

= Rainbow (Mariah Carey album) =

Rainbow is the seventh studio album by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey . It was released on November 2 , 1999 , by Columbia Records . The album followed the same pattern as Carey 's previous album , *Butterfly* (1997) , in which she began her transition into the R & B market . *Rainbow* contains a mix of hip @-@ hop @-@ influenced R & B jams , as well as a variety of slow ballads . On the album , Carey worked with David Foster and Diane Warren , who , as well as Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis , replaced Walter Afanasieff , the main balladeer Carey worked with throughout the 90s . As a result of her separation from her husband , Tommy Mottola , Carey had more control over the musical style of this album , so she collaborated with several artists such as Jay @-@ Z , Usher , and Snoop Dogg , as well as Missy Elliott , Joe , Da Brat , Master P , Eve , Lil ' Kim , 98 ° , Phil Collins and Mystikal .

On Carey 's previous album , *Butterfly* , she began incorporating several other genres , including R & B , soul and hip @-@ hop , into her musical repertoire . In order to further push her musical horizons , Carey featured Jay @-@ Z on the album 's lead single , the first time in her career that another artist was featured on one of her lead singles . Carey wrote ballads that were closer to R & B than pop for this album , and worked with Snoop Dogg and Usher on songs such as " Crybaby " and " How Much " , both of which featured strong R & B beats and grooves . Several of the ballads that Carey wrote during this period , including " Thank God I Found You " (written with Terry Lewis) and " After Tonight " (written with Diane Warren) , mirrored sentiments she experienced in her personal life .

Upon release , *Rainbow* received mixed to positive reviews from contemporary music critics . While many celebrated Carey 's continued musical departure from her adult contemporary past , some felt the album was not as strong or as distinct as *Butterfly* . The album debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200 , with first week sales of 323 @,@ 000 . It was her first album in years to not reach number one . *Rainbow* was certified triple @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of three million copies within the United States . Outside the US , the album debuted atop the charts in France , and within the top five in Australia , Austria , Belgium , the Netherlands , Germany , Japan , and Switzerland . In Europe , *Rainbow* was certified platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) , denoting shipments of one million copies throughout the continent . As of 2004 , the album has sold in excess of seven million copies worldwide .

Five singles were released from the album . The album 's lead single , " Heartbreaker " featuring Jay @-@ Z , became Carey 's fourteenth number @-@ one hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100 , and topped the charts in Canada , New Zealand , France and Spain . " Thank God I Found You " , featuring Joe and 98 Degrees , also topped the Hot 100 , but achieved moderate international charting . The next two singles , " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) and " Crybaby " featuring Snoop Dogg , were released as a double A @-@ side . The songs were at the center of a public feud in between Carey and Sony due to Sony 's alleged weak promotion of the singles . Carey 's cover of Phil Collins " Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " with Westlife peaked at number one in Brazil , Ireland and the United Kingdom .

= = Background = =

Since her debut in 1990 , Carey 's career was heavily calculated and controlled by her husband and head of her label Sony Music Entertainment , Tommy Mottola . For years , Carey 's albums had consisted of slow and meaningful ballads , devoid of any guest appearances or hip @-@ hop . In January 1995 , as she recorded *Daydream* , Carey began taking more control over her musical style and genre influences . She enlisted the production skills and rap styles of Ol ' Dirty Bastard , who was featured on the remix of her song " Fantasy " . While Mottola was hesitant at first , Carey 's influence paid off : the song became an international chart topper , with critics calling their joint performance one of the pioneering songs of pop and R & B musical collaborations .

During the recording and production of Carey 's *Butterfly* in 1997 , the couple separated , leaving

Carey an extended amount of control over the unfinished album . Following their separation , Carey began working with younger hip @-@ hop and R & B producers and songwriters , aside from her usual work with balladeers Walter Afanasieff and Kenneth Edmonds . While the album incorporated several different genres and components that were not present in Carey 's previous releases , Butterfly also included a balance of her classic ballads and newer R & B @-@ infused jams . While Sony accepted Carey 's new collaborations with writers and producers such as P. Diddy and Bone Thugs @-@ n @-@ Harmony , they continued to focus their promotion on the ballads . After " Honey " , the debut single from Butterfly , was released in August 1997 , Sony halted the release of the succeeding R & B @-@ influenced jams , and released the ballad " My All " as the second worldwide single . Rainbow followed in its predecessors ' footsteps , becoming even more drenched in modern hip @-@ hop and R & B.

= = Writing and recording = =

During the spring of 1999 , Carey began working on the final album of her record contract with Sony , her ex @-@ husband 's label . Carey 's lover at the time , Luis Miguel , was in the midst of a European tour . In order to spend more time with him , she opted to record the album on the secluded island of Capri , Italy , figuring the seclusion would also help her complete the album sooner . During this time , Carey 's strained relationship with Sony affected her work with writing partner Afanasieff , who had worked extensively with Carey throughout the first half of her career . Aside from their growing creative differences , Mottola had given Afanasieff more opportunities to work with other artists . She felt Mottola was trying to separate her from Afanasieff , in hopes of keeping their relationship permanently strained . Due to the pressure and the awkward relationship Carey had now developed with Sony , she completed the album in a period of three months in the summer of 1999 , quicker than any of her other albums . In an interview with Blitz TV , Carey spoke of her decision to record the album in Capri :

I love New York . But if I 'm there , I want to go out , friends come to the studio , the phone rings constantly . But in Capri , I am in a remote place , and there is no one I can run into . I felt that in Capri I would be able to effectively finish the album on a shorter schedule . And I did . I made it in three months , I was like ' Get me off this label ! ' I couldn 't take it . The situation there [Sony] was becoming increasingly difficult .

Like her previous releases , Carey co @-@ wrote and co @-@ produced the album 's material , working with several hip @-@ hop and R & B producers such as Jay @-@ Z , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , Usher , Snoop Dogg , Missy Elliott , Jermaine Dupri , and Brian Michael Cox . For the album 's debut single release , Carey collaborated with Jay @-@ Z and DJ Clue . During the spring of 1999 , Carey began working with Clue on several hooks and melodies for the lead single . After a few hours , they decided to include a hip @-@ hop star on the track , which eventually led to Jay @-@ Z. Carey 's longtime friend and back @-@ up vocalist Trey Lorenz , who was featured on her remake of the Jackson 5 song " I 'll Be There " , added " some soft male [back @-@ up] vocals . " Carey worked with Lewis and Jam on the ballad " Thank God I Found You " . She had already been in the studio with the duo several times when she contacted them to meet her at the studio , where she told them that she had come up with the title , hook , and melody . Usually , when Carey was writing the songs for Rainbow , James " Big Jim " Wright would play the organ or piano and assist Carey to find the " right melody " . However , since Wright was not present , Lewis played the organ while Carey directed him with her lower registers , providing the chord progression . They composed the song and recorded Carey 's vocals . Knowing she wanted to introduce a male vocalist on the track , Lewis brought R & B singer Joe and pop group 98 Degrees into the studio . After a few hours , the group and Joe had recorded all their vocals and the song was complete . In an interview with Bronson , Lewis discussed the night Carey wrote " Thank God I Found You : "

It all happened that night . She told us the title of the song , the concept and sang us the melody . We usually have Big Jim Wright sit in on those kind of sessions to work out the chords. he wasn 't there so I had to work on the chord myself . So I was playing and there was a part where I said ' Man , what chord am I supposed to do here ? ' and Mariah has such a good ear that she sang me

the chord .

While the album was immersed further into mainstream R & B territory , Carey included some of her classic ballads and tender love songs on the album , working with writers and producers such as David Foster and Diane Warren . The idea to work with Warren was suggested by Foster , who thought that the two would be able to " hammer out one hell of a ballad " together . The two wrote and produced the song titled " After Tonight " . Carey felt the song was a perfect metaphor for her relationship with Miguel , describing their romance in Capri . While the song was deemed a success by both parties , they described their working relationship with mixed feelings . According to Foster , who was involved in the writing session , Carey and Warren would not always agree on the lyrics and melodious structure of the song . He described it as a " give and take relationship " ; Warren would offer lyrics and Carey would not like them ; she wanted something more intricate and detailed . Carey would produce a hook or lyrics that Warren did not feel were a perfect fit . In the end , Foster felt that they worked " well together " . After recording the song , Carey invited Miguel to record the song with her as a duet . However , after recording his verses several times , Foster and Carey realized that the song would not turn out the way they planned . Foster said the song 's key was " too high for him " ; the voices did not harmonize well . Carey did not have time to re @-@ record her vocals in a lower key to accommodate Miguel 's verses . Miguel , furious over the failed collaboration , later sent a cut @-@ up tape of the demo to Foster . Carey , Warren , and Foster also wrote " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " , one of the other ballads featured on Rainbow .

= = Music and lyrics = =

As with Butterfly , songs for Rainbow were chosen to solidify Carey 's reputation as a multi @-@ genre artist . Throughout the first phase of her career , Carey 's albums predominantly consisted of pop and adult contemporary ballads . Rainbow mixed hip hop and R & B @-@ flavored upbeat songs with softer and lyrically intense ballads resembling those that Carey had previously recorded . " Heartbreaker " , Carey 's first collaboration with Jay @-@ Z , used a sample from " Attack of the Name Game " , recorded by Stacy Lattisaw , as its hook . The loop originated from " The Name Game " by Shirley Ellis ; Ellis and co @-@ writer Lincoln Chase are credited as songwriters on the track . Carey incorporated the hook into the song 's melody , and added instrumentation . Lyrically , the song chronicles the heartbreak the protagonist feels after learning of her lover 's infidelity . " Thank God I Found You " features vocals from Joe and 98 Degrees , as well as songwriting and production from Carey and Lewis . According to Carey , the song reflects on events in her own life at the time , with the lyrics describing the completion the protagonist feels after " finding " their lover . Joe provides the main male vocal throughout each verse , and 98 Degrees sing the background vocals and the bridge .

Prior to the album 's recording , Mariah and her sister , Alison Carey had a falling out in their relationship . Alison had contracted AIDS in 1988 , when she was 27 , and in 1994 she blamed Mariah for many of her problems and heartbreaks throughout the years . Her children were taken away while she received treatment for AIDS and for mental health issues . Carey wrote a song titled " Petals " , which she describes as the most honest lyrics she has ever written . The song tells of Carey 's feelings for her sister , while illustrating the pain Allison 's betrayal and suffering have caused . In an interview with Bronson , Carey described the meaning of the lyrics of " Petals " :

It is a great outlet for me to go into the studio and write a song like ' Petals ' , which is one of my most personal songs and remains one of my favorites . I think [it had the most] honest lyrics I 've ever written . The song chronicles a lot of past emotions I 've felt to certain people close to me , and the way I feel towards them and how their actions have impacted me personally . For that reason , I sang in my lower registers , trying to add that breathy effect to go hand in hand with the song 's composition .

" After Tonight " was a song Carey wrote with David Foster and Diane Warren . Carey had strong feelings about the song , as she wrote it about her relationship with Luis Miguel . The song was compared instrumentally to " My All " from Butterfly , which features traces of Latin and guitar

instrumentation . In the lyrics , the protagonist asks her lover if he will still love her and come back to her " after tonight " . Carey 's cover of the Phil Collins song " Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " was originally intended to be a solo ballad . The song was re @-@ done after the album was released , with music by the Irish band Westlife replacing the song 's instrumental bridge . " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " was one of the album 's most uplifting ballads , lyrically serving as an anthem for fans and listeners . The message , Carey said , was a personal theme of hers growing up , of not letting others " bring her down " and not allowing them to take away the light inside her . " How Much " is a duet with Usher and features a sample from Tupac Shakur 's " Me and My Girlfriend " .

= = Conflict with Sony = =

As with *Butterfly* two years earlier , *Rainbow* became the center of conflict between Carey and her label . After her divorce from Sony record official and Columbia CEO Tommy Mottola , Carey 's working relationship with the label deteriorated . She intended for " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " to be the third single from *Rainbow* , as it held very personal lyrical content . However , Sony made it clear that they intended the third single should be a more upbeat and urban track . The difference in opinion led to a very public feud , as Carey began posting messages on her webpage in early and mid @-@ 2000 , telling fans inside information on the dispute , 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 commending her bold actions regarding a song she felt needed to be heard , while others criticized her for publicizing the dispute further . Soon after , Sony stripped Carey 's webpage of messages and began negotiations . 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 given a very limited and low @-@ promotion release , which meant the song failed to chart on the official US chart , and made international charting extremely difficult and unlikely .

= = Critical reception = =

Rainbow garnered mixed to positive reviews from contemporary music critics . The album 's main criticism was its lack of originality , as it failed to improve upon her previous opus , *Butterfly* . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic awarded the album three out of five stars , complimenting it as " the first Carey album where she 's written personal lyrics , and allusions to her separation from Mottola . " He called the lyrics " true " and " deep " , but criticized the lack of originality . Erlewine alluded to *Rainbow* as " ballad @-@ heavy " and " repetitious " , writing how the album followed the formula of Carey 's previous album too precisely . Erlewine ended his review on a mixed note , writing " *Rainbow* proves that she can still pull off that difficult balancing act , but it 's hard not to be a little disappointed that she 'd didn 't shake the music up a little bit more ? after all , it would have been a more effective album if the heartbreak , sorrow , and joy that bubbles underneath the music were brought to the surface . "

Arion Berger , an editor from *Rolling Stone* , also gave the album three out of five stars . He felt *Rainbow* was a genuine R & B and hip @-@ hop album , calling it a " sterling chronicle of the state of accessible hip @-@ hop balladeering at the close of 1999 . " Aside from calling some of the ballads " banal " , Berger concluded his review with " *Rainbow* is at its best ? and Carey at her most comfortable ? when urbane hip @-@ hop stylings and faux R & B coexist in smooth middle @-@ of @-@ the @-@ road harmony . " Robert Christgau of *The Village Voice* gave the album a two @-@

star honorable mention () , indicating a " likable effort consumers attuned to its overriding aesthetic or individual vision may well enjoy . " Christgau cited " Heartbreaker " and " Crybaby " as highlights and quippedly called Carey " not a ' real ' r & b thrush , but good enough to fake it . " Amy Linden from Vibe was unimpressed with the album , writing " I don 't care about it anymore . " While complimenting the album 's genre influences and featured musical guests , Linden felt Rainbow was not original . She concluded her review with " ' Rainbow ' will garner her even more adoration . As for me ? I 'll be okay . " Danyl Smith from Entertainment Weekly gave Rainbow a B + , and concluded " what began on Butterfly as a departure ends up on Rainbow a progression ? perhaps the first compelling proof of Carey 's true colors as an artist . " Elysa Gardner from the Los Angeles Times gave Rainbow three and a half out of four stars . She complimented the album 's strong blend of breezy R & B cuts , as well as the lyrically , vocally , and melodically strong ballads . " Exhibiting an emotional authority to match her technical prowess , Carey gives us a vision of love that 's dynamic without being ostentatious , " she wrote . Steve Jones from USA Today gave Rainbow three out of four stars , calling it " colorful " and " some of her most compelling work . "

= = Commercial performance = =

Rainbow debuted at number two on the Billboard 200 chart with 323 @,@ 000 units sold , the highest first @-@ week sales of Carey 's career at that time . In its second week , the album stayed at number two , selling an additional 228 @,@ 000 copies , barred from the top by Faith Hill 's Breathe . In its eighth week , Rainbow experienced its highest weekly sales ? during the Christmas week of 1999 ? selling 369 @,@ 000 copies , while placing at number nine . It became Carey 's first studio album since Merry Christmas (1994) to not reach the top position in the United States . In total , Rainbow stayed in the top twenty for ten weeks and on the chart for thirty @-@ five , making one re @-@ entry . It was certified triple @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of three million copies throughout the United States . According to Nielsen SoundScan , the album 's sales in the US are estimated at 2 @,@ 968 @,@ 000 copies . In Canada , Rainbow debuted at number two on the Canadian Albums Chart , and was certified triple @-@ platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) . Sales in Canada are estimated at 300 @,@ 000 units .

Rainbow debuted at number three on the Australian Albums Chart , staying within the chart for seven weeks . The album was platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , denoting shipments of 70 @,@ 000 copies . In France , the album experienced strong success , debuting atop the albums chart and remaining inside the top forty for thirty @-@ four weeks . The album was certified triple @-@ platinum by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique (SNEP) , with estimated sales of 900 @,@ 000 copies . In Germany , Rainbow peaked at number three , and received a platinum certification from the Bundesverband Musikindustrie (BVMI) , denoting shipments of 500 @,@ 000 units. in the United Kingdom Rainbow debuted at number eight and stayed within the top 100 for 20 weeks . Rainbow was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , denoting shipments of 300 @,@ 000 units . Additionally , Rainbow received triple @-@ platinum certification in Brazil , with 800 @,@ 000 copies , platinum in New Zealand , triple @-@ platinum in Spain , platinum in Argentina , gold in Belgium , platinum in the Netherlands , and gold in Switzerland . The album has sold 15 million copies worldwide .

= = Singles = =

Five singles were released from Rainbow ; two were worldwide international releases and three were limited promotional releases . " Heartbreaker " , the album 's first worldwide release , became Carey 's fourteenth chart topper in the United States . Aside from staying atop the US chart for two weeks , the song reached the chart 's summit in Canada and New Zealand . Elsewhere , " Heartbreaker " achieved high charting , peaking within the top five in France and the United Kingdom , and within the top ten in Australia , Belgium , the Netherlands , Germany , and Switzerland . The song received mixed reviews from critics . Arion Berger from Rolling Stone called

the song Carey 's " most insinuating : nasal , silken , declarative , riding the percolating beat . " However , while dismissing some of the song 's vocals and the incorporation of the hook , he complimented its marriage of pop and hip @-@ hop through Jay @-@ Z 's verses . Robert Christgau named the song one of his favorites from Rainbow , calling it " real R & B " . The song 's music video became one of the most expensive music videos of all time , costing an estimated \$ 2 @. @ 5 million . The video features Carey visiting a movie theater with her friends , where she finds her lover with another woman . " Thank God I Found You " was released as the second worldwide single from the album . While becoming Carey 's fifteenth chart topper in the US , the song achieved moderate chart success in Europe and other territories . Berger called it a " gospel soar " and complimented Carey 's vocals , as well as the harmonies by 98 Degrees . The music video features footage from a live concert with Carey and the band performing the song .

" Crybaby " and " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " were released simultaneously as a double A @-@ side , with very limited promotion from Sony . These two songs , especially the latter , became the center of a very public controversy between Carey and her label , due to their alleged low promotion of the album . " Crybaby " was chosen as one of the album 's top songs by Christgau , who called it the album 's best attempt at R & B. Carey and Snoop Dogg were featured in the music video for " Crybaby " , with Carey playing an anxious woman who can 't sleep at night due to her lover 's infidelity . A music video for " Can 't Take That Away " was released around the same time , which features Carey on a rooftop garden . Carey sings during a rain storm , and towards the video 's conclusion , the sun arises , bring forth a " new day " . The final single from Rainbow , " Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " , was given a limited release as well . After performing moderately around the world , a new version of the song , featuring Westlife , was released in Ireland and the United Kingdom . It became successful there , peaking at number one in both territories , and became Carey 's second UK chart topper . The song 's video features Carey and Westlife on a boat in Capri . Scenes of the group exploring the island are cut with scenes of them in the studio , though Carey never re @-@ recorded her vocals from the original version .

= = Promotion = =

Prior to the album 's release , Carey made an appearance on Pavarotti & Friends for Guatemala and Kosovo , performing " My All " and " Hero " alongside Luciano Pavarotti in a live duet . The concert benefit was filmed live in Modena , Italy , during the summer of 1999 and was released for sale on September 21 , with funds being donated to relief efforts for natural disasters in Guatemala and Kosovo . Carey made several live television and award show appearances at this time , and recorded her own Fox Broadcasting Company special , titled The Mariah Carey Homecoming Special . A mini @-@ concert filmed at Carey 's old high school in Huntington , New York , the special aired on Fox on December 21 , 1999 . Carey performed " Heartbreaker " and its accompanying remix at the MTV European Music Awards , held on November 11 , 1999 , in Dublin , Ireland . Additionally , the song was performed on The Oprah Winfrey Show , the British music chart program Top of the Pops , and The Today Show , which included a performance of " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " and " Hero " . " Thank God I Found You was performed live at the 2000 American Music Awards as well as on several European programs , including Top of the Pops and Friday Night 's All Wright in the United Kingdom , NRJ and Soulier d 'Or in France , Wetten , dass .. ? in Germany , and Quelli che ... il Calcio in Italy . The album 's final two releases , " Can 't Take That Away (Mariah 's Theme) " and " Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " , were performed on The View and at the 2000 Blockbuster Entertainment Awards .

In order to promote Rainbow , Carey embarked of her fourth headlining and third worldwide tour . Titled the Rainbow World Tour , it included nineteen shows : six in Europe , four in Asia , eight in the United States , and one in Canada . For Carey 's previous two tours , she had only visited Europe and Asia , due to the mixed reception of her debut stateside tour in 1993 . However , after achieving record @-@ breaking ticket sales throughout Asia and instant sellouts in Europe , Carey felt secure enough to once again tour her native country . The set list featured songs from most of Carey 's previous studio albums , as well as some tracks from Rainbow . Missy Elliott and Da Brat served as

opening acts for the US leg of the tour . Ticket sales were very strong ; the entire US leg sold out in a matter of days . The Asian and European leg mirrored the commercial success of her previous two tours . Reviews for the tour varied from positive to mixed . Some critics and fans reproached her of having a " tired and hoarse voice " , while others commented on Carey 's choice of wardrobe . Several critics and many concert @-@ goers praised the tour , calling it an intense celebration of Carey 's career .

= = Track listing = =

" Heartbreaker " contains a sample of " Attack of the Name Game " by Stacy Lattisaw .

" How Much " contains a sample of " Me and My Girlfriend " by Makaveli .

" Heartbreaker (Remix) " contains a sample of " Ain 't No Fun (If The Homies Can 't Have None) " by Snoop Dogg .

" Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " is a cover of " Against All Odds (Take a Look at Me Now) " by Phil Collins .

" Crybaby " contains samples of " Piece of My Love " by Guy and " Georgy Porgy " by Toto .

" Did I Do That ? " Contains a sample of " It Ain 't My Fault 2 " by Silkk The Shocker .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =