

= Here We Go Again ( Ray Charles song ) =

" Here We Go Again " is a country music standard written by Don Lanier and Red Steagall that first became notable as a rhythm and blues single by Ray Charles from his 1967 album Ray Charles Invites You to Listen . It was produced by Joe Adams for ABC Records / Tangerine Records . To date , this version of the song has been the biggest commercial success , spending twelve consecutive weeks on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , peaking at number 15 .

The most notable cover version is a rhythm and blues duet by Charles and Norah Jones , which appeared on the 2004 album Genius Loves Company . This version has been the biggest critical success . When Genius Loves Company was released , " Here We Go Again " earned Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Best Pop Collaboration at the 47th Grammy Awards posthumously for Charles who died in 2004 . Another notable version by Nancy Sinatra charted for five weeks in 1969 . Johnny Duncan charted the song on Billboard 's Hot Country Songs chart for five weeks in 1972 , while Roy Clark did so for seven weeks in 1982 .

The song has been covered in a wide variety of musical genres . In total , five different versions have been listed on the music charts . Although its two most successful versions have been rhythm and blues recordings , many of its other notable covers were featured on country music albums . " Here We Go Again " was first covered in an instrumental jazz format , and many of the more recent covers have been sung as duets , such as one with Willie Nelson and Norah Jones with Wynton Marsalis accompanying . The song was released on their 2011 tribute album Here We Go Again : Celebrating the Genius of Ray Charles . The song lent its name to Red Steagall 's 2007 album as well . Cover versions have appeared on compilation albums by a number of artists , even some who did not release " Here We Go Again " as a single .

= = Original version = =

In November 1959 , after twelve years as a professional musician , Ray Charles signed with ABC Records , following the expiration of his Atlantic Records contract . According to Will Friedwald in A Biographical Guide to the Great Jazz and Pop Singers , " His first four ABC albums were all primarily devoted to standards ... " In the 1960s , he experienced crossover success with both rhythm and blues and country music . Because Charles was signed to ABC as a rhythm and blues singer , he decided to wait until his contract was up for its three @-@ year renewal before experimenting with country music , although he wanted to do so sooner . With the assistance of ABC executive Sid Feller , he gathered a set of country songs to record , despite the wishes of ABC . The release of his 1962 country albums , Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music and its follow @-@ up Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music , Vol . 2 , broadened the appeal of his music to the mainstream . At this point , Charles began to appeal more to a white audience . In 1962 , he founded his own record label , Tangerine Records , which ABC @-@ Paramount promoted and distributed .

" Here We Go Again " was recorded during a phase in Charles ' career when he was focused on performing country music . Thus , " Here We Go Again " was a country music song released by the Tangerine label ABC @-@ Paramount , but performed in Charles ' rhythm and blues style . However , his works did not bear the Tangerine label until 1968 . Feller left ABC in 1965 , but he returned to arrange Charles ' 1967 album , Ray Charles Invites You to Listen . Joe Adams produced and engineered the album , which included " Here We Go Again " .

First released by Charles in 1967 , " Here We Go Again " was written by Lanier and Steagall and published by the Dirk Music Company . Charles recorded it at RPM International Studios , Los Angeles , and the song was listed as the sixth of ten tracks on Ray Charles Invites You to Listen . Starting in 1987 , it was included in numerous greatest hits and compilation albums . When Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music was reissued in 1988 , the song was added as a bonus track . It was also included on the 1988 album Ray Charles Anthology .

= = = Composition = = =

Steagall endured polio as a teen and learned how to play the guitar and mandolin during his recuperation . This activity helped him regain the use of his left arm and hand . When he enrolled at West Texas State University , he formed his first country band . Don Lanier formed a group by the name of The Rhythm Orchids along with Buddy Knox and Jimmy Bowen . He was hired as a soil chemist but played weekends at country dances . After he quit his professional role , he formed a band that became popular in the Rocky Mountain ski @-@ resort clubs . He moved to Los Angeles in 1965 and embarked on folk club performing and songwriting . He wrote for two music publishers , Tree and Combine , before signing with Capitol Records . Eventually , Steagall joined Lanier and Bowen . Steagall and Lanier co @-@ wrote " Here We Go Again " . Steagall 's first break came when Charles covered " Here We Go Again " . Steagall says that the song " came about in a very unusual manner and very quickly " . One source even claims that Steagall did not come to Hollywood until after Charles recorded the song .

According to the sheet music published by Dirk Music , " Here We Go Again " is set in 12 / 8 time with a slow shuffle tempo of sixty @-@ nine beats per minute . The song is written in the key of B ? major . It is primarily a country song , but it contains gospel influences . According to Matthew Greenwald of Allmusic , " ' Here We Go Again ' is a soulful ballad in the Southern blues tradition . Lyrically , it has a resignation and pain that makes the blues , simply , what it is . The recording has a simple and sterling gospel arrangement and , in retrospect , is one of Charles ' finer attempts in the studio from the 1960s . "

= = = Performance history = = =

The playlist of the 1967 tour promoting Ray Charles Invites You to Listen is not readily available , but " Here We Go Again " was the best @-@ charting song on the album ( and likely on the playlist ) . Charles ' tour began with a benefit concert on the USS Constellation , which was preparing to depart for the Vietnam War from San Diego Harbor . The tour , Charles ' first since 1964 , continued to Europe in mid @-@ April where it visited the Royal Festival Hall , London and Salle Pleyel , Paris , as well as Vienna . In May , the band played back in the United States at New York City 's Carnegie Hall before returning to California . The tour received bad reviews from publications such as Jazz Journal , Jazz Magazine and New York Post . Later that summer , the band played Constitution Hall , Washington , D.C. In the fall , Charles had his first lucrative Nevada casino performances , which started with a three @-@ week run at Harrah 's Reno that was praised in Variety . The tour also had an extended fall run at the Copacabana nightclub .

= = = Reception = = =

Greenwald described the original version of " Here We Go Again " as " Another excellent example of how Ray Charles was able to fuse blues and country " . In a review for the single , a writer for Billboard magazine wrote that the song could easily be a " blockbuster " for Charles .

The original version debuted at number 79 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the May 20 , 1967 , issue and number 48 on the US Billboard Hot Rhythm & Blues Singles top 50 chart on June 10 , 1967 . For the weeks ending July 15 , July 22 and July 29 , the song spent three weeks at its peak position of number 15 on the Hot 100 chart . It spent July 22 and July 29 at its peak position of number 5 on the Hot Rhythm & Blues Singles chart . By August 12 , it fell out the Hot 100 chart , ending a 12 @-@ week run . It remained on the Hot Rhythm & Blues Singles chart for 13 weeks ending on September 2 . " Here We Go Again " was Charles ' last single to enter the top twenty of the Hot 100 . For the year 1967 the song finished at number 80 on the US Billboard Year @-@ End Hot 100 chart and 33 on the Year @-@ End Hot Rhythm & Blues Singles chart .

Abroad , it debuted on the UK Singles Chart top 40 at number 38 on July 8 , 1967 , which would be its peak . It totalled 3 non @-@ consecutive weeks on the chart . In the Netherlands , " Here We Go Again " appeared on the singles chart at number 10 on July 15 , 1967 , and later peaked at number three .

According to Will Friedwald , this song is an example of Charles vocalizing in what would ordinarily be an generally extraneous manner for dramatic effect by using a different voice than he had ever previously exhibited . He sang " ... not just using the squeak ? using a whole new kind of squeak , in fact ? for additional coloring on the sidelines , but making it the heart of the matter , literally squeaking out the words and notes in harmony with the Raelettes " ( his background singers ) .

= = = Track listing = = =

7 @-@ inch single

" Here We Go Again " ? 3 : 14

" Somebody Ought to Write a Book About It " ? 3 : 02

According to Allmusic , the solo version is listed at lengths between 3 : 14 and 3 : 20 on various albums .

= = = Credits = = =

Charles is credited as vocalist and pianist with unknown accompaniment . Feller is credited for having arranged and conducted the recording . This is one of two songs on the album ( " Yesterday " being the other ) that in addition to being listed as ABC @-@ Par ABC595 is credited as Dunhill DZS036 [ CD ] . The individual song had a label number ABC / TRC 10938 . " In the Heat of the Night " also had a Dunhill credit but a different number for both Dunhill and ABC .

= = Nancy Sinatra version = =

Nancy Sinatra recorded a cover of the song for her 1969 album Nancy , which was her first album after ending her business relationship with producer Lee Hazlewood . The cover , which according to programming guides had an easy listening and country music appeal , was produced by Billy Strange . The B @-@ side to the single , " Memories " , was written by Strange along with Mac Davis . Billboard magazine staff reviewed the song favorably , stating that the cover was a " smooth sing @-@ a @-@ long pop style " . They also commended Sinatra 's singing , calling it a " fine " performance , noting that it would likely return her to the Billboard charts . Sinatra 's version was later remastered and reissued in 1996 .

= = = Chart performance = = =

Although CD Universe describes the song as a country music song , it never charted on country music charts . For the week ending May 17 , 1969 , the song was listed among US Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart at number 106 and debuted on the US Billboard Easy Listening Top 40 chart at number 30 . The following week it debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 98 , its apex for its two @-@ week stay . The song then spent a total of two weeks on the Hot 100 . For the week ending June 7 , the song spent a second consecutive week at its peak position of number 19 on the Easy Listening chart . The song remained on the chart for five weeks until June 14 , 1969 . In Canada " Here We Go Again " debuted at number 38 on the RPM Adult Contemporary chart ( previously Young Adult Chart ) on June 2 , 1969 . It peaked at number 21 for the week of June 16 , 1969 . The song spent a total of five weeks on the chart . According to Allmusic databases , 1969 was the final year in her career that Sinatra reached the Hot 100 chart ( with " Here We Go Again " , " God Knows I Love You " and " Drummer Man " ) .

= = = Track listing = = =

7 @-@ inch vinyl single

" Here We Go Again " ? 3 : 07

" Memories " ? 3 : 40

According to Allmusic the original track was 3 : 09 , but when it appeared on the 2006 compilation album Essential Nancy Sinatra , it was 3 : 11 . The single was initially released through Reprise Records . In a non @-@ exclusive licensing agreement , Reprise ( part of Warner Music ) gave RCA Records the rights to distribute the records of some of their artists including Sinatra and Dean Martin . In 1971 , Sinatra and Reprise parted ways , so she signed a long term contract with RCA Records .

= = = Credits = = =

The following musicians performed on this track :

B.J. Baker Singers ( backup vocals )

The Blossoms ( backup vocals )

The following musicians performed on this album :

= = Norah Jones and Ray Charles duet version = =

In 2004 , Charles re @-@ recorded " Here We Go Again " as a duet with American singer @-@ songwriter Norah Jones , who grew up listening to his music . During Jones ' Billboard interview for her 2010 collaboration album ... Featuring , which included her " Here We Go Again " duet , she said " I got a call from Ray asking if I 'd be interested in singing on this duets record . I got on the next plane and I brought my mom . We went to his studio and did it live with the band . I sang it right next to Ray , watching his mouth for the phrasing . He was very sweet and put me at ease , which was great because I was petrified walking in there . " She noted in one ... Featuring interview that the only part that was not done live was a piano overlay that she added afterwards to complement Charles ' keyboard . In the same interview , she noted that she had been given the opportunity to select a song from Charles ' songbook to perform as a duet and felt that this one provided the best opportunity to harmonize rather than alternate vocal verses . On the record , the two singers ' vocalize , accompanied by Billy Preston on Hammond organ , who had at one time been the regular organist in Charles ' band .

= = = Reception = = =

As part of Charles ' Grammy Award for Album of the Year winning Genius Loves Company , the song proved to be the most popular and critically acclaimed on the album . Although the song had its early detractors , it received mostly favorable reviews . Several reviewers noted the complementarity of Jones and Charles . The Daily Vault 's Jason Warburg described the song as a " jazzy , slinky pas de deux " in which Charles matches Jones note for note . " JazzTimes ' Christopher Loudon said Charles " blends seamlessly with Jones on a velvet @-@ and @-@ buckram " performance . The song was described by the Orlando Sentinel 's Jim Abbott as a recreation of one of the gems from Charles ' country music phase of the 1960s that produced the perfect " combination of voices and instruments " with Preston 's accompanying role on Hammond B3 . As opposed to other tracks on the album , when Charles ' voice was understated , this song was said to represent his " indomitable spirit " , while Jones performed as " an empathetic foil , [ with ] her warm , lazy vocals meshing convivially with his over a spare but funky arrangement " . Author Mike Evans wrote that " there 's a mutual warmth of purpose in every breath [ Charles and Jones ] take " on the song . Music Week staff noted the timeliness of the release with Ray in theaters and described the song as soulful , that finely combines Charles ' " deep , honeyed growl with Jones 's lighter timber " , while noting Preston for his " sweeping " organ work .

The song received other specific forms of praise . Robert Christgau notes that Jones carried the vocal burden as did many of his duet partners on the album . USA Today 's Steve Jones said the song " strikes an easy groove " . PopMatters ' Kevin Jagernauth says " Jones nicely compliments Charles on this beautiful opening track " . Preston 's performance was favorably described by The Washington Post 's Richard Harrington as " smoky " . Critic Randy Lewis from the Chicago Tribune

noted that the song 's " countrified ache " represented that part of Charles ' career .

When the song was included on Jones ' ... Featuring , which included three of her collaborations from Albums of the Year and several from albums that were nominees , the song did not stand out . Few of the reviews at Metacritic had substantive comments on the duet when included among her group of collaborations . While reviewing ... Featuring , Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine wrote that the duet was a " more staid and less compelling recording " on the album . However , Allmusic staff noted that she worked comfortably with Charles and Chris Rizik of Soul Tracks said the track was more than just filler .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

In December 2004 , the Jones ? Charles version of the song was nominated in two categories at the 47th Grammy Awards . At the February 13 , 2005 awards ceremony , the duet earned the award for Record of the Year and Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals . It was the second Record of the Year winner not to make the Hot 100 ( following " Walk On " in 2001 by U2 ) . The song won Record of the Year , but not Song of the Year . Record of the Year is awarded to the artist ( s ) , producer ( s ) , recording engineer ( s ) and / or mixer ( s ) , if other than artist for newly recorded material . Song of the Year is awarded to the songwriter ( s ) of a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year . Steagall and Lanier are credited as the writers of this song from their work on its original version in 1967 . Thus , the song was not a new song .

= = = Chart performance = = =

For the week ending September 18 , 2004 , Genius Loves Company sold 202 @, @ 000 copies , ranking second on the US Billboard 200 chart and becoming Charles ' highest @-@ charting album in over 40 years . Digital singles sales saw 12 of the 13 tracks on the album make the US Billboard Hot Digital Tracks Top 50 chart . " Here We Go Again " was the download sales leader among the album 's songs that totaled 52 @, @ 000 digital downloads . During the week the album was released , the song debuted on the US Billboard Hot Digital Tracks chart at number 26 . " Here We Go Again " fell out of the top 50 two weeks later . It was released as a single for digital download on January 31 , 2005 .

After the album earned eight Grammy Awards and the song won Record of the Year , sales picked up and the album was re @-@ promoted . " Here We Go Again " entered the US Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 chart at number five in the issue dated ( for the week ending ) February 26 , 2005 . The song charted for a week on both the US Billboard Hot Digital Songs top 75 at number 73 and the US Billboard Pop 100 at number 74 for the week ending March 5 , 2005 , but still did not make the Hot 100 , ranking 113th before falling out of the chart . However , it ascended to its Bubbling Under Hot 100 chart peak position of number two for the week ending March 5 , 2005 . A Compact Disc single of the song was released on April 19 , 2005 .

In Austria , the duet debuted on the Ö3 Austria Top 40 chart at number 53 on March 6 , 2005 , and peaked the following week at number 52 . It logged six weeks on the chart . " Here We Go Again " entered the French Singles Chart at number 54 on April 2 , 2005 and peaked one week later at number 51 . It lasted 10 weeks on the top 100 chart .

= = = Track listing = = =

CD single

" Here We Go Again " ( Ray Charles and Norah Jones ) ? 3 : 59

" Mary Ann " ( Poncho Sanchez featuring Ray Charles ) ? 5 : 05

" Interview With Norah Jones " ? 1 : 35

According to Allmusic , the duet version was between 3 : 56 and 3 : 59 on various albums .

= = = Credits = = =

The song was recorded at RPM International Studio ( Los Angeles ) , mixed at Capitol Studios and mastered at the Mastering Lab .

= = Country chart versions = =

Johnny Duncan charted a version of the song for Columbia Records that missed the Hot 100 chart . It debuted on the Hot Country Songs chart on September 30 , 1972 , peaking at number 66 and spending a total of five weeks on the chart . The song also spent five weeks on the Cashbox Country Singles Chart , debuting on October 7 , 1972 , and peaking at number 61 three weeks later .

In 1982 , Roy Clark produced a version of the song on his Turned Loose album for Churchill Records that he performed on the November 6 , 1982 ( season 15 , episode 9 ) episode of Hee Haw . It missed the Hot 100 chart , but it entered the Hot Country Songs chart in the October 30 , 1982 week at 88 . The song was one of only two mentioned in the October 30 , 1982 Billboard album review and was described as " a solid country number " . The song peaked at number 65 in the week ending November 27 and remained in the chart for two more weeks , making the total run seven weeks . The song also spent seven weeks on the Cashbox Country Singles Chart , debuting on November 6 , 1982 , and peaking at number 61 for two weeks ( December 4 and December 11 ) .

= = Other versions and uses = =

Billy Vaughn covered " Here We Go Again " on his 1967 Ode to Billy Joe instrumental jazz album , as did Dean Martin on his 1970 album My Woman , My Woman , My Wife . Glen Campbell 's version appeared on his 1971 album The Last Time I Saw Her , Eddy Arnold 's on his 1972 album Lonely People , and George Strait 's on his 1992 album Holding My Own . Steagall performed it with Reba McEntire on his 2007 Here We Go Again album , but she did not include it on her 2007 duets album Reba : Duets , which was released four weeks later . Their collaboration was favorably reviewed , and McEntire was said to reinvigorate this country standard by Nathalie Baret of ABQ Journal . Martin 's version was 3 : 07 , and it later appeared on compilation albums , starting with the 1996 Dean Martin Gold , Vol . 2 . It has appeared on a handful of other Martin compilation albums . Campbell 's version was only 2 : 26 . Strait 's version is 2 : 53 and appears later on his 2004 Greatest Collection at a 2 : 55 length . Steagall 's version with McEntire ( who Steagall discovered at a 1974 county fair ) is 3 : 10 . American R & B and boogie @-@ woogie pianist and singer Little Willie Littlefield recorded a version for his 1997 album The Red One .

Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis , along with Norah Jones , performed two concerts at Lincoln Center 's Rose Theatre , on February 9 and February 10 , 2009 . A 2011 live tribute album by Nelson and Marsalis featuring Jones entitled Here We Go Again : Celebrating the Genius of Ray Charles was recorded on these two live dates . The album , which was released on March 29 , 2011 , included a track entitled " Here We Go Again " . The vocals on " Here We Go Again " were performed by Jones and Nelson , while instrumental support was provided by Marsalis ( trumpet ) , Dan Nimmer ( piano ) , Mickey Raphael ( harmonica ) , Walter Blanding ( tenor saxophone ) , Carlos Henriquez ( bass ) and Ali Jackson ( drums and percussion ) . The song , which had a length of 5 : 10 , was arranged by Andy Farber and performed in a rhythm and blues 12 / 8 shuffle . BBC music reviewer Bill Tilland noted that Jones added her usual " style and panache " to this performance . At one concert performance , The New York Times critic Nate Chinen felt the song sounded unrehearsed . Although critique of this track is sparse , Pop Matters ? Will Layman notes that the album reveals " how decisive and strong Jones sounds while singing with a truly legitimate jazz group " and how Nelson predictably " breezes through his tunes with cavalier grace " . Meanwhile , he praises the professional mastery of Marsalis ' quintet . Tilland also notes that on the album Marsalis ' band " compensates quite adequately for occasional lacklustre vocals . "

George Strait 's country music version was performed with the instrumental support of Joe Chemay

( bass guitar ) , Floyd Domino ( piano ) , Buddy Emmons ( steel guitar ) , Steve Gibson ( acoustic guitar ) , Johnny Gimble ( fiddle ) , Jim Horn ( saxophone , alto flute ) , Larrie Londin ( drums ) , Liana Manis ( background vocals ) , Curtis Young ( background vocals ) , and Reggie Young ( electric guitar ) . The album was produced by Jimmy Bowen and Strait . In 1992 Entertainment Weekly 's Alanna Nash regarded the album as Strait 's " most hard @-@ core country album " up to that point in his career . Allmusic staff noted that the album held its own at the time of release against most of its competitors and has aged better than most country music albums . Ralph Novak , Lisa Shea , Eric Levin , and Craig Tomashoff of People said the album represents the most straightforward style of singing . The iTunes Store describes the album as the result of a transition in eras of country music .

The song plays during the opening credit dance by Franz ( Harry Baer ) and Margarethe ( Margarethe von Trotta ) in Rainer Werner Fassbinder 's 1970 film Gods of the Plague . However , the song was on neither the eponymous soundtrack for the 2004 film Ray nor the limited edition additional soundtrack album More Music From Ray .