

= Emotions (Mariah Carey album) =

Emotions is the second studio album by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey . It was released on September 17 , 1991 by Columbia Records . The album deviated from the formula of Carey 's 1990 self @-@ titled debut album , as she had more creative control over the material she produced and recorded . Additionally , Emotions features influences from a range of genres such as gospel , R & B , soul , pop and 1950s , 1960s and 1970s balladry infusion . On the record , Carey worked with a variety of producers and writers , including Walter Afanasieff , the only hold over from her previous effort . Additionally , Carey wrote and produced the album 's material with Robert Clivillés and David Cole from C + C Music Factory and Carole King , with whom she wrote one song .

Upon release , Emotions received generally mixed reviews from contemporary music critics . The album debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 , surprising many critics following the success of Carey 's debut , which spent eleven weeks atop the chart . While selling far less than Mariah Carey , Emotions was eventually certified quadruple @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of four million copies throughout the country , with estimated sales standing at 3 @,@ 595 @,@ 000 copies . Emotions achieved moderate success outside the United States , peaking within the top ten in Australia , Canada , the Netherlands , New Zealand , Norway and the United Kingdom . Its success in Japan was strong , shipping one million copies there . The album has sold 8 million copies worldwide .

Three commercial singles were released from the album . The title track , the album 's lead song , became Carey 's fifth chart topper on the Billboard Hot 100 , making her the only artist in history to have their first five singles reach the chart 's summit . Additionally , it became Carey 's third chart topper in Canada , and reached the top ten in France , the Netherlands and New Zealand . " Can 't Let Go " was released as the second single from Emotions on October 23 , 1991 . Due to Columbia 's removal of the single from stores in an attempt to boost the album 's sales , " Can 't Let Go " failed to become her sixth chart topper in the US , peaking at number two . European and worldwide success was very limited , reaching the top 20 in only Canada and the UK . Similarly , " Make It Happen " peaked at number five in the US , and achieved relatively weak international charting , prompting Columbia to halt promotion of the album .

= = Background = =

Following the success of Carey 's self @-@ titled debut album , critics wondered whether or not she would tour in order to promote the album in the major worldwide music markets . However , Carey expressed in several interviews that due to the strenuous nature and the sheer difficulty of her songs , she feared a tour with back @-@ to @-@ back shows would not be possible , aside from the long travel times and constant travel . With the extra time , Carey began writing and producing material for Emotions around the same time that her debut 's third single , " Someday " , was released in December 1990 . During this time period in music , it was traditional for an artist to release a studio album every two years in their prime , allowing the singles to fully promote the album through airwaves , as well as television appearances . Additionally , after a tour that would usually follow , as the next album would be released and would gain new fans , they would search the artist 's catalog , and purchase the previous album in hopes of learning of their older work . Sony , however , chose to market Carey in a different fashion , leaning towards the traditional form in the 1960s , where acts would release an LP every year . They felt that Carey 's reputation of being a " studio worm " and a songwriter from a young age would be captivating enough to deliver a new album more often than most .

As writing for the album came under way , Carey had a falling out with Ben Margulies , the man whom Carey had written seven of the eleven songs on Carey 's debut with . Together , the duo had written and produced seven songs for Carey 's demo tape which she handed to Tommy Mottola . Their parting of ways was due to a contract Carey had signed prior to her signing with Columbia . Carey had agreed to split not only the songwriting royalties from the songs , but half of her earnings

as well , something she never thought twice about while writing songs in his father 's basement . However , when the time came to write music for Emotions , Sony officials made it clear he would only be paid the fair amount given to co @-@ writers on an album . Following the discussion , Margulies filed a lawsuit against Sony , claiming that under contract , he would be entitled to work with Carey , as well as reap extra benefits . After an almost one year lawsuit , the judge settled that Margulies was to earn ten percent of Carey 's direct earnings from her record sales , not including an income from any other ventures . While settled , their relationship remained ruined , damaged by what Carey considered treachery . In an interview with Fred Bronson , Carey said the following regarding the contract : " I signed blindly . Later , I tried to make it right so we could continue ... but he wouldn 't accept it . " After the settlement , Margulies spoke of his feelings on the matter , claiming he would hope to one day write again with Carey , placing most of the blame on the record label and concluding " Hopefully one day , art will prevail over business . "

= = Recording = =

Mariah Carey had originally been recorded in Margulies ' father 's basement , with old and minimal equipment . After being signed to Columbia , the songs that would be used for the album were re @-@ mastered and re @-@ recorded in professional studios . However , due to Sony 's involvement in the project , they did not allow Carey to produce most of the album , hoping the aid of several famed record producers would be able to ensure Carey 's already deemed " exquisite " songs would become popular . After the album 's success however , Carey was allowed more freedom on Emotions than on her debut . Since she no longer had a working or personal relationship with Margulies , she chose to work with mostly different musicians than those of her previous effort , with the exception of Walter Afanasieff , the only hold over from Mariah Carey . Even though he had only co @-@ written " Love Takes Time " , and had only produced part of the album , Carey felt a strong working chemistry with him , soon developing a unique form of songwriting alongside him . Aside from Afanasieff , Carey worked with Robert Clivillés and David Cole from the dance @-@ music influenced production duo , C + C Music Factory . Working with the duo was originally Mottola 's suggestion , but after meeting the pair , Carey agreed and wrote four songs together with them .

Additionally , aside from the three men , Carey worked with Carole King , a female singer @-@ songwriter who had been predominantly popular in the 1970s . However , unlike with C + C Music Factory , King approached Carey , hoping to work with her after hearing her perform live on The Arsenio Hall Show . During a conversation with Carey , King suggested that she cover " (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman " , a song she had written with Gerry Goffin for Aretha Franklin . After giving it some thought , Carey declined the offer , feeling uncomfortable about recording a song she felt one of her musical influences performed so perfectly . Still determined on working with Carey , King flew to New York for one day , to try to create a ballad of some sort . The two ladies sat together by a piano over the course of the day , and by nightfall , had written and arranged a song titled " If It 's Over " . After working with Carey , King said in an interview " I love her voice . She 's very expressive . She gives a lot of meaning to what she sings . " After recording " If It 's Over " , Carey expressed the musical connection she shared with Afanasieff , as well as the creative format in which she wrote and produced her music when with him , or working with C + C Music Factory . When working with Afanasieff , the duo would sit by a piano , and lead each other vocally and musically , until they would reach the right note and arrangement . During an interview in 1992 , Afanasieff described how Carey would stand next to him , and begin singing different notes and tunes she was thinking of , while he would follow her with the piano . In doing so , he would help lead her to the right note and vice versa . Carey described their working relationship as " very unique , " and felt it to be very similar to the form in which she had worked with Margulies . While similar , Carey 's creative process with Cole and Clivillés proved different ; they would bring her several different tapes and tunes , of which she would choose from . Afterwards , they would work on building the already created melody , and have Carey add and build onto it , as well as writing the lyrics and key .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Unlike Carey 's debut album , which featured a more contemporary pop and R & B background , Emotions proved to be far different . It borrowed from several genres ranging from gospel , R & B , soul , pop and 1960s and 1970s influences . The album 's lead single " Emotions " borrowed heavily from 1970s disco , and flaunted Carey 's upper range and extensive use of the whistle register . The song 's lyrics were described as " joyful " by author Chris Nickson , and told of a strong and deep emotion felt by the protagonist when with their lover . One of the album 's more gospel infused songs , " And You Don 't Remember " , featured organ chord changes and held minimal production in order to give the vocals a more " raw and sixties feel . " It and the former song were part of a trio of tracks from the album that were meant to pay homage to Motown ballads , with the inclusion of soft church choir vocals , and sole musical arrangement by Carey . Its lyrics reflected the song 's raw chorus , telling of girl that is promised the world by her boyfriend , and quickly forget about her and moves to the next one . After the heartbreak , the protagonist asks him " Don 't You Remember " all those things he had promised her , and the things they had spoken and dreamed about doing together . " Can 't Let Go " , the album 's second single , is a slow ballad , featuring sad and yearning lyrical content . The song 's introduction featured minor chord changes , and drew influence from fifties balladry . For the duration of the first half of the song , Carey sings in her lower and huskier registers , eventually leading to the belted crescendo and falsetto and whistle finish . Of the ten tracks on the album , Carey felt her most autobiographical lyrics were featured on " Make It Happen " , which told of Carey 's poor and difficult teen life prior to being signed by Columbia . It continues telling of the importance of faith and prayer to God . Nickson described its instrumentation as " restrained " and " very Motownish , " as well as noting its soft gospel infusion . Critically , the most anticipated song on the album was Carey 's collaboration with King . It was influenced by sixties and seventies gospel and other soulful genres . According to Nickson , the song 's instrumentation and basis was crucial to Carey 's performance throughout the song . Additionally , he described its content and instrumentation :

