

浜崎あゆみ Ayumi Hamasaki "A BALLADS"

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01. RAINBOW – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: CREA (Ayumi Hamasaki) & D.A.I.

From somewhere, softly, as if I was hearing it some time before...
I planned to be near you, I was forgiven by forgiving, I wish to mend the past...
Already long ago and far away it was healed.
If I notice it, in that way; I, who tried to keep love away, am being saved by love.
You appeared from somewhere, and no matter when, you are sent to me.
The happiness is all around me, while I support you, I am being supported;
Getting close to you little by little...
While I protect you, I am being protected; this will turn into confidence.
I, who tried to keep love away, was saved by love...
There are wounds that, it seems, we won't be able to heal,
Should we share them together and walk?
Should we gather the happiness that we can't hold and share it together and walk?
Now, I'll sing only for your sake – you are my special treasure.

02. appears (HAL's Progress) – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: Kazuhiro Kikuchi

The lovers appear happy, walking along hand in hand, they look as if everything is going just fine,
No one but the two of them know the truth.
The first time I called, my hand was shaking as I held the phone;
The second time – I left a message on the answering machine;
After the seventh call we decided to meet. It all began on that ordinary day...
The lovers appear happy, walking along hand in hand, they look as if everything is going just fine,
No one but the two of them know the truth.
The tenth time I called, we went far away together; as we held hands and walked, I felt a little shy.
And then, after many nights had passed we kissed in the car on the way home.
I love the shining white snow, but we weren't together last year. This winter, will we be together?
Will we make it? Can I say? Will I be able to say the Merry Christmas I was unable to say?
How many times have we tried to take off the rings that are on our ring fingers?
The lovers appear happy, walking along hand in hand, they look as if everything is going just fine,
The truth – no one knows...

03. Key ~eternal tie ver.~ – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: Kunio Tago

If I could use colours and draw my feelings,
I would pick up a brush and paint a picture.
If I could line up words and select my feelings,
I would pick up a pen and write a letter.
But I can't do that, so I decided to sing this song.
I can't do anything else.
I will turn the key and send it to you.
In your days of tears I've collected all my power and
Promised to be by your side.
So you don't need to cry, even if it cannot be explained well.
In your days of smiles I want to hug you and remember
Our kind thoughts about each other, from now until forever...

04. YOU (northern breeze) – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: Yasuhiko Hoshino

Your face is more beautiful when you're sad, and I can't say anything.
Then I realise my tears are flowing, that must have hurt much more than I thought.
I'm tired, I'm sorry that I didn't notice.
The spring wind rolls by, drawing far away dreams, summer clouds paused and disappeared.
The autumn sky is sad, the winter sea is cold, time passed as I am falling more into a trance.
Many events have slipped by, and now you're here beside me, I'm proud of you, always.
People and feelings cannot be put into words, that's how we live –
We're going around and around and get weary,
But I will be finally by your side, and my heart is healed, I want to be there for you.
The spring wind rolls by, drawing far away dreams, summer clouds paused and disappeared,
The autumn sky is sad, the winter sea is cold, time passed as I am falling more into a trance.

05. TO BE (2003 ReBirth mix) – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: Hideaki Kuwabara

Everyone passes by without noticing, there is nothing you can do,
You've been carrying that junk as if it's important...
Those around stood at a distance and looked at you strangely,
Even so, you laughed and said to me, - "This is a treasure."
When we gain something big, do we lose something, too? We cannot know now, can we?
A place I've regained - it's a little different. If you're here, no matter when, I can laugh
If you're here, no matter when, I can laugh, I can cry, I can live; without you there is nothing.
Was it myself? Was it those around you? Or was it only a clock that was probably broken?
How much did those arms hurt while protecting that junk? What did you sacrifice?
Even though you'll never be perfect, you shine in your weakness.
It's not wide, this road that I've found you on; it's not wide, it's not narrow, somehow;
You alone have made it better for me.
Because you were here, no matter when, I could laugh, I could cry, I could live;
Without you there's nothing...

06. HANABI – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: CREA (Ayumi Hamasaki) & D.A.I.

I'm looking up at the hazy sky and my tears do not flow, why can't people live as they want to?
I need neither the weak heart nor the strength without tears.
I'll search for a shooting star to place my wish on, but the dawn comes too soon and I cannot find one.
There is never a day that I have to remember you – because I have never forgotten you.
Whenever I'm sad I usually say, "I'm all right"...
Something stopped on that day, and no matter how much I pray, I cannot see a single shooting star.
I want to see you, I really want to see you, your smiling face is so kind in my memory...
There's never a day that I have to remember you – because I have never forgotten you.
I want to see you, I do want to see you, your smiling face is so kind in my memory...

07. M (HAL's Progress) – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: CREA (Ayumi Hamasaki)

"Maria" - There is someone I should love,
Every person who has ever been hurt...
Looking around, everyone is hurrying and passing by quickly.
I noticed that this year, too, the signs of winter have come very soon.
Today again somewhere in this town two people will meet and fall in love, the curtains suddenly open...
Even so, there must be an end to everything. Today once again somewhere in this town
Two people split apart; the curtains quietly close...
"Maria" - There is someone I should love,
Sometimes I feel very lonely but my needs are all fulfilled by the person I love.
"Maria" - There is someone I should love,
At times I suffer very deep wounds; but they are all healed by the person I love.
"Maria" - Everyone is crying; "Maria" - But I want to believe; "Maria" - That is why I'm praying
Please let this be their last love.
Beginnings come at random, but endings always have a reason.

13. Dearest – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: CREA (Ayumi Hamasaki) & D.A.I.

If only we could throw away everything except what is really important...
But reality is simply cruel; whenever I close my eyes – you're there, smiling...
I hope that your smiling face will be with me until the day I fall into eternal sleep...
Are all people sad? They are such forgetful creatures...
For the sake of those who give love, for the sake of those who are loved, I will do what I can.
When we met we were so awkward and we went the long road;
We have hurt each other along the way...
I hope that your smiling face will be with me until the day I fall into eternal sleep...
When we met everything was awkward and we went the long road;
But we got there in the end.

09. Dolls – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: CREA (Ayumi Hamasaki)

If life is just a brief dream - it must be something like a flower
Even if our fate is to fall like petals - we are all more loved after we are dead.
Something we lost somewhere, something we left behind somewhere that day,
And what is left in our hands - we have with us on this road.
What are you thinking of now? What can I do?
Is it so precious because it has no form? Is it so beautiful because it's cruel?
Even if it rains, even if the wind blows, on scorching days and silent nights,
Even if this is the end of the Earth – I want to show you the rest of the dream.
I will make a beautiful flower bouquet and give it to you.
What are you thinking of now? What can I do?
I will make a beautiful flower bouquet and give it to you.
I will sing a song; I will sing it at your side...

10. SEASONS (2003 ReBirth mix) – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: D.A.I.

This year, another season has passed, memories have faded,
The border between my hazy dream and reality has become vague.
Even so, the dream I once told you of did not have a single lie in it.
Today was fun, and tomorrow will surely be fun as well.
"These days will continue forever," or so I thought at the time.
Through the endless days I felt as if something was missing.
I blamed it on these unnatural times, and just gave up.
Today was very sad, and even if I cry tomorrow,
The time will come some day when I will laugh
And remember the time we had together.
How much time must pass by in our limited existence?
We'll live in the "now", and what will we find?

11. Voyage – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: CREA (Ayumi Hamasaki) & D.A.I.

We're on this voyage to find happiness; See? A smile looks good on our faces.
These beautiful, fragile days are brought back, unfaded.
In the season of stunning bright ocean and in the season when the snow fell
Whenever I turned around, you were always there.
We're on this voyage to find happiness; everyone is a traveller,
With wounds that can't be healed... See? A smile looks good on our faces.
How many times did we lose our way?
Every time, there was a warm hand and you were the one who held it out to me.
What will we remember at the end of this long voyage?
Everyone is a traveller, searching for love; Let's go together until we've had enough.

12. A Song for XX (030213 Session take 2) – Lyrics: A Hamasaki - Music: Y Hoshino

Why am I crying? Why am I lost? Why do I hesitate? Please tell me...
When I will grow up? How long can I be a child? Where I am running from? Where I am running to?
Since when have I become an adult? Until when is it all right to stay a child?
Coming running from somewhere, where to do I run?
I had no place to live, I couldn't find one. I don't know if I could have any hope for the future.
"You're always such a strong child", - what I've always been told
"You must be strong and never cry", - that's how they always praised me.
I didn't want any of those words, so I pretended not to understand.
Why are you smiling? Why are you by my side? Why are you leaving me? Please tell me...
When did I become strong? When did I start feeling weak?
If I keep waiting, a day will come when we understand each other...
The sun is rising, soon I will have to go, I can't stay in the same place forever.
"People are convincing creatures", you said - "Someday you'll be betrayed".
I thought it was the same as being rejected, at the time I didn't have the strength,
I definitely knew too much...
"You're always such a strong child", - what I've always been told
"You must be strong and never cry", - that's how they always praised me.
The more everyone around me said things like that - the more it became hard to smile.
I was born alone, I'll live alone, and I thought that those days were how it was supposed to be...

13. Who... (Across the Universe) – Lyrics: Ayumi Hamasaki - Music: Kazuhiro Kikuchi

When I was heartbroken, who stayed by my side? Who lent me his shoulder to cry on?
With whom did I share my happiness? With whom did I hold hands? I remember...
On the nights when we are apart the bright far away moon was crying.
On the night we spent apart the bright far away moon was crying.
Who taught me what is the true strength? Who taught me the true kindness?
Who told me to make first steps? Who did I want to stroke my hair?
Who was it that was always by my side? I'll never forget...
When I was lost, when the road was too long, I was muttering to myself, - "That's the way life is..."
I hope that this song will be with you forever; I hope that this song will be heard by you forever.

14. Sotsugyou sashin (graduation picture) – Lyrics: Yumi Arai - Music: Yumi Arai

When I feel sad I always open a leather cover.
That man in the graduation picture has kindness in his eyes.
When I saw him in town I couldn't say anything -
Because he was just the same, as he was on the graduation picture.
But I have changed while I was lost in the crowd;
Please give me a rebuke from far away...
A willow is shaking like someone is talking;
I used to be under it, but now I am just watching it from the passing train.
Please don't forget the way we lived then...
You are my youth...

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Please note that the above interpretations of songs are not translations, they merely describe what the song is about and are simply combined "meanings" of translations posted by my friends on different Internet forums in the last four years.

Kind regards from Western Australia
nick, www.eneabba.net, December 2005