of new generations like Vaundy. I think Aimer probably made this album in response to this trend.

Aimer: Yes, I too feel the flow of new music everyday. I'm celebrating the 10th anniversary of my debut this September, and I feel like a new wave is coming that I never imagined 10 years ago. I'm very happy to be able to make a new album and release songs with Vau-kun at that time. This is the first time I've collaborated with someone whose career is shorter than mine. I'm glad to have been able to do such a collaboration this time, and I'd like to continue from here on so that I don't lose out.

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*“Walpurgis’ with a sense of culmination”*

This album contains both the past and the future of Aimer, doesn't it?

Vaundy: I think that's really true.

Aimer: Thank you very much. Over the past 10 years, I've overcome various hurdles one by one, and there were moments when I felt like my heart was going to break, but I'm very happy that I've been able to continue making music like this. I wanted to make something that was the culmination of all that, and I hope that people can feel that. I titled it "Walpurgis" in the hope that people who are feeling the same way will feel the first signs of spring.

I had never heard the word "Walpurgis" before.

Aimer: It's not a very familiar word, is it? Walpurgis" is a seasonal event in Scandinavia, where people celebrate at night, waiting for the arrival of the light before spring comes again after the long winter. I wanted to celebrate the coming spring with everyone, and I hoped that we could all bring in the spring together.

Vaundy: (Sighs) That's a good story...

And Vaundy is releasing a new song "Wrinkles", have you listened to it yet Aimer?

Aimer: I think this song contains all the best parts of Vau's music, and his singing is evolving rapidly, which I thought when we recorded it together, and I felt it again when I listened to this song.

Vaundy: Thank you very much. Actually, I used Aimer's song as a reference for this song. I have an image of Aimer when it comes to middle ballads, so the way she sings and the way she builds up the emotions, there are more than a few elements of Aimer in this song. I'd like to see Aimer sing it someday.

Aimer: I'll definitely sing!

Vaundy: Oh, no! (LAUGHS)

Aimer: Ever since the recording of "Chikyugi", I can't get Vau's song out of my head. Lately, when I wake up in the morning, "Tokyo Flash" is playing in my head. I'd like to sing "Wrinkles" too, and I'd really like Vau to hear it.

Vaundy: Oh no, no, no! (laughs) I really want to help you in many ways, and I hope you will help me in the future.

Aimer: Of course! I'm really looking forward to it.

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