As a song full of gospel and soulful influences , it allowed Mariah to really tear loose and show what she could do ? which in reality was far more than the vocal gymnastics that seemed to comprise her reputation so far . From a deep rumble to a high wail , she covered five octaves wonderfully , as the power of the tune built . The backing vocals ? which once again had those churchy harmonies ? filled out the spare melody , as did the stately horns , which entered towards the end . The song was truly a vocal showcase for Mariah .

The next song on the album 's track list , " You 're So Cold " , was originally intended to be the lead single from Emotions , eventually being switched for the title track . The song 's introduction features a piano and a capella vocal , working into its chorus . Chris Nickson wrote " The song sailed into the chorus , driven by the house @-@ y piano work , the bubbly , snacking rhythm belying the angry lyrics , the upbeat tone of voice . " As Nickson hinted at , its lyrics featured an angry message , calling out an unfaithful lover and asking how he could be " So Cold . " " So Blessed " was a song Carey wrote with Afanasieff , infusing fifties style pop balladry into it . Carey 's voice in the song is very restrained , as she stays within her lower registers throughout the duration of the track . " To Be Around You " was described by Nickson as " far more staccato . " Its production and melody was intended to pay tribute to " Got to Be Real " by Cheryl Lynn , as well as featuring spoken voices towards the end of the song . Nickson described " Till the End of Time " as a " gentle , almost lullaby melody . " It was a love ballad , preparing the listener for the song 's final track , " The Wind " . The latter song featured the album 's strongest jazz influence , and sampled a piano melody from Russell Freeman during the 1950s . After Afanasieff presented Carey with the melody he had discovered , it inspired her to write the melody and lyrics , which told of a friend that perished in a drunk @-@ driving accident . Musically , the album fulfilled its greatest challenge , according to critics . It had helped master Carey 's usage and infusion of several genres which she had not tapped into during the recording of her debut .

= = Critical reception = =

Upon its release , Emotions garnered generally mixed to positive reviews from contemporary music critics , many of whom both praised and criticized the album 's content alongside Carey 's vocal acrobatics . Bill Lamb from About.com gave Emotions three and a half out of five stars , complimenting the album as a whole , claiming it to be " tightened " when in comparison to the original . He described the album 's lead single as " bone chilling , " however criticizing some of the Carey 's high notes as " vocal range overkill . " Allmusic editor , Ashley Battel , gave the album four out of five stars , calling it a " musical journey . " Additionally , Erlewine picked " Emotions " and " Make It Happen " as the album 's standout tracks and wrote " The one emotion that prevails upon completion of the album is definitely a positive one : satisfaction . " Parry Gettelman , editor from the Orlando Sentinel , was critical on Carey 's vocal acrobatics , writing " Carey has become so enamored of the ultra @-@ high @-@ frequency part of her range that I 'm starting to suspect she may be an intergalactic spy trying to re- establish communications with the far @-@ off Planet of Dogs . " Jonathan Kurant from the Sun @-@ Sentinel gave Emotions a mixed review , writing " Oddly , the album gets more original at the end , where not all people will bother getting to . " Further in the review , he outed " The Wind " and " Till the End of Time " as the album 's stand out tracks , but felt most of the album was unoriginal and not an improvement over her debut .

Steve Morse from The Boston Globe gave the album a positive review , calling it " a quantum leap in maturity and confidence . " Morse felt Emotions was superior to Carey 's debut , calling its lyrics " remarkable , " its ballads " unspeakably beautiful , " and Carey 's vocal and songwriting ability " unlimited . " Rob Tannenbaum from Rolling Stone was critical on the album , expressing how Carey 's extensive use of her range made it difficult to truly feel and connect to the lyrics within the songs . Tannenbaum concluded his review on Emotions with " Carey has a remarkable vocal gift , but to date , unfortunately , her singing has been far more impressive than expressive . " Arion Berger from Entertainment Weekly gave the album a C , calling it " colder and more calculated " than Carey 's debut . Additionally , Berger mirrored similar sentiments written by Tannenbaum , writing " [Emotions] is the hybrid progeny of a venerable tradition ? the tradition of the R & B diva ? and crass commercial instincts. it 's gospel without soul , love songs without passion , pop without buoyancy . " Robert Christgau said nothing on the album , but gave it a " dud " score . Deborah Wilker , editor of the Sun @-@ Sentinel , complimented Carey 's vocal and singing abilities , however criticizing some of the album 's content as a whole . Wilker wrote " With her elite industry connections and top @-@ notch voice , Carey can do better . Sure this set is enjoyable and provides pop fans with a new diva to idolize , but Carey and company don't come close to exploiting the full range of her musical potential . " Dennis Hunt from the Los Angeles Times gave the album two out of a possible four stars . After comparing calling Carey 's voice to that of Whitney Houston 's , he called it " spectacular and impressive , " but criticized the album 's songs and production for " playing high on the angst scale . " Editor of the Chicago Tribune , Jan DeKnock , gave the album three stars , indicating a " Good " review . She called some of the album 's ballads " boring , " but described Carey 's voice as " breathtaking . "

= = Commercial performance = =

Emotions debuted at the number four position on the Billboard 200 , with first @-@ week sales of 129 @, @ 000 copies , surprising critics following the success of Mariah Carey (1990) . In total , the album spent twenty @-@ seven weeks in the top twenty and a total of fifty @-@ five on the albums chart , becoming Carey 's lowest @-@ peaking album until Glitter (2001) . Emotions was certified quadruple @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of four million copies within the United States . According to Nielsen SoundScan , the album 's stateside sales are estimated at 3 @, @ 595 @, @ 000 . On the Canadian RPM Albums Chart , Emotions debuted at number fourteen , on the issue dated October 5 , 1991 . Four weeks later , on the issue date November 2 , 1991 , the album reached its peak position of number six , staying there for one week . At the end of the year , Emotions finished number 35 on the Year @-@

End Albums Chart of 1991 . To date , the album has been certified quadruple @-@ platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) , denoting shipments of 400 @,@ 000 units . In Japan , Emotions debuted at number three on the official Oricon chart , and according to Sony Music , has shipped 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies throughout the country . In Australia , the album debuted at number ninety @-@ six on the ARIA Albums Chart during the week ending October 6 , 1991 , attaining its peak position of number eight four weeks later . The album spent thirty weeks in the top 100 , being certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) .

In France , Emotions received a gold certifications from the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique (SNEP) , denoting shipments of 100 @,@ 000 units . The album made its debut on the Dutch Top 40 at number seventy @-@ nine . The following week , it moved up to number fifty @-@ nine , which became its peak charting position . In total , Emotions spent six weeks within the Dutch charts , being certified platinum by the Nederlandse Vereniging van Producenten en Importeurs van beeld- en geluidsdragers (NVPI) , denoting shipments of 100 @,@ 000 units . During the week of October 17 , 1991 , Emotions debuted at its peak position of number six , spending a total of sixteen weeks on the New Zealand Albums Chart . The Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) certified the album platinum , denoting shipments of 15 @,@ 000 units within the country . In Sweden , Emotions debuted at number twenty @-@ six on the Swedish Albums Chart , peaking at number thirteen and spending a total of five weeks fluctuating in the chart . Following its exit from the chart , the album was certified platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) , denoting shipments of 100 @,@ 000 units . On October 13 , 1991 , Emotions debuted at number sixteen on the Swiss Albums Chart , attaining its peak position of fifteen the succeeding week . Following a run of nine weeks in the albums chart , the album was certified gold by the IFPI , denoting shipments of 50 @,@ 000 units throughout the country . On the UK Albums Chart , dated October 26 , 1991 , the album debuted at number ten . In its seventeenth week , Emotions attained its peak position of number four , placing higher than Carey 's debut reach of six . After charting in the United Kingdom for forty weeks , the album was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , denoting shipments of 300 @,@ 000 units . Emotions has sold 12 million copies worldwide , short of the 20 million sold by her debut in 1990 .

= = Singles = =

Three commercial singles were released from Emotions . The album 's lead single of the same name became Carey 's fifth chart topper in the United States , making her the only act in history to have their first five singles reach the charts summit in the country . Additionally , " Emotions " topped the singles chart in Canada , reached the top five in New Zealand , and peaked within the top twenty in Australia , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . The song garnered positive critical response , with Bill Lamb from About.com rating it " among her best . " Steve Morse from The Boston Globe called Carey 's high registers in the song a " feeling of pure joy , " whereas Jan DeKnock from the Chicago Tribune described Carey 's voice as " breathtaking . " The song 's music video features different scenes of Carey singing and enjoying herself throughout a car ride by the countryside , as well as a small celebration with several dancers .

The album 's second release , " Can 't Let Go " , only reached the number two position on the Billboard Hot 100 , failing to top the chart due to Columbia 's retraction of the single in order to boost sales of the album . Aside from Canada , where it attained a peak of number three , " Can 't Let Go " performed weakly across continental Europe , reaching the top twenty in only the UK . The song 's corresponding video was filmed in black and white , and featured Carey 's hair in a straightened style for the first time in her career . The video predominantly features close @-@ up scenes of Carey by a small outdoor fountain , as well as blooming white roses . " Make It Happen " was released as the third and final single from Emotions on April 4 , 1992 . It peaked at number five in the United States , and as " Can 't Let Go " , charted weakly throughout Europe , coming in at number seven in Canada , seventeen in the UK , and thirty @-@ five and forty @-@ seven in Australia and the Netherlands , respectively . The song was praised by critics ; Morse called it " a

clear slice of spiritual autobiography , " and called the last chorus " glorious . " Similarly , DeKnock called the song " upbeat and inspirational . " The video filmed for " Make It Happen " featured Carey performing in front of an audience in a large cathedral @-@ like church , alongside back @-@ up singers and child dancers .

= = Promotion = =

As with Mariah Carey the previous year , Carey did not embark on a tour to promote the album , due to the long travel times and strenuous schedules on her voice . However , while not touring the world , Carey promoted Emotions through an array of television and award show appearances , stateside and across Europe . Carey performed " Emotions " live for the first time at the 1991 MTV Video Music Awards , backed by several male and female back up vocalists . Following the award show appearance , she sang " Emotions " on The Arsenio Hall Show , airing on September 23 , 1991 . Additionally , Carey performed the song at the 1992 Soul Train Music Awards , and on British music program and talk show Top of the Pops and Des O 'Connor . Additional European stops included Sondagstoppet and Kulan in Sweden during mid @-@ September 1991 . All of the above mentioned performances included " Can 't Let Go " as a secondary performance in the night . " Can 't Let Go " was sung on additional programs such as Saturday Night Live , a pre @-@ filmed studio clip on The Today Show . While the album 's final single " Make It Happen " was released only months after Emotions release , the song was not performed during the album 's original chart run , however making its way onto the set @-@ list of several of Carey following tours . On February 26 , 1992 , Carey performed " If It 's Over " at the 34th annual Grammy Award , with a full orchestra and several back up singers .

= = Awards and accolades = =

Throughout 1992 , Carey , the album and its accompanying singles received recognition by the music industry in the form of several awards . At the 19th annual American Music Awards , Carey took home the award for Favorite Soul / R & B Female Artist . At the 3rd annual Billboard Music Awards , Carey took home two trophies for the album and " Emotions " , Top Female Album Artist and Top Female Single . Additionally , Carey was nominated for two Grammy Award at the 34th annual ceremony , for Producer of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance , losing in both categories . All three of the album 's singles were awarded BMI Pop Awards in 1993 .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Emotions adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =