

= Irreplaceable =

" Irreplaceable " is a song recorded by American singer Beyoncé for her second studio album , B'Day (2006) . The song was written by Shaffer " Ne @-@ Yo " Smith , Tor Erik Hermansen , Mikkel , S. Eriksen , Espen Lind , Amund Bjørklund , Beyoncé and produced by Stargate and Beyoncé . " Irreplaceable " was originally a country record ; it was re @-@ arranged as a mid @-@ tempo ballad with pop and R & B influences by modifying the vocal arrangements and instrumentation . During the production and recording sessions , Beyoncé and Ne @-@ Yo wanted to create a record which people of either gender could relate to . The song 's lyrics are about the breakdown of a relationship with an unfaithful man and the song contains a message about female empowerment .

Following the moderate chart performances of " Déjà Vu " and " Ring the Alarm " , " Irreplaceable " was released internationally on October 23 , 2006 as the album 's second single , and the third in the United States on December 5 , 2006 . The single was released through Columbia Records . " Irreplaceable " was well received by contemporary music critics , who cited its distinct production compared with most songs featured on the album , and complimented its hook , " To the left , to the left " . Pitchfork Media and Rolling Stone placed it on their lists of Best Songs of the 2000s . " Irreplaceable " won several awards , including Best R & B / Soul Single at the 2007 Soul Train Music Awards . It was nominated for the Record of the Year award at the 50th Grammy Awards .

The single was commercially successful worldwide . It became Beyoncé 's fourth number @-@ one in the U.S. , was B'Day 's most successful release , and remained at the top of the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart for ten consecutive weeks . " Irreplaceable " was the best @-@ selling U.S. single of 2007 , the twenty @-@ fifth most successful song of the 2000s (decade) in the U.S. , and was certified double @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . It became Beyoncé 's second single to achieve 200 million audience impressions in 2006 . She is the second singer to achieve this feat in the U.S. , the first having been Mariah Carey in 2005 . " Irreplaceable " peaked at number one in Australia , at number four in the United Kingdom , and reached the top twenty in several European countries . " Irreplaceable " was 2007 's tenth best @-@ selling digital single with over 4 @-@ 6 million copies sold worldwide .

The single 's accompanying music video was directed by Anthony Mandler and served as the debut performance of Beyoncé 's all @-@ female band , Sugababes . The video was included on the 2007 B'Day Anthology Video Album , and a video edit was produced for " Irreemplazable " , the Spanish version of the song . It won the Video of the Year award at the 2007 Black Entertainment Television (BET) Awards , and was nominated for the MTV Video Music Award for Video of the Year at the 2007 Awards . " Irreplaceable " has regularly featured in Beyoncé 's tours and live performances since 2006 . The American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) recognized the song as one of the most performed of 2007 at the ASCAP Pop Music Awards .

= = Production = =

" Irreplaceable " was written for Chrisette Michele . Production team Stargate and singer @-@ songwriter Ne @-@ Yo had written for Beyoncé 's second album B'Day , but Tor Erik Hermansen of Stargate said that they might not have gone in the direction they did on the song . The tune did not suit Beyoncé 's voice , and Ne @-@ Yo wrote the lyrics from a male perspective , although it was not based upon his personal experiences . Ne @-@ Yo wrote the song in the country style , thinking of country singers Shania Twain and Faith Hill during the sessions . When Ne @-@ Yo heard them playing the song with a guitar , he thought it sounded like country music . But when the drums were incorporated into the music , it was brought to an R & B vibe , and Ne @-@ Yo considered making an R & B @-@ country western music song instead .

When the team worked with Ne @-@ Yo , they recorded the song with a male vocalist . However , they thought a female vocalist would be more suitable , and Ne @-@ Yo also thought that it was empowering for a woman to sing it . Eriksen of Stargate said it was an A & R person who suggested that the song would work better when sung by a woman . Two labels wanted the song . While Beyoncé worked on material for B'Day , she was pleased with the demo of the " Irreplaceable " that

was presented to her . However , " Irreplaceable " did not seem to fit on B 'Day , which was supposed to be " a hard @-@ hitting club album " . Swizz Beatz , who was working on the album , declared that Beyoncé would be crazy not to include the song on the record . Beyoncé asked for changes to the song , including the addition of drums , vocal arrangements , and singing in a higher register than the demo . Espen Lind and Amund Bjørklund , from the Norwegian production team Espionage , wrote the chord structure and the guitar part . In an interview with MTV , Ne @-@ Yo said , " Beyoncé had some stuff that she wanted to get off her chest " , while aiming to make a record that women could relate to , in keeping with the theme of the album .

The recording was engineered by Jim Caruana and mixed by Jason Goldstein at Sony Music Studios in New York City . Goldstein was hired to mix B 'Day . He said : " This song was really simple to mix . It was produced by Stargate and the sounds are really good and they all made sense , and there was lots of room for all the instruments . " Goldstein used a board equalizer for the drums ' treatment . For the acoustic guitars , he used the analogue flanger of a TC 1210 spatial expander " to sweeten the sound " and to give them " a little bit more spread " . Goldstein thought " Irreplaceable " sounded " a bit old @-@ school " ; an eighth note delay echo was placed on the song 's lead vocal at 341ms , using the Echo Farm plug @-@ in software . For the backing vocals , Goldstein used Echo Farm with a quarter note delay at 682ms and Sony 's Oxford Dynamics compressor / limiter in dual @-@ mono mode .

The compressor was placed in Classic setting , to emulate the LA @-@ 2A leveling amplifier , and the Warmth button used to add harmonics . Oxford Dynamics was used for the bass in a different setting . Goldstein passed the final mix through the Oxford EQ and Inflator plug @-@ ins . Pro Tools software was used to print the aux track into a 44.1kHz / 24 @-@ bit CD and then into a 24 @-@ bit CD master . After the sessions for " Irreplaceable " ended , Hermansen said that " everyone felt they had captured something special and that Beyoncé had done the track justice " , but there were still concerns that urban radio might not play the song as it featured acoustic guitars and had more of a pop appeal . " But then it became the biggest urban record ... ever , " [Hermansen] said .

= = = Songwriting controversy = = =

A controversy arose over the writing credits on " Irreplaceable " . Ne @-@ Yo told MTV : " Apparently Beyoncé was at a show somewhere and right before the song came on she said , ' I wrote this for all my ladies ' and then the song came on ... The song is a co @-@ write . I wrote the lyrics , I wrote all the lyrics . Beyoncé helped me with the melodies and the harmonies and the vocal arrangement and that makes it a co @-@ write . Meaning my contribution and her contribution made that song what it is . " In 2011 , Ne @-@ Yo said that he wrote the song for himself , but thought that it would be better suited for Beyoncé , and later regretted giving the song to her . Some of Beyoncé 's fans read Ne @-@ Yo 's remark as disrespectful towards her . However , he clarified his comment later through Twitter , writing , " I said I originally wrote the song for me Once I realized how the song comes across if sung by a guy , that 's when I decided to give it away . "

= = Composition = =

" Irreplaceable " is a mid @-@ tempo ballad with pop and R & B influences . Written in the key of B ? major , the beat is set in common time and moves at a moderate 88 beats per minute . Beyoncé 's vocal range in the song spans nearly two and a half octaves , from B ? 2 to E ? 5 . While most of the songs on the album are aggressive and uptempo , her voice on " Irreplaceable " is toned down . " Irreplaceable " uses a gently strummed acoustic guitar , following the B ? 5 ? F5 ? Cm7 ? E ? 6 / 9 chord series . Hermansen and Eriksen combined the classic chord progression on an acoustic guitar , a modern @-@ sounding 808 drum beat and cellos . Al Shipley of Stylus Magazine noted that the guitar strum can be found in Rihanna 's 2007 single " Hate That I Love You " , a song co @-@ produced by Stargate and Ne @-@ Yo . Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone wrote that Chris Brown 's 2007 single " With You " , another Stargate @-@ produced song , also features the same element . He wrote , " ' With You ' is the convincer , even if you can instantly tell that producer Stargate was

just trying to roll out ' Irreplaceable ' one more time . " while Billboard magazine wrote that it " leans a bit too heavily " to the song .

Jim DeRogatis of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times wrote that " Irreplaceable " resembles ballads sung by Whitney Houston . Spence D. of IGN wrote that the song was inspired by Aretha Franklin 's work since " Irreplaceable " consists of several variations in gutturals and octave range . The lyrics of " Irreplaceable " concern the breakdown of a woman 's relationship with her boyfriend after she discovers his infidelity , and the song " sounds a lot like a statement of independence " . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe wrote , " With a heretofore unknown grasp of nuance , Beyoncé combines heartache , bravado , and anger as she tells a cad he 's far from irreplaceable ? and that , in fact , her new man will be arriving momentarily . " Hermansen said that " Irreplaceable " is a song that " people from all walks of life can enjoy " . Beyoncé said that the song is " a little honest " , and , " ... basically we can 't forget our power and our worth . And sometimes you 're so in love , you forget that . And sometimes you feel like you 're not being appreciated . And sometimes they forget that they can be replaced . "

The song 's lyrics are constructed in the verse @-@ pre @-@ chorus @-@ chorus form . It begins with guitar strumming , and Beyoncé sings the hook @-@ intro , " To the left , to the left : everything you own in a box to the left " . In bar seven , she sings the first verse , arguing with her boyfriend about the indifference of their relationship , and tells him to walk away . The pre @-@ chorus and chorus follow , " You must not know ' bout me ... I can have another you by tomorrow / I could have another you in a minute ... Don 't you ever for a second get to thinking / You 're irreplaceable " . In the second verse , Beyoncé recollects the moment she discovered her boyfriend 's infidelity . The same pattern leads to the second chorus . Towards the end , Beyoncé sings the bridge , where she tells her lover , " Replacing you is so easy " . The song closes with an ad @-@ libbed chorus . The Boston Globe noted that Beyoncé sings some parts of it in a higher register " that complements the lyrics ' wounded sensibility " .

= = Release = =

During the production of " Irreplaceable " , Hermansen thought that the track would not receive radio play because of the acoustic guitars , and deemed the song too pop @-@ oriented . Hermansen did not expect " Irreplaceable " to conform to any genre . Despite his prediction , the song became successful on urban charts . It was played in New York and on country radio stations . Shortly after the release of " Irreplaceable " , Beyoncé told MTV : " I love ' Irreplaceable ' . I think it 's important to have those songs . I 've had so many people come up to me in tears , saying , ' I experienced my first breakup . If it wasn 't for the song , I wouldn 't be strong enough to not call . I wouldn 't know how much I 'm worth . ' I 'm happy to be a part of that . "

" Irreplaceable " was released in the United Kingdom on October 23 , 2006 , as the second single there . In the US , " Irreplaceable " was the third single from B 'Day ' , and followed " Ring the Alarm " . The single was released on December 5 , 2006 , and featured the album and instrumental versions of the track . " Irreplaceable " was the second single released from B 'Day in international markets on Columbia Records . Two versions of the single were released in the UK on October 26 , 2006 . A CD single , which featured the album version of " Irreplaceable " , and the Freemasons club mix radio edit of " Ring the Alarm " , was released . An enhanced CD , which included the album version , three remixes of " Ring the Alarm " , and the " Ring the Alarm " music video , was also released . A 12 " single was released in the UK the following week . In Australia , a maxi single , which featured the album version and two remixes of " Déjà Vu " , was released on December 5 , 2006 . A Maurice Joshua remix edit of the song was released in Australia two weeks later .

Beyoncé recorded a Spanish version of the song , called " Irreemplazable " , with additional lyrical contributions from Rudy Pérez and was included on the second disc of the deluxe edition of B 'Day released on June 12 , 2007 . An Irreemplazable EP was released in the US on August 28 , 2007 , and on September 10 , 2007 , in the UK . The EP includes " Irreemplazable " , the Norteña Remix of " Irreplaceable " , " Amor Gitano " , three versions of " Beautiful Liar " , the Timbaland remix of " Get Me Bodied " featuring Voltio , and " Oye " , the Spanish version of " Listen " . As a fundraiser for the

2011 earthquake in the Tōhoku region of Japan , a compilation album that included " Irreplaceable " , called Songs for Japan , was released on March 25 , 2011 .

= = Critical reception = =

" Irreplaceable " earned highly positive reviews from music critics for its guitar @-@ driven melody and its hook , " To the left , to the left " . Jody Rosen of Entertainment Weekly noted " Irreplaceable " to be " a lilting tune unlike anything Beyoncé has ever performed " . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe wrote that the song is " gentle but maddeningly hook @-@ y " . Spence Abbott of IGN wrote that " Irreplaceable " and " Resentment " go for " a much more traditional contemporary R & B vibe " than any of the previous tracks on B 'Day , making them stand out as if they were recorded separately from the rest of the album .

Roger Friedman of Fox News Channel wrote that " Irreplaceable " is a " clever ballad " and the most memorable track on B 'Day . He added that it has the most potential of catching on with fans quickly , and that it is the only song on the album that " you might actually want to sing along to " . Mike Joseph of PopMatters commented that " ' Irreplaceable ' tellingly , was co @-@ written by Ne @-@ Yo , who may not be the powerhouse vocalist Beyoncé is , but has significantly stronger songwriting skills . It 's the best song on the album ? perhaps Ms. Knowles should take a hint . " Tim Finney of Pitchfork Media , called " Irreplaceable " the best song on B 'Day and praised its overall production , writing :

Before , Beyoncé 's approach to heartbreak was always literal , her voice and her words declaiming her feelings with a studied earnestness that at times was difficult to believe , let alone connect with . ' Irreplaceable ' is the first song in which Beyoncé lies to herself , and the way her voice perfectly betrays that lie (revealing a giveaway tremble in the stiff upper lip of the lyrics) simultaneously renders it her most sophisticated and her most honest performance to date .

= = = Recognition and accolades = = =

Mark Edward Nero ranked it as the ninth best R & B song of 2006 , and wrote , " This song has modern @-@ day classic written all over it . " Staff members of Pitchfork Media ranked the song on their list of The Top 100 Tracks of 2006 at number 45 . Shaheem Reid , Jayson Rodriguez and Rahman Dukes of MTV News placed the song at number 3 on their year @-@ end list of 27 Essential R & B Songs of 2007 .

In 2009 , Ryan Schreiber ranked " Irreplaceable " at number 183 on his list of Top 500 Tracks of the 2000s (decade) . Barry Schwartz of Stylus Magazine wrote that " Irreplaceable " recaptured Beyoncé 's 2003 debut single " Crazy in Love " ' s near @-@ perfection , describing it as " gentle but defiant " , and further wrote , " Through some breezy strums and a sweet plaintive melody Beyoncé delivers her most genuinely emotional vocal to date , equal parts vulnerable , upset , pissed off , vindictive , resigned , and apathetic . " Rolling Stone ranked the song at number 60 on its list of 100 Best Songs of the 2000s .

" Irreplaceable " won the award for Best R & B / Soul Single , Female , at the 2007 Soul Train Music Award , and the ' Favorite Song ' award at the 2007 Nickelodeon Kids ' Choice Awards . It was nominated for the Grammy Award for Record of the Year in the 2008 Grammy Awards , and Song of the Year at the VH1 Soul Vibe awards . " Irreplaceable " was recognized as one of the five most @-@ performed songs of 2007 by the ASCAP Pop Music Awards .

= = Chart performance = =

" Irreplaceable " entered various charts worldwide , and became the most successful single released from B 'Day . The single debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart on November 4 , 2006 , at number eighty @-@ seven . It climbed the charts rapidly because of its radio airplay , and it was Greatest Airplay Gainer certification for six consecutive weeks by early December 2006 . Three weeks after the release of " Irreplaceable " , B 'Day re @-@ entered the top ten on the US Billboard

200 chart . The single reached number one on December 16 , becoming Beyoncé 's fourth number one single as a solo artist , and her second in 2006 , following " Check on It " (2005) . The single spent ten consecutive weeks at number one and was replaced by Nelly Furtado 's " Say It Right " (2006) on February 24 , 2007 . The feat was achieved after Kanye West 's 2005 single , " Gold Digger " featuring Jamie Foxx , spent ten weeks at the top spot . " Irreplaceable " outperformed " Baby Boy " ' s nine @-@ weeks at number one . Beyoncé 's former group Destiny 's Child 's 2000 single " Independent Women Part I " remained at number one for eleven weeks late in 2000 and early in 2001 . " Irreplaceable " remained on the chart for thirty weeks , has sold over 3 @, @ 139 @, @ 000 paid digital downloads in the US as of October 2012 according to Nielsen SoundScan , and was certified double @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . It was additionally certified triple @-@ platinum , denoting sales of three million master ringtones .

According to Mediabase " Irreplaceable " passed the 200 million audience impressions mark on December 11 , 2006 . Another single of Beyoncé , " Check on It " previously passed this mark on January 31 , 2006 . Consequently , Beyoncé became the second singer to achieve this in the United States , the first having been Mariah Carey whose two singles , " We Belong Together " (2005) and " Shake It Off " (2005) , passed the same audience impressions mark in 2005 . " Irreplaceable " stayed at number one on the US Hot 100 Airplay for eleven consecutive weeks , and was the best @-@ performing US single of 2007 , topping the Billboard Top Hot 100 Hits . " Irreplaceable " installed Beyoncé at third place for the most number one singles by a female songwriter , overtaking Janet Jackson and Carole King and tying Diane Warren for nine number @-@ one singles . Beyoncé received three song @-@ writing credits in one year , the only woman to achieve this since King in 1971 and Carey in 1991 . In February 2010 , the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) listed " Irreplaceable " as the highest certified master ringtone of the 2000s decade by a female solo artist . By August 2011 , the single had sold over three million digital downloads in the United States . " Irreemplazable " charted equally well , peaking at number four on the Hot Latin Songs . The EP appeared on the Latin Pop Albums at number two , Top Latin Albums at number three , Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums at number forty @-@ one and on the Billboard 200 at number 105 .

" Irreplaceable " debuted at number eight on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart , and peaked at number one for three consecutive weeks , becoming Beyoncé 's first and only number one single in Australia . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , denoting shipment of 70 @, @ 000 copies . " Irreplaceable " appeared twice on the ARIA year @-@ end charts , reaching number twenty @-@ three in 2006 , and number forty @-@ two in 2007 . " Irreplaceable " debuted at number three on November 6 , 2006 , on the New Zealand Singles Chart , the song 's highest entry on any chart . It peaked at number one , and remained on the chart for eighteen weeks . It was later certified Platinum by the RIANZ . " Irreplaceable " peaked within the top fifteen in several European singles charts . It peaked at number four on the UK Singles Chart , spending 12 weeks in the top 20 and 25 weeks on the chart . It was Beyoncé 's fifth longest @-@ charting single , and spent more weeks on the chart than her number @-@ one singles " Crazy in Love " and " Déjà Vu " but slightly less than her recent hits " If I Were a Boy " , " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " , " Halo " and " Sweet Dreams " . On the UK iTunes chart , " Irreplaceable " is currently Beyoncé 's most downloaded on I Am ... Sasha Fierce single and still ranks in the top 30 of R & B / Soul songs . Due to a performance of " Irreplaceable " at the 2011 Glastonbury Festival by Beyoncé on June 26 , 2011 , the song made a re @-@ entry in the top 40 of the UK Singles Chart , entering at number thirty @-@ three . " Irreplaceable " was 2007 's tenth best @-@ selling digital single with over 4 @. @ 6 million copies sold worldwide .

= = Music video = =

" Irreplaceable " was directed by Anthony Mandler , who co @-@ directed the video of " Get Me Bodied " . The video features the debut performance of Beyoncé 's all @-@ female band , Suga Mama , who also appeared in the " Green Light " music video . Her acting @-@ then @-@ ex @-@ boyfriend in the video is model Bobby Roache , who played police officer for the " Ring the Alarm "

music video and warrior during Jay Z and Beyoncé 's live performance at the 2006 Fashion Rocks show . The video was included on the 2007 B'Day Anthology Video Album , and a video edit was produced for " Irreplaceable " . Part of the video which shows Beyoncé dancing in silhouette in front of a glass door is inspired by a James Bond movie . Late in January 2008 , " Irreplaceable " premiered on the MiTRL , a video countdown show on the bilingual channel MTV Tr3s .

The music video follows the storyline of the song 's lyrics . " She told me to pack up all my stuff , I 'm getting kicked out ? the video starts off like that " , said Roache . It opens with Beyoncé filing her nails in silence , as her ex - partner packs up his property , as Beyoncé orders him to leave . Mid - way in the video , Beyoncé follows her then - ex - boyfriend outside the house and leans on a 2007 Jaguar XK . She appears to be pretentiously caressing him ; only for the audience to find out that she is repossessing things she bought for him . He leaves her and the car , about to ride off in a taxi . Between cuts , Beyoncé manages herself in front of a mirror ; putting on a lipstick , wearing huge curlers and a high - waisted skirt . There are additional beats mixed to the arrangement for the video version that can be heard , when Beyoncé sings with her all - female band , Suga Mama , towards the end . It ends with Beyoncé greeting her new boyfriend at the front door .

At the 2007 Black Entertainment Television (BET) Awards , Beyoncé won Video of the Year Award for " Irreplaceable " , an award for which " Beautiful Liar " was also nominated . It was nominated for Video of the Year during the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards , but it lost to Rihanna 's single , " Umbrella " (2007) . At the 2007 Soul Train Music Awards , the video was nominated for the Michael Jackson Award for Best R & B / Soul or Rap Music Video , but lost to rapper (and husband) Jay Z 's " Show Me What You Got " video . The video received two nominations for Best Female Artist and Video of the Year at the 2007 MTV Australia Video Music Awards .

= = Live performances = =

Beyoncé performed " Irreplaceable " during various public appearances , including the 2006 American Music Awards , The Ellen DeGeneres Show , the Today Show .

The song was a part of Beyoncé 's set list for her tour The Beyoncé Experience and I Am ... World Tour . " Irreplaceable " was the closing song during her 2007 The Beyoncé Experience world tour . It was performed late in the set on earlier tour dates , but when Beyoncé embarked on the US leg , it was performed earlier in the show . Beyoncé performed " Irreplaceable " during her Revel Presents : Beyoncé Live revue .

Beyoncé has performed " Irreplaceable " without backup dancers or live instrumentation , or in another case , Beyoncé was accompanied by two drummers , two keyboardists , a percussionist , a horn section , three backup vocalists called the Mamas , and the lead guitarist , Bibi McGill . Footage of Beyoncé 's performance at the Staples Center , Los Angeles was included on The Beyoncé Experience Live ! DVD (2007) , and the deluxe edition of I Am ... World Tour (2010) . According to NME , " ' Irreplaceable ' [at the Glastonbury Festival] sparked a mass singalong , with the crowd taking the lead on the entire first verse . " Following the performance of " Irreplaceable " at the Glastonbury Festival , the song was digitally released in the UK and the US on June 27 , 2011 , as charity single to raise funds for Oxfam , WaterAid and Greenpeace . This version charted at number twenty - six on the UK Singles Chart and seven on the UK Indie Chart for the week ending July 9 , 2011 .

= = Cover versions = =

= = = Sleigh Bells version = = =

American band Sleigh Bells recorded an acoustic cover of the song during their Maida Vale sessions and released it Zane Lowe 's BBC Radio 1 show on March 6 , 2012 . A writer of Billboard magazine commented that their cover was " ethereal " . Ray Rahman of Entertainment Weekly

described the cover as " really good ! ... Krauss also has a teen @-@ pop background thanks to her Rubyblue days , so it 's actually not that surprising that she can find her way around a Top 40 single so well . " However , Maura Johnston of The Village Voice gave a negative review for the cover , saying : " Krauss sighs her way through the song , turning her voice into a mew that sounds like she was trying to sing along with the radio while not being heard by her roommates or anyone else outside of a six @-@ inch radius ... Also , some of the guitar chords are a bit off it 's sorta disappointing . "

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are taken from B 'Day liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =