

= Anytime You Need a Friend =

" Anytime You Need a Friend " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey . The song was written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff , for her third studio album , Music Box (1993) . It was released on May 31 , 1994 through Columbia Records , as the fourth and final single from the album . The song is influenced by pop , R & B and gospel music genres . While the album focused heavily on pop oriented and radio friendly material , " Anytime You Need a Friend " deviated from the formula , finishing as the only gospel @-@ infused song on Music Box . Lyrically , the song 's protagonist tells her love interest that anytime he may need a friend , she will be there unconditionally for him . Throughout the song 's bridge and climax , critics noted the lyrics altering from those of a friend , to those of a lover .

The song was well received by contemporary music critics , many of which praised Carey 's large spanning vocal range , as well as its gospel influence that they felt was missing on most of Music Box . Aside from its critical acceptance , the song achieved strong worldwide chart positions and peaked at number twelve on the US Billboard Hot 100 , but became her first single to miss out the top @-@ ten . Additionally , it peaked at number five in Canada and topped the singles charts in Finland and the Netherlands . The song attained a top @-@ twenty peak position in Australia , France , Ireland , New Zealand , Switzerland and the United Kingdom .

Carey performed " Anytime You Need a Friend " live on several televised talk and award shows around the world , including the Late Show with David Letterman , the British music chart program Top of the Pops and German entertainment show Wetten , dass .. ? . Additionally , the song served as a closing number on Carey 's Music Box and Daydream World Tours , and was featured on her compilation albums , Greatest Hits (2001) and The Ballads (2008) . Although several remixes were commissioned for the song , the C + C remix became the most notable , being produced by C + C Music Factory 's David Cole and Robert Clivillés , and the first of Carey 's remixes to feature her on production credits .

The song 's music video was filmed by Danielle Federici , in New York during the summer of 1994 . The video was filmed in black @-@ and @-@ white fashion , and features Carey 's first image makeover , where she appears with a straightened hairstyle for the first time in her career . Additionally , the music video showcases scenes of Carey singing by a large church choir in a foyer , as well as several people , ranging from a small child to an elderly man , who are alone and depressed . As the video progresses , the child and man are befriended after brief interludes and prayers to God . The song 's C + C remix also features its own music video , displaying behind the scenes footage of Carey and her staff enjoying themselves during the original video 's filming .

= = Background and recording = =

For her third studio effort , Columbia Records decided to market Carey in a similar fashion to that of her debut , only having her produce a more commercial and radio @-@ friendly album . Their plans were to tone down Carey 's vocals , and soften the album 's production , leaving a more contemporary pop record . Agreeing to the change , Carey and Afanasieff began writing and recording material for her third studio effort , Music Box (1993) . On the album 's first track " Dreamlover " , Carey worked with Dave Hall throughout the song 's entire production . In order to help with some of the song 's arrangements , Mottola enrolled the help of Walter Afanasieff , who took on the completed track and transformed it into a more commercial hit . Music Box received mixed critical response from contemporary critics , who suggested that in lowering Carey 's vocal bombast , her energy level decreased and felt the album had an " absence of passion . " The only song that was not subject to the common criticism was " Anytime You Need a Friend , " which some called the album 's only real glimpse of Carey 's upper vocal registers , and one of the only passionate and gospel moments on Music Box . In an interview , Carey described that although the album 's main goal was to be more commercial and radio @-@ friendly than her previous release , she felt the need to include at least one song that featured a church choir and traces of the music that influenced her growing up as a child .

= = Composition = =

" Anytime You Need a Friend " is a mid @-@ tempo song which draws influence from pop , R & B and gospel musical genres . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by EMI Music Publishing , the song is written in the key of C major , while the beat is set in the signature of common time , which moves at a moderate pace of 83 beats per minute . It has a sequence of Am / C ? Bm7 (no5) ? E7 / G ? ? Am as its chord progression . Carey 's vocals in the song span over three octaves , from the low note of an E3 to the high note of a B ? 6 . The song was written by Carey and Afanasieff , with production helmed by the pair as well . After the song 's bridge , a church choir is introduced and featured throughout its final chorus and climax . Carey 's vocals are layered over the background gospel @-@ styled vocals on the final chorus , after which she uses the whistle register to close the song . The song 's lyrics describe a relationship the protagonist has with another individual , telling them that anytime they need a friend , she will be there unconditionally .

Throughout the song , the lyrics seemingly show the evolving relationship between the couple . Carey sings Anytime you need a friend / I will be here / You 'll never be alone again / So don 't you fear / Even if you 're miles away / I 'm by your side / So don 't you ever be lonely / Love will make it alright , which hints at a current friendship where more still uncovered emotions are present . Author Chris Nickson explains on the song 's switch in relationship , as the lyrics change to If you just believe in me / I will love you endlessly / Take my hand / Take me into your heart / I 'll be there forever baby / I won 't let go / I 'll never let go . The protagonist is willing to accept the relationship as only a friend , but tells her partner that no matter his feelings for her , she loves him and still wishes to be loved by him , something she will never forget or " let go . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Anytime You Need a Friend " was generally well received by contemporary music critics , many of whom praised the song 's gospel influence as well as Carey 's vocal range . Following the mixed reception to the song 's parent album , Music Box , " Anytime You Need a Friend " was deemed a strong contrast to the album 's pop influence . Critics agreed that through lowering Carey 's vocal bombast , the album suffered due to lowered passion and energy levels . The song however , was considered the only standout from the album , altering heavily from the pop oriented formula of Music Box . J.D. Considine from The Baltimore Sun wrote " Where another singer might have been tempted to turn " Anytime You Need a Friend " into a full @-@ blown sanctified sing @-@ out , Carey and producer Walter Afanasieff use the gospel harmonies on the chorus as contrast for Carey 's pop soul vocal . " A writer from Portland Press Herald called the song one of Carey 's " original classics " , and felt it earned a place on her compilation album # 1 's , even though it did not top the Billboard Hot 100 . In an article from the Fort Worth Star @-@ Telegram , a writer commented that Carey 's vocal range in the song sounds as if it 's from a " glass @-@ shattering dimension " and complimented her incorporation of the gospel genre and church choir into the song 's climax . Christopher John Farley from Time described the song as " gospel flavored " and wrote " ' Anytime You Need a Friend ' demonstrates Carey 's vocal power , although too fleetingly . " While calling it " undeniably strong " , David Browne from Entertainment Weekly gave the song a mixed review , writing " ' Anytime You Need a Friend ' feature gospel @-@ inflected choirs seemingly intended to demonstrate that Carey has soul ? which she doesn 't ? but they 're beautifully arranged , and they serve as a nice counterpoint to Carey 's own lapses into show @-@ offy vocal gymnastics . " Suraya Attas from The Straits Times described Carey 's voice as husky , and felt it " exploited her vocal range to the fullest . " In 2003 , The Daily Record named " Anytime You Need a Friend " one of the " World 's Greatest First Dance Songs . " USA Today critic John T. Jones called the song " inspirational " , while a writer from The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution branded it " the center of the album . " " Anytime You Need A Friend " won a BMI Pop Award and an ASCAP Pop Music Award for the Songwriter Award in 1995 .

= = Chart performance = =

" Anytime You Need a Friend " became the first of Carey 's singles to not reach the top @-@ ten on the US Billboard Hot 100 . The song debuted at number 45 on the chart and eventually peaked at number 12 , remaining in the top @-@ 40 for 18 weeks and on the chart for 21 . Despite this , it was popular on US radio and was ranked number thirty @-@ seven on the 1994 Year @-@ End Charts , giving Carey three singles in the top half of the chart . On the Year @-@ End Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks , " Anytime You Need a Friend " finished at number 21 and number 39 on the Hot Dance Music Club Play Singles Year @-@ End Chart . In Canada , the song debuted at number 82 on the Canadian RPM Singles Chart during the week of May 23 , 1994 . Seven weeks later , the song reached its peak of number five on the singles chart , spending three consecutive weeks at the position and a total of 20 weeks on the chart . On the RPM Year @-@ End Charts , " Dreamlover " finished at number 39 . On the week dated June 19 , 1994 on the Australian Singles Chart , the song entered at number 48 . Weeks later , it ascended to its peak position of number 12 , where it stayed for one week , and a total of 17 weeks fluctuating inside the singles chart . " Anytime You Need a Friend " was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , denoting shipments of over 35 @,@ 000 units . On the Dutch Top 40 chart , " Anytime You Need a Friend " reached the number one position on the singles chart .

In France , the single entered the chart at number 43 during the week of October 29 , 1994 . After spending one week at its peak position of number 12 , the song fluctuated inside the singles chart for a total of 16 weeks . In Germany and Ireland , " Anytime You Need a Friend " reached numbers 31 and 16 on their respective singles charts . On the New Zealand Singles Chart dated June 26 , 1994 , the song entered the chart at number nine . After spending two weeks at its peak position of number five , and a total of 14 weeks in the singles chart , the song was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) , denoting shipments of over 7 @,@ 500 units . In Switzerland , " Anytime You Need a Friend " peaked at number 15 , however spending 17 weeks fluctuating in the Swiss Singles Chart . On the UK Singles Chart week dated June 18 , 1994 , the song debuted at number nine . The following week , it reached its peak position of number eight , spending a total of ten weeks in the singles chart . Following a live performance of the song by Eoghan Quigg on the fifth series of the British talent show The X Factor , " Anytime You Need a Friend " re @-@ surged onto the singles chart at number 96 on November 22 , 2008 . As of 2010 , MTV estimates sales of the song in the United Kingdom to be at 100 @,@ 000 units .

= = Remixes = =

" Anytime You Need a Friend " was remixed by David Cole and Robert Clivillés of C + C Music Factory . Although over fifteen various edits and extended mixes were created , for the most part they are based on the " C + C Club Mix . " Other variations , extended mixes , and edits include but are not limited to the " All That and More Mix , " " Dave 's Empty Pass , " and the " Boriqua Tribe Mix " . Cory Rooney and Mark Morales created a " Soul Convention Mix " and a stringapella for the song . Because of the large number of remixes , two maxi singles were released in the US Carey was given co @-@ producing credit for both the C & C mixes and the Soul Convention / Stringapella , the first time that she had been given producing credit on remixes of her songs . Gregg Shapiro from the Windy City Times complimented the remix , writing " the presence of each improves on the original . They have something new to say ; even with the songs that began as dance tracks . " Jose F. Promis gave the C + C remix two and a half out of five stars , writing how the remix found Carey " getting quite gritty and earthy . " He concluded his review with " It made for a topnotch dancefloor number , and stands as an excellent example of early- to mid- ' 90s dance music , not to mention being one of the singer 's most compelling , underrated , and forgotten efforts . "

= = Music videos = =

The music video , directed by Danielle Federici , was filmed during the early summer of 1994 . It was filmed in black @-@ and @-@ white , and features Carey walking along the streets of New York , watching several different people , ranging from a small child to an elderly man , lonely and in need of a friend . Additionally , aside from several scenes of Carey and a large church choir in a large antechamber , the video is known as the first video in which Carey appears with straightened hair . Throughout her career up until that point , Carey had famously sported long , auburn curls . However , the video presented Carey 's first image makeover , where she appears with bangs and a long straightened hairstyle . The video begins with scenes of Carey walking down a long New York street , with the addition of close ups of Carey 's face . As she stares down the road , she witnesses a small girl , sitting alone in an alley corner , glaring into the sky . As the first chorus begins , Carey enters a large foyer , with a choir dressed in black singing perched atop a large staircase . During the second verse , she similarly witnesses an older man , who is sitting on a withered stoop .

Consecutively , during the song 's bridge , Carey watches as the small child 's mother carries her to a nearby playground where her friends are frolicking and playing . Similarly , the elderly man is met with some other elderly citizens , who accompany him to another building nearby . During the song 's climax , Carey joins the choir , flailing her hands wildly towards the sky , and smiling and gazing into the cloudy morning . Renee Graham from The Boston Globe gave the video two out of four stars . She complimented on the fact that the video captured the song 's lyrical essence and how it managed to portray it in a clear and concise way . Although calling it " simple , " Graham commented that " Videos have never really been Mariah Carey 's thing , and frankly , they 've never had to be . Carey has a killer voice , so the last thing she 'd want to do is overshadow her singing with a lot of choreography , complicated story lines or explosions . " Author Chris Nickson compared several parts of the video to religion and belief in God . During such scenes when Carey appears with the choir , he felt it seemed as though they were both channeling a common entity through music ; God . Additionally , he claimed it was more evident with each passing scene of the video , as each of the lonely people in the video gaze up into the skies , possibly praying or searching for an answer to their loneliness . A video was commissioned for the C + C club mix of the song . Known as the C + C video edit , it was also directed by Danielle Federici and serves as a behind the scenes addendum to the main music video . It is also filmed in black and white , and is composed of clips of Carey and her friends during filming of the video , where they chat , laugh and enjoy time with each other . Carey 's husband at the time Tommy Mottola made a cameo appearance in the video , appearing alongside Carey during the second verse . The remix video was later included on the 1995 home video release , Fantasy : Mariah Carey at Madison Square Garden .

= = Live performances = =

Carey promoted " Anytime You Need a Friend " on several live televised performances throughout the United States , Europe and Asia . Carey 's performance of the song at an intimate concert at Proctor 's Theatre on July 15 , 1993 was filmed and released as the VHS Here Is Mariah Carey . Carey performed the song during a live appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman , which was followed by an interview regarding the album . During the performance , a live band and several male and female background vocalists were featured . Promotion through Europe included a visit and performance on the British music chart program Top of the Pops , German entertainment show Wetten , dass .. ? , Hey Hey It 's Saturday in Australia , and the 1993 Japanese Music Fair . Aside from the several televised appearances , Carey performed the song throughout her Music Box Tour (1993) and Daydream World Tour (1996) . During the shows in 1993 , Carey featured the song as the fifteenth song on the set @-@ list , and was performed in a similar fashion as on her televised appearances .

Prior to beginning the song , Carey urged the crowd to " never be lonely " and " always try and find that special person in your life . " Following the show in Chicago , Chicago Tribune critic Greg Kot felt that her performance of the song truly " demonstrated that her multi @-@ octave voice is no studio fabrication . " During her shows at the Tokyo Dome during 1996 , Carey sported a long and wavy hairstyle , while wearing a long black gown . She sang the original version of the song , up

until half way through the last chorus , until merging into the C + C remix . Several background vocalists were once again featured on stage , all donning black garbs . However , once the remix began , six male dancers made their way to the right and left sides of the stage , performing heavy dance routines as Carey walked around the stage . Once the remix began , the lighting was altered . Aside from the usual fluorescent lighting that was used throughout the show , additional pink and purple lighting was added for the number , as it served for the shows closing and final song . During her succeeding shows in Europe , Carey 's outfits altered as well as her hairstyle . She wore a long , white strapless gown and sported her hair in a straightened ponytail style . Since 1996 , Carey has not performed the song live on television or on her tours .

= = Other versions = =

In a review done by Digital Spy for Leona Lewis ' debut album , Spirit , Nick Levine felt the song " Footprints in the Sand " borrowed heavily from Carey 's track , writing " ' Footprints In The Sand ' seems hellbent on revisiting Mariah Carey 's schlock @-@ pop masterwork ' Anytime You Need A Friend . ' " " Anytime You Need a Friend " was covered on several different occasions on a variety of reality and talent competitions . Some became heavily popularized by the media due to the nature of the performance or performer . On the fifth season of the British talent program The X Factor , contestant Eoghan Quigg performed a live cover of the song during a " Mariah Carey " themed week . The song was chosen by Simon Cowell , who felt it would fit his younger vocals . Following the performance , he received acclaim from all three judges . Following the show 's end , Quigg embarked on a live tour throughout 2009 alongside the other finalists , performing the song at each show alongside fellow contestant , Diana Vickers . Similarly , on the fourth season of the reality talent show America 's Got Talent , a trio of children named Michael , Avery and Nadia , together forming " The Voices of Glory , " performed a live rendition of the song . Their performance was well received by the judges , with David Hasselhoff exclaiming " Wonderful , wonderful , wonderful job . "

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

These credits were adapted from the Music Box liner notes .

" Anytime You Need a Friend " was recorded at Right Track Studios , New York , and mixed at Sony Music Studios , New York .

= = Charts and certifications = =