

“Waves of Friendship”

Animation Beatsheet By Ed Valentine

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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 brings the character who’s been helped into full color, as 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 two hands, also in muted colors, plugging instrument cords into amps. Pull back to show Rarity on keytar and Rainbow Dash on guitar. They give each other a nod and a wink, and they play the first chords of the song. As they play and sing, Rainbow Dash and Rarity themselves go into full color. Colorful sound waves ripple out of their instruments 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 runs out the pet shop door – and a colorful sonic wave hits Fluttershy, causing her to go into bright color. As she helps Scootaloo up, Scootaloo goes into full color, too. She briskly thanks Fluttershy and scoots away.
4. Track Scootaloo as she rides on and spots Granny Smith (in muted colors), who’s carrying a package and is jostled by passersby who don’t notice her. Scootaloo drives past – and then backs up, and gestures to Granny to hop on the scooter. The colourful sonic wave emanates from Scootaloo and Granny Smith now goes into full color too.
5. Scootaloo leaves a grateful Granny Smith off by an escalator and scoots on. Derpy (muted colors) bops by Granny wearing earphones – and almost tumbles down the escalator! At the last second Granny Smith grabs Derpy’s arm, averting a disastrous fall. Colorful sonic ripple effect as Derpy goes into full color, thanks Granny, and skips off safely.

6. Track Derpy as she goes past a candy store, where Snips and Snails (muted colors) fight over a lollipop. Ripples emanate out as Derpy zips into the store – and zips out with a second lollipop so they each have one. (Sonic ripple as Snips and Snails go into full color too.) They go off, licking their candies.
7. Track Snips and Snails as they pass Flash Sentry (muted colors), who accidentally drops his wallet by a flower store. Snips and Snails notice, rush to pick up the wallet, and hand it back to him. Sonic ripple effect as a stunned Flash Sentry goes into full color, too. Snips and Snails go off with their candy.
8. Track Flash Sentry, who sees a frustrated, frazzled Twilight Sparkle alone at a table in the food court scribbling some answers to a tough math problem in a notebook. Flash Sentry sees a flower cart, and takes his wallet and buys a flower. He puts the flower on Twilight's table. Colorful ripple effect as Flash Sentry moves on – while Twilight picks up the flowers and blushes, going into full color.
9. Twilight brushes hair out of her eyes as Diamond Tiara comes past, struggling under the weight of an absurdly heavy box of packages, tottering under their load. Twilight gets up and rebalances Diamond Tiara's packages (on hands and on her head) and opens a door for her.
10. Track Diamond Tiara as she goes on her way – past Applejack at a magazine stand, looking a bit forlorn as she sighs over a handsome country superstar in a magazine. Diamond Tiara puts down her bags, taps Applejack on the shoulder - and spins her into a dance to the music. They dance together for a moment (ripple effect, full color on AJ). AJ, cheered up, goes on her way.
11. Track Applejack as she hurries past people heading towards some double doors. AJ passes Pinkie Pie struggling with a heavy drum kit on a wheeled dolly. She stops and helps to push the drumkit into the main court of the mall, where a crowd is gathering. (We see many shadowy figures from the back.) Ripple effect, as Pinkie Pie goes into full color.
12. Then Fluttershy hurries out of a music store with some sheet music, carrying her tambourine and pages of sheet music. 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, timid Fluttershy can't get to the stage. But when Pinkie, onstage, spots Fluttershy struggling, she puts her fingers in her mouth and whistles. A colourful sonic ripple goes out over the crowd, who goes into full color – as all the characters who were touched by Fluttershy's act of kindness lift Fluttershy up, crowd surfing her to the stage!
13. Deposited onstage, Fluttershy is finally together with the Rainbooms as Rainbow Dash and Rarity front the song. They 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*.