

= Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) =

" Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey . It was released by Columbia Records on June 6 , 2000 , written by Carey and Diane Warren , and produced by Carey and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis for Carey 's seventh studio album Rainbow (1999) . It was released as the album 's third single as a double A @-@ side with " Crybaby " . The song is a ballad , blending pop and R & B beats while incorporating its sound from several instruments including the violin , piano and organ . Lyrically , the song speaks of inner strength , and not allowing others to tear away your dreams .

The song was well received by critics , many of whom complimented the lyrics , as well as Carey 's vocals . The song was not commercially successful due to its limited release and other factors . The song was the center of a very public controversy between Carey and her label Sony Music , based on what she perceived to be weak promotion of the single . It peaked at number 40 in Belgium Wallonia , number 45 in Italy and number 65 in the Netherlands . Stateside , due to Billboard rules at the time , it was not eligible to chart on the Hot 100 , only managing a peak of number six on the dance chart .

Two music videos were filmed for " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " . Both feature personal videos left by five fans , re @-@ telling their stories of pain and emotional abuse and how the song had inspired them . Additionally , a large screen is shown next to Carey throughout the video , playing other inspirational stories from famous athletes . The ending alternates in both videos , with one climaxing on the balcony overlooking the city , while the other by a large indoor window . The song was performed on The Today Show and The View , as well as Carey 's Rainbow (2000) and Charmbracelet World Tours (2002 ? 03) .

= = Background = =

According to Carey , writing " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " helped her get through rough emotional moments with her label 's management , and even times when she felt overwhelmed by others . During the early stages of the album , Carey said she felt pressured to complete the Rainbow album as quickly as possible , due to the fact that it was the last album under her contract with Columbia . During troubled times for the singer , as well as her divorce from record executive Tommy Mottola , she claimed writing and singing the song helped her get through troubled times and hoped her listeners would get the same message out of it . Carey thought it would become an anthem for fans and listeners who were going through difficult times in their life and could relate to the song . Additionally , during the taping of the Mariah Carey Homecoming Special , Carey told audience members that after the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 , she felt the song would help family members and friends of the victims during the tragedy , and hoped it would give them strength to get by the tragic event . For that reason , Carey included the song on the album , and campaigned for its radio release in mid @-@ 2000 .

= = Composition and lyrical content = =

" Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " is a slow tempo song that blends pop and R & B beats . Additionally , it incorporates its sound from several instruments including the violin , piano and organ . The ballad is set in the signature of common time , with a slowly tempo of 52 beats per minute . It is written in the key of A major , with Carey 's vocals spanning almost three octaves , from the low note of A2 to the high note of F # 5 . Although the song was written by Carey and Diane Warren , the latter does not usually share songwriting credit . Although there were no conflicts during the recording process , the pair had minor disagreements during the songwriting stages : Carey said that Warren liked to repeat lyrical phrases often . The second song that Carey and Warren wrote together was " There for Me " which was released as a B @-@ side to the " Never Too Far / Hero Medley " charity single Carey recorded in late 2001 . The song 's protagonist details the struggles of dealing with people who put you down , and how to overcome these struggles

through faith , courage , and the power of God . Carey explains in the song 's lyrics how although people can try to make her feel down and depressed , no matter what happens , she can 't let them win : " There 's a light in me that shines brightly . They can try but they can 't take that away from me . "

= = Label dispute = =

As with *Butterfly* two years prior , *Rainbow* became the center of a conflict in between Carey and her label . After Carey 's divorce with Sony record official and Columbia CEO Tommy Mottola , the working relationship with Carey and her label deteriorated . After the first two singles from *Rainbow* were released , Carey was gearing up for a third single to be released . She intended for " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " to be the next single , as it held very personal lyrical content . However , after getting wind of her plan , Sony made it clear that the album needed a more up @-@ beat and urban track to warm airwaves . These different opinions led to a very public feud in between them , as Carey began posting messages on her webpage during early and mid @-@ 2000 , telling fans inside information on the scandal , as well as instructing them to request " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " on radio stations . One of the messages Carey left on her page read :

" Basically , a lot of you know the political situation in my professional career is not positive . It 's been really , really hard . I don 't even know if this message is going to get to you because I don 't know if they want you to hear this . I 'm getting a lot of negative feedback from certain corporate people . But I am not willing to give up . "

Carey 's actions were given mixed reception , with critics and executives both commending her bold actions towards a song she felt needed to be heard , while others criticized her for publicizing the scandal further . Soon after , Sony involved themselves further , stripping Carey 's webpage of any messages and began trying to reach an agreement with her . Fearing to lose their label 's highest seller , and the best @-@ selling artist of the decade , Sony chose to release the song . Carey , initially content with the agreement , soon found out that the song had only been allowed a very limited and low @-@ promotion release , not allowing the song to chart on the official US chart , and making international charting extremely difficult and unlikely .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

" Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " was generally commended by contemporary music critics . In his review for *Rainbow* , Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic named the song one of the album 's top three picks . Danyel Smith from *Entertainment Weekly* called the song the " emotional center of the album " and wrote " There 's a light in me / That shines brightly , she sings . The song (co @-@ written with Diane Warren and co @-@ produced with Jam and Lewis) resonates with new life experience ? a kind of truth and uplift . " Elysa Gardner , editor from the *Los Angeles Times* , called the song " earnestly passionate " and felt Carey sounded her " most impressive " on the song . Amy Linden from *Vibe* also reviewed the song positively , calling Carey 's vocal performance in the song " emotional " and " graceful . " Additionally , Linden wrote " It could very well be Carey 's version of Nas ' " Hate Me Now " ; she makes it through all the trials and tribulations undaunted . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

The release of the song as a single was surrounded by conflict between Carey and Sony Music Entertainment . Due to Billboard rules at the time of the song 's release , charting credit was not given to " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " but to " Crybaby " , the song it shared a

double A @-@ side with . The song managed to chart on the dance single in the United States , reaching the top ten on the Hot Dance Club Play chart . Due to the song 's weak promotional release , it was not released together with " Crybaby " outside the United States , where it performed poorly due to its radio @-@ only premiere . It charted for one week in Belgium (Wallonia) , where it peaked at number forty on the official singles chart . Similarly in the Netherlands , " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " peaked at number sixty @-@ five on the Dutch Singles Chart , however spending nine weeks fluctuating in the chart .

= = Music videos and remixes = =

Two music videos were shot for " Can 't Take That Away , " both directed by Sanaa Hamri in New York City . The creation of the video involved some of Carey 's fans : two weeks prior to filming , they were invited via her website to send in video clips of themselves , telling her of the hardships in their lives and how the song had inspired them to look at life differently , and had given them strength . A contest was held , and video clips from five fans were chosen for inclusion in the video . The clips were featured in the video 's introduction , where Carey reacts to her fan 's struggles which included personal insecurities , the problems of being part of a racial or social minority , and being victimized by verbal harassment .

The original edit of the music video begins with a message to those fans that sent in their videos ; " Thank you to all those who chose to share their stories with the world . " Subsequently , a personal message left by Carey is shown , reading " After every storm , if you look hard enough , a rainbow appears ... " Five testimonials from fans are shown , each telling of their own personal problems and hardships . In her testimonial , the third girl says " I am fourteen years old , I 'm a high school student , there is not one day that goes by that people don 't make fun of me about my race . Its is about self @-@ confidence , don 't be afraid to dream . " After the last girl reads her message , Carey is shown lying on a sofa in her living room , watching a television . As she sadly sings , she watched as different empowering messages and events are shown on the screen . Of them , one shows Lance Armstrong riding a bicycle on the Tour de France , reading " Lance Armstrong overcame cancer and won the Tour de France in 1999 . " After the next scene , Carey is shown sitting on the sofa , with tears in her eyes , as they slowly escape her . During the end of the bridge , where she sings , " Certainly the Lord will guide me , " Carey stands from the floor , and exits onto a large balcony overlooking the city . Rain begins to fall while Carey waves her arms as she cries out . Her depression is resolved when the rain stops and a rainbow forms , prompting her to smile .

The video was quickly pulled after its release because it contained some technical errors . The clips of the people on Carey 's television had their struggles captioned in dark text on a dark background , making it difficult to read . There were also continuity errors during the rainy balcony scene , as Carey 's shirt would alternate between being soaking wet and dry . Consequently , a new music video was completed , which retained the clips of Carey 's fans at the beginning but fixed the captions and replaced most of the interior shots of Carey with new footage . Carey , now in a new and more furnished apartment , does not go out into the rain but instead stays in her living room . She walks over to a large pair of windows aside a mural of large throw pillows and candles , singing and flailing her arms as she completes the song . As with the previous filming of the video , Carey 's pain and sadness is resolved with a rainbow , shown at the end of the video .

Most remixes of " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " were released in the US only , although few were found in certain territories . David Morales produced the Morales club mix , which uses the song 's original vocals with similar chord progressions to those of the original , and the Morales Triumphant mix , which contains re @-@ recorded vocals and new lyrics which transform the song into a jazz @-@ like mix with harmonica sections . A spoken introduction was also added , featuring Carey 's spoken voice before the first verse .

= = Live performances = =

Although " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " was never fully released as a single , Carey

felt very strongly about the song and therefore promoted it through several live television and award show appearances . Carey 's first live performance of the song was on The Today Show as part of a mini @-@ concert which aired live on November 2 , 1999 , from Rockefeller Center in New York . Following the concert on The Today Show , Carey performed the song live at the 2000 Blockbuster Entertainment Awards , where she was presented as a featured performer . After the release of " Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " , the album 's final single , Carey sang them both live on The View in mid @-@ 2000 . On October 30 , 1999 , Carey filmed a private concert held at her old high school in Huntington , Long Island , where she taped a special for the Fox Broadcasting Company titled Mariah Carey Homecoming Special , which aired in December of that year . Aside from television performances , the song was part of the set @-@ list on both the Rainbow World Tour , which coincided with the release and promotion of Rainbow , as well as the Charmbracelet World Tour in 2002 ? 03 . She has performed the song recently in her last two concerts in Marrakech , Morocco , and at the Mawazine Festival , and Monaco . The remix version was the opening number for her concerts in Australia during January 2013 .

= = Covers = =

Bonnie ' Prince ' Billy covers the song on " Guilt by Association Vol . 1 " an album dedicated to indie musician covering pop and R & B songs .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Rainbow liner notes .

= = Charts = =