

"Waves of Friendship"

Animation Beatsheet By Ed Valentine

D2 – September 14, 2015

SONG CONCEPT

We're all interconnected, and what we do matters! Every act of friendship - no matter how small - causes good feelings to spread out like ripples in a pond. Goodness comes back to us, sometimes when we least expect it.

VISUAL CONCEPT

After the main singers Rainbow Dash and Rarity start the song, the rest of the video appears to be one long tracking shot as the acts of friendship are passed along from one person to the next. The colors are muted until each character gets helped by another. At that moment, a sonic ripple effect from the ripples forth from the helper character's heart, bringing the character who's been helped into full color. The focus shifts to that character as he or she moves on to spread kindness through the mall. By the end of the song, everyone is in brighter colors as the world gets more and more full of friendship.

STORY BEATS:

1. Hubbub of noises as we fade in on a busy day at the mall. People hurry past, oblivious to each other, preoccupied - maybe even a little unhappy. The colors of the world are strangely muted.
2. Close on hands (also in muted colors) picking up a keytar - and another set of hands picking up a guitar. Pull back to show Rarity and Rainbow Dash with their respective instruments. They're ready to play - but there's a problem: they pull out cords to plug into their amps - only to find that they're hopelessly frayed. They look disappointed, but Fluttershy indicates that she'll go get cords. Dash plays the first notes of the song on acoustic guitar, and Rainbow Dash and Rarity sing together. It's soft at first, and without amps can't be heard that well. People just keep passing by, not noticing the pair. (Possible reference: the Indigo Girls song "Closer to Fine" - the song starts gently, but a driving beat and chorus grow the song as it goes on.) As they play, something strange happens: colorful sound waves ripple out of the guitar like ripples in a pond.
3. They continue to sing as Scootaloo zooms by on her scooter past a maintenance guy mopping the floor outside the pet shop. When Scootaloo hits the wet floor, she spins out and tumbles to the floor, startled. Fluttershy is about to run into the music store - when she helps Scootaloo up, a colourful sonic wave like the one from Dash's guitar flows out of her and onto Scootaloo. Scootaloo goes into full color. She thanks Fluttershy (still in muted colors) and scoots away.
4. Track Scootaloo as she rides on and spots Twilight (in muted colors), who's carrying a heavy load of books and is jostled by passersby who don't notice her. Scootaloo drives past - and then backs up, and gestures to Twilight to hop on the scooter. The colourful sonic wave emanates from Scootaloo and Twilight now goes into full color, too.
5. Scootaloo leaves a grateful Twilight off by an escalator and scoots on. Wearing earphones, Sunset Shimmer (muted colors) bops right past Twilight - and almost tumbles down the escalator! At the last second Twilight magically levitates Sunset Shimmer to safety. Colorful

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sonic ripple comes out of Twilight. Sunset Shimmer goes full color, thanks Twilight, and goes off safely.

6. Track Sunset Shimmer as she passes Flash Sentry (muted colors), who accidentally drops his wallet by a flower store. Sunset Shimmer sees, rushes to pick up the wallet, and runs after Flash Sentry to hand it back to him. Sonic ripple effect moves from Sunset Shimmer to Flash Sentry, and he goes into full color, too.
7. Track Flash Sentry who sees Applejack at a magazine stand, looking a bit forlorn as she sighs over a handsome country superstar in a magazine. Flash Sentry sees a flower cart, and takes his wallet and buys a flower, which he tucks into AJ's hair. She smiles as the ripple effect moves from Flash Sentry to AJ. She goes full color as Flash moves on. AJ, cheered up, goes on her way.
8. Track AJ as she runs into a frustrated, frazzled Pinkie Pie trying to push a heavy drum kit on a wheeled dolly. One wheel has come off. AJ sees she needs help, and activates her power of strength to lift the heavy drum kit. The ripple of friendship moves from AJ to Pinkie Pie, and Pinkie, delighted, goes into full color and does a little happy dance.
9. Track Applejack and Pinkie Pie as they head with the drum kit into the main court of the mall, where a crowd is gathering. (We see many shadowy figures from the back.) Just then, Fluttershy (still in muted colors) hurries out of the music store carrying her tambourine and new amp cords. She hurries towards the double doors, through which she can see the Rainbooms onstage – but the hallway is too crowded for her to get through! Timid and disappointed, Fluttershy can't get to the stage. But when Pinkie looks back and spots Fluttershy struggling, she puts her fingers in her mouth and whistles. A colorful sonic ripple goes from Pinkie Pie over the whole crowd, and the crowd now goes into full color. All the characters who were touched by the Fluttershy's kindness now help her: they lift Fluttershy up and crowd surf her to the stage! Fluttershy, too, goes into full color at last.
10. Deposited onstage, Fluttershy is finally together with the Rainbooms and she delivers the cords and plugs in the amps. The amps are plugged in. Big finish! Rainbow Dash and Rarity play a big chord and a huge colourful sonic waves goes out, causing a magical costume change for the Mane 6. The Rainbooms play the end of the song together... as colorful sonic waves pulse out. Everyone's happy and the world is enlivened by the bright colors of friendship as we... fade to black.

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