

= Oh Santa ! =

" Oh Santa ! " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey from her second Christmas album / thirteenth studio album , Merry Christmas II You (2010) . Carey wrote and produced the song in collaboration with Jermaine Dupri and Bryan @-@ Michael Cox . It was released as the lead single from the album . It is an up @-@ tempo R & B song about Carey making a plea for Santa Claus to bring back her partner in time for the Christmas holidays . Instrumentation of sleigh bells , jingle bells and hand claps . It received a positive response from music critics , with many praising its composition and style . The track set a record on the United States Billboard Adult Contemporary songs chart , debuting at number twelve and peaking at number one the following week for four weeks . It became the first song to reach the summit in two weeks . It further became Carey 's seventh number @-@ one song on the chart . Carey filmed a 1960s style music video to accompany the songs release as a single , and performed it on various programs in the lead up to Christmas , including her own TV special called Mariah Carey : Merry Christmas to You .

= = Background and composition = =

" Oh Santa ! " was written and produced by Mariah Carey , Jermaine Dupri and Bryan @-@ Michael Cox for Carey 's second Christmas / thirteenth studio album , Merry Christmas II You (2010) ; Rye Songs administered by Songs of Universal (BMI) / Shaniah Cymone Music | EMI April Music Inc . (ASCAP) / WBM Music Corp Inc . / Pamela & Lorrence 's Publishing LLC (SESAC) . Her vocals were recorded by Brian Garten , Marcus Johnson and Thomas Kanarek , Martin Cooke , Nicholas Essif and Peter Mack , and the music by John Horesco at Guardian Angel Studios , Westlake Recording Studios , Henson Studios and Capitol Recording Studios . It was mixed by Phil Tan and Damien Lewis at The Ninja Beat Club . Dupri played the drums and Randy Jackson performed bass . Cox played the keyboard and percussion . The background vocals were sung by Angie Fisher , Melonie Daniels , Maryann Tatum , Sharlotte Gibson and Toni Scruggs .

" Oh Santa ! " was one of four original compositions by Carey to be included on the album . It premiered on October 1 , 2010 , in the United States . An EP consisting of six remixes by Jump Smokers and Low Sunday were released on December 7 , while a mix of " Oh Santa ! and one of Carey 's previous Christmas songs " All I Want for Christmas Is You " , titled " Oh Santa ! All I Want for Christmas Is You (Holiday Mashup) " , was released on December 17 . " Oh Santa ! " is an up @-@ tempo and festive R & B song , which lasts for a duration of three minutes , thirty @-@ one seconds . It has a 1960s girl @-@ group swing feel . The song , in the key of C ? major , has a tempo of 80 beats per minute . Carey 's voice spans more than three octaves , from B ? 2 to the high note of F ? 6 . Instrumentation consists of sleigh bells , jingle bells , hand claps and a piano melody , backed by a " school @-@ yard chant beat " . Lyrically , Carey makes a plea to Santa Claus asking him to bring back her " baby " in time for Christmas , singing " Santa 's gon ' come and make him mine this Christmas . "

= = Critical reception = =

Mike Diver of the BBC wrote that " Oh Santa ! " is a " boisterous " song which " makes perfect sense " as a lead single . He continued to write that although it fell substandard to " All I Want for Christmas Is You " , it would still " warrant revisiting 12 months down the line " . Rolling Stone writer Caryn Ganz commented on the composition , writing " Mariah bops to a schoolyard @-@ chant beat " . Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle described the song as " irresistible " and predicted that it would " dominate ringtones " in the run up to Christmas . A reviewer for Idolator described the track as a Christmas version of a song by Avril Lavigne song , " Presumably , not every track will sound like a North Pole version of Avril Lavigne ? s ' Girlfriend ' as the boppy ' Oh Santa ! ' does " . Rich Juzwiak of The Village Voice was critical of the song , writing " Of the four Mariah @-@ penned new tracks , the Jermaine Dupri / Bryan @-@ Michael Cox collaboration ' Oh Santa ! ' tries the hardest , an antique kitchen @-@ sink replica that manages to invoke a cheerleading squad , the Pointer

Sisters , Mariah 's own ' Loverboy ' , and Hey Ya ! ' . Full of mumbling and cattiness , it 's difficult to sing along to , so its prospects of becoming a perennial favorite are dim . "

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , " Oh Santa ! " became a record @-@ breaking entry on the Billboard Adult Contemporary songs chart . It debuted at number twelve for the issue dated December 11 , 2010 . The track soared to number one the following week , marking the quickest ascent to the peak position since Nielsen BDS began tracking airplay in 1993 , in just two weeks . Previously , eight songs had reached number one within three weeks , four of which were Christmas entries due to adult contemporary radio stations playing an increased amount in the holiday season . " Oh Santa ! " became Carey 's seventh number @-@ one hit on the chart , and her first in fifteen years since " One Sweet Day " (1995 ? 96) , a duet with Boyz II Men . The singer also topped the chart with her debut single " Vision of Love " (her first) and " Love Takes Time " in 1990 , " I Don 't Wanna Cry " in 1991 , and " Can 't Let Go " and " I 'll Be There " in 1992 . " Oh Santa ! " remained atop the chart for four consecutive weeks altogether . It finished at number 42 on the 2011 Adult Contemporary year @-@ end chart . For the week ending October 30 , 2010 , Carey occupied the top two positions on the Holiday Digital Songs chart : " Oh Santa ! " debuted at number one while " All I Want For Christmas Is You " charted at number two . On January 1 , 2011 , the track debuted at number one @-@ hundred on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , and number forty on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Digital Songs chart .

Elsewhere , the track debuted at number thirty @-@ six on the South Korean Gaon International Digital Singles Chart for the week ending November 20 , 2010 . It later peaked at number thirty @-@ two for the week ending December 25 , 2010 . On the International Download Singles Chart , the track peaked at number thirty . " On Santa ! " peaked at number sixty @-@ eight on the Japan Hot 100 . The song peaked at number seventy @-@ three on January 1 , 2011 , for two consecutive weeks on the Canadian Hot 100 chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Oh Santa ! " was directed by Ethan Lader and was shot in Los Angeles on October 6 , 2010 . Reports surfaced online that Carey 's husband Nick Cannon would be directing the video , however Cannon dispelled the rumors on Twitter , saying " I am NOT directing . " The video for " Oh Santa ! " premiered on entertainment news program Access Hollywood on November 2 , 2010 . Prior to its release , various media outlets speculated that the video was going incorporate the same on @-@ set style as seen in Outkast 's music video for their 2003 single " Hey Ya ! " , with the singer as the main feature in front of a large audience . Carey 's fan site MariahDaily posted a message on their website asking people within the Los Angeles area to appear for a casting call for a chance to be featured in the video .

The video draws influence from 1950s and 1960s variety shows , and features Carey wearing a short , red " sexy Santa " ensemble , whilst on stage with a band , which featured gospel back @-@ in singers as well as a group of dancers , consisting of cheerleaders . The plotline is centered on Carey hosting a " Mariah Carey Christmas " television show . The announcer introduces Carey saying " here she is , the greatest singer of all time , Ms. Mariah Carey ! " . The video then shows Carey 's backup singers belting out the chorus while the singer is seen performing in front of a cheering audience . Her collection of fragrances is also advertised in the opening . In the second half of the video , Santa Claus makes an appearance , waving to friends and sharing a hug with Carey . The video ends with the singer laughing while the audience cheers and claps for her performance .

Becky Bain of Idolator commented on the simple structure and themes of the video , writing " There ? s not much to this simple vid , but it does feature Carey doing her usual hand waving theatrics while hitting some absolutely killer high notes . " Bain also observed that the vast majority of the shots of Carey are either long shots , showing the singer from a distance , or close up shots ,

showing Carey from the shoulders and above , so that the viewer was not able to easily recognise that she was pregnant . Nicole James of MTV Buzzworthy also praised the content of the video , writing " Of course it wouldn 't be a Mariah Carey video without some glitz and glam so the stage and backdrop are covered in (what else ?) glitter . Mariah puts on a great show and sings her heart out with that famous eight @-@ octave range ... scrooges need not apply , ' Oh Santa ! ' is fun and festive and has you longing for a sip of eggnog . "

= = Live performances = =

Carey performed the song for the first time in a pre @-@ recorded performance on November 19 , 2010 , at NBC 's Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting , which aired on November 30 , 2010 . On December 3 , 2010 , Carey performed " Oh Santa ! " as well as " All I Want For Christmas Is You " at the Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade special , which featured Carey surrounded by dancers , including ballerinas and cheerleaders , and ended with fireworks at the end of the performance . Carey then performed the song as part of a set list on her own one @-@ off Christmas television special called Mariah Carey : Merry Christmas to You .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Charts = =