

= Never Too Far =

" Never Too Far " is a song recorded by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey for her first soundtrack and eighth studio album , Glitter (2001) . It was written and produced by herself and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis . The song was released as the album 's second single on October 23 , 2001 , by Virgin Records America . The song is a mid @-@ tempo ballad which lyrically deals with heartbreak . " Never Too Far " was used on the charity single " Never Too Far / Hero Medley " , which combines the first verse of the song with a re @-@ recorded version of the second verse and bridge of Carey 's previous single " Hero " (1993) .

The single did not make much impact on the U.S. charts ; however , it did reach the top forty in the UK and Australia , as part of a double A @-@ side with " Don 't Stop (Funkin ' 4 Jamaica) " . A radio edit of " Never Too Far " is release and found as the opening track of the song 's release . Carey was unable to film a music video for the single as she was recovering from a breakdown . Instead , a video was created using a scene taken directly from the film Glitter , where Billie Frank (played by Carey) sings the song at Madison Square Garden during a concert . Carey promoted " Never Too Far / Hero " medley through live performances at the 2001 Radio Music Awards and her A Home For The Holidays With Mariah Carey TV special .

= = Background = =

In April 2001 , Carey signed a US \$ 100 million record deal with Virgin Records (EMI Records) . Following commencement for Glitter ? her first album under the new label ? and the film of same name , Carey embarked on a short promotional campaign for the project . On July 19 , 2001 , Carey made a surprise appearance on the MTV program Total Request Live (TRL) . She came out onto the filming stage , pushing an ice cream cart while wearing an oversized shirt . Seemingly anxious and exhilarated , Carey began giving out individual bars of ice cream to fans and guests on the program , while waving to the crowd down below on Times Square , while diverging into a rambling monologue regarding therapy . Carey then walked to Daly 's platform and began a striptease , in which she shed her shirt to reveal a tight yellow and green ensemble , leading him to exclaim " Mariah Carey has lost her mind ! " .

Following other appearances on which her publicist Cindy Berger said the singer was " not thinking clearly " , on July 26 , she was hospitalized , citing " extreme exhaustion " and a " physical and emotional breakdown " . Following her induction at an un @-@ disclosed hospital in Connecticut , Carey remained hospitalized and under doctor 's care for two weeks , followed by an extended absence from the album 's promotion . However , her record company had begun promoting " Never Too Far " as the second single from the soundtrack , but Carey was not able to promote it due to still recovering from her breakdown . The song was then released on October 23 , 2001 .

= = Usage in Glitter = =

In the film , Carey 's character Billie Frank argues with her boyfriend and producer Dice (Max Beesley) and they break @-@ up . Her emotional pain leads her to solo songwriting . Dice also misses Billie , and also begins writing a song . Billie goes to Dice 's apartment in an attempt to reconcile . He was not home , but the music he has written is and Billie realizes they wrote the same song : " Never Too Far " . She kisses the sheet music , leaving a lipstick imprint , which Dice later discovers . Dice plans a reconciliation , but is killed by Billie 's former producer Timothy Walker (Terrence Howard) after Dice did not pay the US \$ 100 @,@ 000 from their agreement to release Billie from Walker 's contract . At Billie 's first show at Madison Square Garden , her management and support crew see a report of the murder on television . They wonder if Billie was with him , they see that she is there and has seen the report . Billie onstage commands the band to stop playing " Loverboy " , tells the crowd never to take someone for granted , and that if you love them , you should tell them , because you might never have the chance to tell them how you really feel . She then starts to sing " Never Too Far " .

= = Composition = =

" Never Too Far " is a mid @-@ tempo ballad . The song was written and produced by Carey and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis ; it was released as the second single from her first soundtrack album , Glitter (2001) . It incorporates music from several musical instruments , including the piano , guitar and organ . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Music Publishing , the song is set in common time with a moderate tempo of 62 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of C major with Carey 's vocal range spanning from the low @-@ note of D ³ to the high @-@ note of Ab⁵ . The song 's chorus has a basic chord progression of Gsus2 ? G ? G / F ? ? Em7 ? G / D ? C @-@ G / B ? Am7 . Described as an " adult @-@ contemporary , slow @-@ jam love song " , the song 's lyrics read " Too painful to talk about it , so I hold it in / So my heart can mend and be brave enough to love again " , speaking of emotions felt by the protagonist in the film . " Never Too Far " features " a bed of synthesized strings , gentle drums and Spanish @-@ style guitar " as its primary instrumentation , and incorporates violin and keyboard notes prior to the first verse . According to Chuck Taylor from Billboard , Carey sings the lyrics with " appreciable subtlety , gliding effortlessly " through the song . It ends with a 15 @-@ second note that would " evoke a satisfied sigh " .

= = Medley = =

Following the weak commercial success of Glitter , Carey 's other label , Columbia Records , planned to release a compilation album of her biggest hits , titled Greatest Hits (2001) . As they had one more album to release from Carey under her old contract , they began assembling content for its release . Though still signed to Virgin , Carey composed a charity single in which all proceeds would go towards helping rebuild America , following the terrorist attacks on September 11 , 2001 . Consequently , she re @-@ recorded her 1993 song " Hero " , and made a medley of it with " Never Too Far " . The song features a different instrumental introduction , and begins with the first verse and chorus of " Never Too Far " , and blends into the bridge of " Hero " . Several writers for the medley are credited , with Carey having written " Never Too Far " with Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , and the latter with Walter Afanasieff . Aside from Jam and Lewis , Randy Jackson assisted Carey in the song 's production . In an interview with MTV , Carey described the single and its conception :

I started doing different charity events where I did a combination of ' Never Too Far ' and ' Hero ' . We made it into a medley and put them in the same key and made it work . People responded really well to it . It 's been interesting for me , since the events of September 11 , the way people have been playing ' Hero ' and really even talking to me about ' Never Too Far ' , ' cause that song is also about loss . I figured that it would be a nice thing to do , to put them both out for Christmas . There 's also an unreleased track on the B @-@ side , which is called ' There for Me ' which kind of has the same sentiment . The proceeds from ' Never Too Far ' and ' Hero ' and ' There for Me ' are going to go to the Heroes Fund , and it 's going to benefit police officers ' families , relief workers ' families .

= = Critical reception = =

" Never Too Far " received positive reviews from critics . Billboard 's Chuck Taylor gave a positive review for the song , calling it a " shimmering ballad " that showcases the singer excelling at what made her a famous : " singing the hell out of a straight ahead love song free of gimmicks , gymnastics and self @-@ conscious attempts at targeting any particular demographic " ; he also said that " Never Too Far " would relieve fans that think Carey had been " relying more upon samples and guest vocalists lately than melody and artful performing " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine called the song another " syrupy @-@ sweet " ballad on the album and that it " harbors over @-@ the @-@ top performances worthy of " Star Search " (more than fitting considering the film 's ' 80s @-@ era rags @-@ to @-@ riches storyline) " . Harry Guerin from Raidió Teilifís Éireann wrote that " Never Too Far " showcased " her four octave range but sound [s] roughly like

everything else she 's committed to tape during her career " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Never Too Far " was never released in the United States . Due to the horrific events surrounding the United States at the time , radio stations began playing the song before its official add date to rotation . It failed to reach Billboard Hot 100 , peaking at number five on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles . It also reached number 17 on the US Adult Contemporary component chart . Worldwide , " Never Too Far " was released as a double A @-@ side with " Don 't Stop (Funkin ' 4 Jamaica) " , and failed to reach the top @-@ forty in most countries . In the United Kingdom , the release however reached a position of number 35 . In contrast , " Never Too Far / Don 't Stop (Funkin ' 4 Jamaica) " reached numbers 67 and 65 in the Netherlands and Switzerland , respectively . It managed to reach peaks of numbers 36 and 16 , in respective countries Australia and Spain . The double A @-@ side single enjoyed moderate success in both the Flemish and Wallonian territories in Belgium , peaking at numbers 4 and 1 respectively on the equivalent of the " bubbling under " charts , registering songs just below the main charts . As a solo single , " Never Too Far " performed weakly in Germany reaching number 97 on the German Singles Chart , while in Sweden it peaked at number 56 .

= = Music video = =

Carey was unable to film an accompanying music video for the single ; at the time of its release , she was recovering from a physical and emotional breakdown that left her hospitalized in August 2001 , and caused her to cancel all public appearances to promote Glitter . She said , " When I was asked about the video I said , ' I can 't do it today ' . And nobody could accept that answer . And that 's when I started to get mad . I was , like , look , I am too fatigued . I 'm overly @-@ tired , I can 't do it as a human being . And nobody was hearing those last two words ? human being . They were used to the Mariah that always says , ' Come on , let 's fight , let 's go ' . They just weren 't used to me ever saying no . I never said no before " . Instead , a video was created using a scene taken directly from the film , where Billie Frank (played by Carey) sings the song at Madison Square Garden during her first sold @-@ out concert . Frank 's performance of the song in the film omits its entire second verse , and the song 's development runs in parallel with the film 's love story .

= = Live performances = =

Though having not promoted " Never Too Far " during the time of its release , Carey embarked on a short promotional campaign for " Never Too Far / Hero " medley , as well as charity benefits for the September 11 attacks victims . At the 2001 Radio Music Awards , Carey made her second public appearance following her breakdown , the first being a performance of " Hero " at the America : A Tribute to Heroes telethon on September 21 , 2001 . Entering the stage in a long black evening gown , Carey performed the medley live , followed by a standing ovation from the audience . On October 21 , 2001 , a benefit titled United We Stand : What More Can I Give was held at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium in Washington , D.C. , accompanied by the charity single " What More Can I Give " , in which Carey participated . Carey donned a black open @-@ back dress with a plunging neckline , and performed " Never Too Far / Hero " , followed by a live rendition of " What More Can I Give " .

On November 16 , 2001 , Carey taped a special titled A Home For The Holidays With Mariah Carey , which aired on December 21 of that same year . The special featured additional performances by Destiny 's Child , Josh Groban , Enrique Iglesias and Mandy Moore . Carey opened the special , with a performance of " Never Too Far / Hero " while wearing a form @-@ fitting red evening gown . Aside from the medley , Carey performed " I 'll Be There " and " Reflections (Care Enough) " , also a single from Glitter .

= = Formats and track listings = =

European CD single

" Never Too Far " (Edit)

" Don 't Stop (Funkin ' 4 Jamaica) " (featuring Mystikal)

Australian / European CD maxi @-@ single

" Never Too Far " (Edit)

" Don 't Stop (Funkin ' 4 Jamaica) " (featuring Mystikal)

" Loverboy " (Drums Of Love)

" Never Too Far " (The Video)

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for Glitter adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =