

= Number 1 's (Mariah Carey album) =

1 's is the first compilation album by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey , released by Columbia Records on November 17 , 1998 . The album contained Carey 's then thirteen number one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 , as well as four new songs . In Japan , # 1 's also included her popular single " All I Want for Christmas Is You " , which remained Carey 's biggest selling single there . Though showing the characteristics of a regular greatest hits album , Carey expressed a dislike for the track listing , which she called a large collection of her most commercial singles . Carey felt that if # 1 's was a traditional greatest hits album , then it would include other songs that did not reach number one , but were far more important in her career . She has regularly voiced her frustration with the song choices on the album , expressing her disappointment with the omission of her " favorite songs " .

Upon release , reviews for the album were mixed , with criticism directed towards both the new material and the decision to include only Carey 's number one hits in the United States . While receiving tepid reviews from music critics , the album became a large commercial success throughout the world . It debuted at number four on Billboard 200 , number one in Japan , and in the top @-@ ten throughout almost every major music market around the globe . # 1 's was certified five @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of five million copies throughout the United States . Aside from the US , the album experienced its strongest sales in Japan , where the album sold 3 @,@ 250 @,@ 000 copies in the first three months after its release . The album was certified the triple @-@ million award , and currently remains the best @-@ selling album of all @-@ time in Japan by a non @-@ Asian artist . In Europe , # 1 's was certified double @-@ platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) , denoting shipments of two million copies throughout the continent .

Three singles were released from the album . Serving as the album 's lead single was " Sweetheart " featuring Jermaine Dupri . The song performed weakly on the charts , peaking within the top @-@ twenty only in Germany and Switzerland . The follow @-@ up single , " When You Believe " , a duet with Whitney Houston , charted well throughout the world . In the US , the song performed moderately , peaking at number fifteen . In Europe however , the song reached the top @-@ two in Norway , Spain , Sweden and Switzerland and the top @-@ five in Belgium , France , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . " When You Believe " was featured in the The Prince of Egypt soundtrack , and received the Academy Award for Best Original Song . Sales of # 1 's were much higher than expected . On May 15 , 2015 , Carey released # 1 to Infinity , an updated version of # 1 's with all 18 number @-@ ones , which coincides with her residency show in Las Vegas , Mariah Carey Number 1 's .

= = Background and album title = =

During mid @-@ 1998 , after the release of her seventh studio album , Butterfly (1997) , the previous September , Carey was in the midst of developing a film and soundtrack project titled All That Glitters . Midway through the project , All That Glitters fell into developmental hell , causing Carey to pause the entire production . During this period , Carey considered embarking on a tour to support Butterfly , which was continuing to sell strongly . However , executives at Sony Music , the parent company of Carey 's label Columbia , wanted her to prepare a greatest hits collection in time for the commercially favorable holiday season . Carey , not having time to record a studio album , agreed . However , they disagreed as to what content and singles should constitute the album . Sony wanted to release an album that featured her US number one singles , void of any new material . Carey on the other hand , felt that a greatest hits album should reflect on her most personal and favorite songs , not her most commercial . To accompany her thirteen number ones , Carey recorded four new songs . She felt that not including any new material would result in cheating her fans , therefore including some new material as well . While compromised , Carey often expressed distaste towards the album 's song selection , expressing her disappointment in the omission of her " favorite songs " .

For this reason , Sony titled the album # 1 's , as Carey felt the need to express the album 's true content , a collection of her number one hits . Carey has frequently cited " Underneath the Stars " (1996) and " Breakdown " (1998) as examples of songs she was unsuccessful in releasing . In the album 's liner notes , Carey wrote that she was releasing a collection of her number one singles as a " thank you " and a tribute to her fans , and explained that someday she would release a true greatest hits album containing songs that were not released as singles , as well as singles that did not reach number one . In December 2001 , Columbia released the album Greatest Hits , which featured Carey 's number one singles alongside songs she said " needed to be really heard " , such as " Underneath the Stars " and " Forever " . In an interview with MTV , Carey made the following statement regarding the album : " There 's a lot of songs that I 'm happy are gonna see the light of day . I think people are going to like this Greatest Hits because there are songs on it that were not necessarily singles . "

= = Writing and composition = =

The first of Carey 's number ones to be featured on the album was " Vision of Love " . It was Carey 's first single and was the song that propelled her into the music scene . The song received acclaim , and was credited with influencing and popularizing the use of melisma throughout the 1990s . Three other songs were included from her self @-@ titled debut album , of them were " Love Takes Time " , " Someday " and " I Don 't Wanna Cry " . The fifth single featured on the album was " Emotions " , the lead single from the album of the same name . Because of the album 's strict array of chart topping singles , none of the other singles on Emotions made the track listing . Another song that was featured on # 1 's was Carey 's version of The Jackson 5 classic , " I 'll Be There " , which was the lead single from her live album , MTV Unplugged . The singles from Carey 's 1993 release Music Box , made an appearance on the album as well . " Dreamlover " , the seventh number one from the album , was the lead single from Music Box . The song topped the Billboard Hot 100 for eight weeks and was described as a " slight piece of pop fluff " , representing a more commercial side to Carey than the " more ambitious " , " Vision of Love " . The song was the start of a vocal maturity for Carey , and was considered a notable song in her career . The second single from Music Box , " Hero " , also made the album 's final cut . According to author Chris Nickson , Hero was one of Carey 's " most inspirational ballads " . The album 's third single , Carey 's cover of Harry Nielsen 's " Without You " failed to make the US album version , however , due to the song 's popularity in Europe , it was included in the album 's international edition .

" All I Want for Christmas Is You " , the lead single from Carey 's holiday album Merry Christmas also made the international track listing . The song became one of the best @-@ selling singles by a non ? Asian female , and the best @-@ selling Japanese single of 1994 , selling 1 @.@ 1 million copies . Additionally , " All I Want for Christmas Is You " was called " one of the essential musical hallmarks of the holiday season " , and is the only holiday song and ringtone to reach multi @-@ platinum status in the US . Occupying three of the thirteen number ones on the album were the singles from Carey 's 1995 release , Daydream . The album 's lead single " Fantasy " , was featured on # 1 's . However , it was the song 's official remix , which featured rap verses from Ol ' Dirty Bastard , which made the album cut . This was a personal decision made by Carey , as it was of her preference . The second song from Daydream to be featured on the album was " One Sweet Day " , Carey 's duet with Boyz II Men . The song topped the Hot 100 for an unprecedented sixteen weeks , and holds the record for longest running number one song in Hot 100 history . The third and final song from the album , " Always Be My Baby " , spent two weeks atop the charts in the US , therefore earning a place on the album as well .

Carey 's most recent studio effort at the time , Butterfly , also yielded two number one songs . The album 's lead single , " Honey " , was a career @-@ transitional song for Carey , which introduced her as an hip hop soul artist , as well as featured extended rap verses throughout the song . While very different than anything Carey had ever recorded , the track was described as " street Hip @-@ Hop music , with a booming bass . " The second song from Butterfly , " My All " , spent one week atop the charts . Carey described the song as " [having] a lush sound and intense styling . " Solely

written by Carey and Walter Afanasieff , " My All " featured guitar arpeggios , which were synthetically created with the clever use of sampling and playing keyboard notes . As a result , the song was well @-@ received , being called a " slinky , slow jam R & B sound , that fit Mariah like a glove . "

= = = New material = = =

Since Carey intended # 1 's to serve as a sign of gratitude to her fans , the album contained four new songs not previously included on her albums . The first was a cover of Rainy Davis ' " Sweetheart " (1987) performed as a duet with co @-@ producer and rapper Jermaine Dupri . Dupri had worked with Carey in the past , contributing to her album Daydream , and co @-@ produced several hip @-@ hop remixes of her songs . Carey said of the inspiration for its recording , " I was thinking of the old songs I used to listen to when I was in school . It 's a really cute record . Young girls 'll like it the way I liked it when I was growing up . " Another new song featured on # 1 's was " When You Believe " , which Carey said was included because she felt it was " a miracle " that she and Houston collaborated on a record . During the development of All That Glitters , Carey had been introduced to DreamWorks producer Jeffrey Katzenberg , who asked her if she would record the song " When You Believe " for the soundtrack to the animated film The Prince of Egypt . Carey and Houston were shown the film separately , and both became very enthusiastic about participating in the project . In an interview with MTV , Carey made the following statement regarding " When You Believe " and working with Whitney Houston :

" It 's sort of a message song . It 's what ' Prince of Egypt ' is about , Moses . If we were ever going to come together on any kind of record , this is definitely the right one , and really the coolest thing to me is that after all of the drama and everybody making it like we had a rivalry , she was just really cool and we had a really good time in the studio . We had fun . And so , if nothing else , it was a good experience ... and diva @-@ ism , whatever . "

The song was co @-@ written by Stephen Schwartz and Babyface , who also produced the song . Carey had previously collaborated with Babyface on her albums , Music Box (1993) and Daydream (1995) . Babyface expressed how he went through more than one version of the song and described its production as a beautiful movie ballad , something different than he , Carey or Houston ever recorded . In an interview with Vibe , Carey said that she " liked [the song] the way it was . " She had characterised it as " a very big ballad but in an inspirational way " and denied speculation that there had been past rivalry or animosity between her and Houston prior to its recording : " I never even really talked to her until this . We never had any issues between us . The media and everybody made it an issue . "

Carey co @-@ wrote and co @-@ produced the song " Whenever You Call " with longtime collaborator Walter Afanasieff for her album , Butterfly . However , in order to change the song 's tempo and format , Carey decided to re @-@ do the song as a duet with Brian McKnight , because she felt it was one of the best songs on Butterfly . Carey had also expressed how McKnight 's vocals added a great deal to the song , describing the project as " perfecting the song " . McKnight shared similar sentiments , saying , " It was amazing to go into the studio with someone who 's so successful , and has that kind of track record . Mariah is someone who could ask anyone in the world to sing with her , and they called me . The album contains a duet with Whitney Houston ... it 's just been great company to be in . "

One of the songs Carey recorded specifically for # 1 's was a cover of Brenda K. Starr 's " I Still Believe " (1988) co @-@ produced by Stevie J and Mike Mason . During the late 1980s Starr helped Carey secure a record contract while she worked as Starr 's backup singer . In the album 's liner notes , Carey wrote that the purpose of the song was solely paying tribute to her . According to Carey , the song " reminds me of the fact that not long ago I was a teenage girl with nothing to my name but a demo tape , my voice , and my ability to write songs . Brenda K. Starr treated me like a ' star ' and gave me a shot . " Another song Carey and Stevie J co @-@ produced was a cover of , " Theme from Mahogany (Do You Know Where You 're Going To) " (1975) by Diana Ross . The latter song was the third non @-@ original song on the album , and experienced a limited release

throughout few countries in Europe . During a press release for the album , it was reported that an exclusive live version of " Hero " would be included . However , the idea fell through and was never released .

= = Critical reception = =

The album received generally mixed reviews from music critics . # 1 's was awarded four and a half out of five stars from Heather Phares of Allmusic . Phares complimented the album 's content , feeling the song selection was too commercial , but very strong . Additionally , Phares wrote " Her career has been an extraordinary succession of number ones and record @-@ breaking firsts in the music world , her entire album catalog has achieved RIAA multi @-@ platinum status . " Phares also commented on the accompanying DVD , writing , " Interviews and interactive menus make # 1s a better @-@ than @-@ average DVD video collection and one that will doubtlessly please Carey 's legions of fans . " Mark Bautz , an editor from Entertainment Weekly gave the album a B- . Bautz felt that Carey 's primary limitation was " wan , homogeneous songs " and that " hearing them months apart on the radio makes them passable , but strung together on # 1s they 're like a mile @-@ long elevator ride . " While criticizing the album for its song selection and content , he complimented the songs " My All " and the remix for " Fantasy " , writing , " that said , though , Fantasy (with O.D.B.) and My All stand up as two of the best pop tunes of the ' 90s . " The album received a scathing review from Britain 's NME magazine , with its critic writing :

" I fear Mariah Carey . Superficially , she might seem like a purveyor of saccharine bilge like ' Hero ' ... But that 's bullshit . You don 't sell 90 million records unless you reserve that fluffybunny stuff for your sucker fans ... you gotta be cold @-@ eyed , hard @-@ boiled and have balls of steel ... She 'll do whatever it takes . And her most fiendish weapon is the duet . If the MOR market needs servicing , she 'll duet with Luther or Whitney ... If her contemporary edge needs sharpening , she 'll hang with the Wu @-@ Tang Clan ... If you 're big in the R & B charts , like Brian McKnight , she 'll be in there ... like a heat @-@ seeking parasite . She don 't give a fuck . She destroys competition by sucking them dry and spitting them out . "

In a review for Carey 's 2001 album , Greatest Hits , Sal Cinquemani of Slant felt the album was solely a string of Carey 's most commercial and popular hits , however , not her best . Cinquemani complimented Greatest Hits and wrote , " It seems like only yesterday that we were served with the self @-@ congratulatory # 1s , a collection of Carey 's record @-@ breaking string of chart @-@ toppers , but the 27 @-@ track Greatest Hits is the singer 's first proper hits compilation . " In his consumer guide for The Village Voice , critic Robert Christgau gave the album a " choice cut " rating , indicating " a good song on an album that isn 't worth your time or money ; Some (choice cut) s are arbitrarily personal , others inescapably social . "

= = Chart performance = =

As executives at Columbia had done during the album 's development , Eric Boehlert of Rolling Stone noted the importance of the release date of # 1 's and other albums on sale during the same period : " Artists who make a habit of hitting it big during the holiday shopping season are wise indeed , as sales traditionally skyrocket . This year is no exception . " Journalist and author Marc Shapiro , in his biography of Carey , attributed the album 's high sales to the presence of new songs , writing :

" The consensus among the music press was that Mariah 's insistence on including the new material made all the difference in increasing sales figures more than expected . Including some new with the old in a greatest @-@ hits package had been tried from time to time by other artists with varying degrees of success , but with the triumph of # 1 's , it would become a regular element in nearly all future greatest @-@ hits albums . As such packages go , # 1 's was a solid retrospective of Mariah 's chart hits , but because these songs were oversaturating the radio , including a favorite nonhit album track or two might have made a nice change . The new songs were a definite bones even though none ever really rose to the spectacular level of her best ... they added

up to a nice touch but little more . "

1 's was released in the same week as several other albums by high @-@ profile musicians such as Garth Brooks , Jewel , Method Man , Ice Cube and Whitney Houston . MTV News called November 17 " what is shaping up to be the music industry 's Super Tuesday ... most onlookers know that first week sales aren 't everything , but they will also tell you that they are pretty darn important . " # 1 's entered the U.S. Billboard 200 at number four , with 221 @,@ 000 copies sold in its first week . In its sixth week of release (ending January 2) the album 's weekly sales peaked at 360 @,@ 000 copies . It remained in the top twenty for thirteen weeks and on the chart for sixty @-@ two weeks (making two re @-@ entries) . In Canada , # 1 's was certified triple @-@ platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) , denoting shipments of 300 @,@ 000 copies .

In Europe , the album experienced success , peaking within the top @-@ ten in almost every major music market . By 2003 , the album received a double @-@ platinum certification by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) , denoting shipments of two million copies throughout Europe , until that year . In France , # 1 's was certified double @-@ platinum , with estimated sales of 800 @,@ 000 copies . In Italy was certified triple @-@ platinum , whit 300 @,@ 000 copies . The album received a platinum certification in Belgium , Spain , Sweden , Switzerland and the United Kingdom , where it shipped 800 @,@ 000 copies . # 1 's received a gold certification in Germany , the Netherlands and Norway . Aside from its success in Europe , the album experienced its highest sales in Japan (after the US) , where it sold 3 @,@ 250 @,@ 000 copies in the first three months after its release . In Japan , # 1 's remains the best @-@ selling album in Japan by a non @-@ Asian artist and is certified the triple @-@ Million award and was certified six @-@ time platinum in Brazil , whit 1 @,@ 500 @,@ 000 copies . The album was certified five @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of five million copies throughout the United States . Worldwide # 1 's has sold 20 million copies .

= = Singles = =

" Sweetheart " was released as the album 's lead single . In the US , due to the song 's low radio airplay , " Sweetheart " only reached number twenty @-@ five on Billboard 's Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles . Internationally , the song performed better , peaking within the top twenty in Germany and Switzerland . " When You Believe " , the album 's second single , was promoted as the first single from both The Prince of Egypt : Original Soundtrack and Houston 's My Love Is Your Love . It was given a wider release than " Sweetheart " and achieved worldwide success . The song peaked within the top two in Norway , Spain , Sweden and Switzerland , and in the top five in Belgium , the Netherlands , France and the United Kingdom . In the UK , " When You Believe " became one of Carey 's biggest successes , selling 260 @,@ 000 units . Despite reaching high positions around the globe , " When You Believe " performed moderately in the US , where it peaked at number fifteen . Serving as the album 's third single , " I Still Believe " performed stronger in the US than the album 's previous singles , peaking at number four . The song was certified platinum in the United States , however performing weakly in other territories . " I Still Believe " performed well in Spain , where it peaked at number seven , and in Canada , where the song reached the top @-@ ten .

" Whenever You Call " was considered for release as a single in mid @-@ 1999 , but its promotion was cancelled due to the impending release of " Heartbreaker " , the lead single from Carey 's following album Rainbow . " Do You Know Where You 're Going To " was issued as a promotional single in Brazil and some parts of Europe during June . The song performed weakly around the world , not charting in any major music market . In December 1999 , Columbia released the video / DVD # 1 's , which contained music videos and recordings of live performances for the number one singles featured on # 1 's , as well as " Heartbreaker " , which had gone to number one during that time .

= = Awards and accolades = =

In 1998 , Carey received the World Music Awards for becoming the " World 's Best Selling Recording Artist of the 1990s " as well as the award for " World 's Best Selling R & B Artist " . Carey received the 1998 Billboard Music Award for Artist of the Decade . At the 1999 BMI Music Awards , Carey took home the coveted Songwriter of the Year award . " When You Believe " was nominated at the 2000 Grammy Awards for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals and won an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Duo or Group . Additionally , the song won the award for Best Original Song at the 71st annual Academy Awards . After the album 's release , Carey won a Blockbuster Entertainment Award in the category of Favorite Female Artist , and Entertainer of the Year at the Soul Train Music Awards . # 1 's won a 1999 Japan Gold Disc Award for International Pop Album of the Year .

= = Track listing = =

= = Album credits = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =