

= Something to Remember =

Something to Remember is a compilation album by American recording artist Madonna , released by Maverick and Warner Bros. on November 3 , 1995 . The record was conceived after a controversial period in Madonna 's career , when many critics had speculated that her career had declined . In response Madonna composed the album , composed of ballads spanning over a decade of her career , including a reworked version of " Love Don 't Live Here Anymore " and three new songs : " You 'll See " , " One More Chance " and a cover of Marvin Gaye 's " I Want You " . The record also features previously released singles that had never been included on a Madonna album , " I 'll Remember " and " This Used to Be My Playground " , and altogether provided a softer image for the singer during a critical period in her career .

For producing the new songs for the album , Madonna worked with David Foster and Nellee Hooper , the former known for his work with such artists as Barbra Streisand and Olivia Newton John . Madonna stated that the concept for the album was to make fans and critics alike remember her music contributions rather than her media controversies . Something to Remember was well received by music critics who were impressed with Madonna 's vocals and the album 's cohesiveness . It was also a commercial success , topping charts in Australia , Austria , Finland , and Italy , and peaking within top ten elsewhere . In the United States , it reached number six on the Billboard 200 and was certified three times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of three million units . Worldwide , Something to Remember has sold over ten million copies .

Four singles and one promotional single were released to promote the album . Originally intended as the album 's lead single , " I Want You " was released as the promotional single preceding the album , with a music video directed by Earle Sebastian . " You 'll See " was released as the album 's first single on October 23 , 1995 , accompanied by a Spanish version titled " Verás " and a music video directed by Michael Haussman . The song peaked at number six on the Billboard Hot 100 , while reaching the top five in Austria , Canada , Finland , Italy and the United Kingdom . " Oh Father " , " One More Chance " and " Love Don 't Live Here Anymore " were released as the follow up singles , but gained little commercial response ; the latter received a music video directed by Jean Baptiste Mondino .

= = Background = =

After a controversy @-@ fueled period , Madonna 's personal life had started to dominate over her musical career . " She knew it was time to make a change " as said by one anonymous member of her management team who claimed that she wanted to prove there was more to her than the constant media circus surrounding her . J. Randy Taraborrelli , author of Madonna : An Intimate Biography , documented that Madonna had previously stated that many of her songs have been overlooked in response to current trends , with her long @-@ time friend and producer Mirwais Ahmadzaï stating " she hasn 't shouted about her musical abilities . " Taraborrelli explained " So , whether Madonna released Something to Remember , a collection of previously released love songs , because she had a point to prove or simply to keep a contractual obligation , the fourteen track recording did make a statement . " Described as a " love letter from Madonna to her fans and music lovers alike " the compilation seemed to notify her contemporaries of her musical talent . On the album 's liner note , Madonna further explained :

So much controversy has swirled around my career this past decade that very little attention ever gets paid to my music . The songs are all but forgotten . While I have no regrets regarding the choices I 've made artistically , I 've learned to appreciate the idea of doing things in a simpler way . So without a lot of fanfare , without any distractions , I present to you this collection of ballads . Some are old , some are new . All of them are from my heart .

The new material for the album saw her collaboration with a well @-@ known producer David Foster , who had worked with the likes of Barbra Streisand , Al Jarreau and Earth , Wind & Fire . Foster recalled the first time Madonna 's publicist Liz Rosenberg contacting him for a dinner with the

singer : " When Madonna first called , I was a little surprised ? my music isn 't really hip enough for her ? but I guess her camp thought we should meet , and I got a call from Liz Rosenberg , the PR maven who has been with Madonna from the beginning . " Not long after the dinner , Madonna and Foster began the recording session in his Malibu studio . During the album conception , Madonna was also asked by her Bedtime Stories producer Nellee Hooper to collaborate with British trip hop group Massive Attack for a Marvin Gaye tribute album . Previously , the band had offered the collaboration to several artists , including Chaka Khan who rejected it . Madonna and Massive Attack covered Gaye 's 1976 hit " I Want You " , which finished among the new material for Something to Remember and was also included on the Inner City Blues : The Music of Marvin Gaye released by Motown Records .

= = Development = =

The first track selected for use on the compilation album was " Love Don 't Live Here Anymore " from Like a Virgin (1984) . The track was reworked by producer David Reitzas and features a quite different composition from the 1984 version . Madonna also included two soundtrack singles which had never been featured on her own album , " This Used to Be My Playground " from the 1992 film A League of Their Own and " I 'll Remember " from the 1994 film With Honors . Other previously released material selected for the compilation were " Crazy for You " from Vision Quest (1985) , " Live to Tell " from True Blue (1986) , " Oh Father " from Like a Prayer (1989) , " Something to Remember " from I 'm Breathless (1990) , " Rain " from Erotica (1992) , as well as " Take a Bow " and " Forbidden Love " , both from Bedtime Stories (1994) . Two tracks on the compilation , " Crazy for You " and " Live to Tell " , were overlapping with her first greatest hits album , The Immaculate Collection (1990) . According to Rikky Rooksby , the author of The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , the song selection creates a soft atmosphere , the music is downbeat and " emotionally introverted " with mellow vibes throughout .

Madonna 's recording session with David Foster resulted two new songs to the final track listing , " You 'll See " and " One More Chance " . Foster commented : " At the end of the day , the songs we did were not particularly impressive , though one of them , " You 'll See " , was really neat . Madonna had written a great lyric (You think that I can 't live without your love / You 'll see) and I thought my music was great . " " You 'll See " is a low bass track featuring wind chimes and a Spanish guitar . Throughout the chord changes progression to give Madonna 's vocals dominance in the song , and after a minute the percussion starts with a tremolo guitar added later . Lyrically , the song talks of independence after the end of a love affair stating that Madonna will go onto greater things . Madonna was asked whether the track was about revenge to which she replied " No , it 's about empowering yourself . " The next original song , " One More Chance " features an acoustic guitar introduction with plenty of chord changes . Lyrically , the song features Madonna attempting to win a lost lover back . Madonna later recorded the Spanish version of " You 'll See " in Gloria and Emilio Estefan 's studio in Miami . Titled " Verás " , the song was adapted into Spanish by Paz Martinez .

Nellee Hooper produced another new addition to the compilation , the cover version of Marvin Gaye 's " I Want You " . After Madonna accepted Hooper 's suggestion to collaborate with Massive Attack , the band sent Madonna the music of the song first . Robert " 3D " Del Naja , one of the band members , subsequently went to New York with Hooper and worked in the studio for two days . Del Naja said , " I think the really cool thing about it was the fact that [Madonna] sang it so beautifully . There was no special effects , no messing around ? it was just in there singing it with a lot of passion and soul . " Musically , the song starts with a long introduction featuring a hip @-@ hop drum beat with emphasis on the bass section of the instrumental alongside a semi @-@ tonal string figure . The second verse features a harp and a repeating drum loop accompanied with a telephone style bleeping sound . Madonna 's vocals at times are accompanied by spoken passages with her overall vocals dominating the track , with lyrics discussing a man that no longer wants her , while she is determined to change his mind . The compilation also features the orchestral version of " I Want You " in which the original drum track , bass and percussion are removed . The version starts slower with

Madonna 's vocals entering with a low string bass line only , gradually more string arrangements are added with harp and brass featured in the background of the mix . A moment towards the end of the track hears her voice with no accompaniment creating a " dramatic " theme , and overall the version features around 20 seconds less than the original .

= = Artwork and release = =

The album 's artwork was shot by fashion photographer Mario Testino . It was originally made for Madonna 's Versace advertisement which appeared on high @-@ fashion magazines . The packaging included with the release showed Madonna looking " deliciously cosmopolitan " as she wore a tight @-@ fit white cocktail attire , while the back cover artwork is predominantly more playful . The front cover artwork presented Madonna leaning against a wall with an expression of " romantic loss or absorption . " Designed as the Madonna album which would appeal to a larger audience in contrast to her previous records , *Bedtime Stories* and *Erotica* , the booklet featured red roses inside and a golden yellow flower on the back cover . According to The Guardian writer Caroline Sullivan , the fact that Madonna removed her nose ring for the cover shot indicated she " wants the album to be taken on its own merits . " In 2013 , the artwork was dubbed as one of the " 20 Most Fashionable Album Covers Ever " by the Dutch edition of *Elle* magazine . The title of the album derives from her 1990 song of the same name since it had received little attention during the release of its original album , *I 'm Breathless* .

Something to Remember was released in some European countries on November 3 , 1995 . In Madonna 's native country , the album was released on November 7 , 1995 . In Japan , the album was released under the title *Best of Madonna : Ballad Collection* on November 10 , 1995 , containing her 1986 song " *La Isla Bonita* " as a bonus track . " *La Isla Bonita* " was re @-@ released three months prior the compilation as a double A @-@ side record with " *Human Nature* " , the final single from *Bedtime Stories* . Receiving gold certification from the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) , the song was added to *Something to Remember* track listing in the hope of boosting the album sales in the region . In Latin America , the album included the bonus track " *Verás* " , the Spanish version of " *You 'll See* " . In 2001 , WEA Records released a box set of *Something to Remember* and *The Immaculate Collection* to coincide with the release of Madonna 's second greatest hits package , *GHV2* .

= = Singles = =

" *I Want You* " was released as a promotional single from the album on October 2 , 1995 . It was originally intended as the album 's first single , but cancelled due to contract problems between Madonna 's label and Motown Records , the copyright owner of the song . The music video for the song was directed by Earle Sebastian and was nominated for the MTV Amour category at the MTV Europe Music Awards 1996 . " *You 'll See* " was released as the album 's lead single on October 30 , 1995 . The song reached the top five position in Austria , Canada , Finland , Italy and the United Kingdom . The single managed to peak at number six on the Billboard Hot 100 , making Madonna the third act in history (after Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye) to have a hit peak at each position from one to ten on the chart . An accompanying music video was directed by Michael Haussman as a sequel to Madonna 's previous music video for " *Take a Bow* " .

" *Oh Father* " was released as the second single for European market on December 21 , 1995 . It became a top ten hit in Finland and the United Kingdom , but charted weakly in the rest of the continent , resulting a low peak of 62 on the European Hot 100 Singles chart . " *One More Chance* " received a limited single release in Australia and several European countries on March 7 , 1996 . Despite barely any promotion and no music video , the song still charted as high as number two in Italy and peaked inside the top 40 in Australia , Finland , Sweden and the United Kingdom . " *Love Don 't Live Here Anymore* " was released as the final single from the album on March 19 , 1996 . The song received poor commercial reception , peaking at number 78 on the Billboard Hot 100 , while reaching the top forty in Australia and Canada . Its accompanying music video was directed in

by Jean @-@ Baptiste Mondino at the Confitería El Molino in Buenos Aires , Argentina , during Madonna 's day off from filming *Evita* . It was shot in a single frame portraying Madonna in an empty suite of an abandoned hotel .

= = Critical reception = =

Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic wrote that " Throughout the album , Madonna proves that she 's a terrific singer whose voice has improved over the years . " He added , " Not one of the tracks is second @-@ rate , and the best songs on *Something to Remember* rank among the best pop music of the ' 80s and ' 90s " . Neil Strauss of The New York Times felt all the songs on the album " cohere better than a greatest @-@ hits package would " and " they tell a story of their own , of a voice and attitude that have hardened in the dozen years that have elapsed between the bubble @-@ gum @-@ chomping innocence of 1983 's ' *Crazy for You* ' and the tortured torch singing of the new ' *You 'll See* ' . " Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly commented : " By placing her greatest @-@ hit ballads (' *Live to Tell* ' , ' *Crazy for You* ' , ' *Take a Bow* ' , etc .) in a new context ? that is , separated from her more attention @-@ getting dance music ? Madonna reinvigorates them , which is just what a good best @-@ of compilation is supposed to do . The three new songs ' *You 'll See* ' , ' *One More Chance* ' , and a wonderfully eerie version of Marvin Gaye 's ' *I Want You* ' are consumer enticements that just add to the allure . "

According to Greg Forman from The Post and Courier , the album shows that " There 's an important difference between having a great voice and being a great singer . Whitney Houston or Mariah Carey can sing circles (and octaves) around the most famous woman on the planet , but Madonna , through sheer force of personality sells her slow numbers with a panache few modern singers can match . " John Wirt from The Advocate said that the album shows that Madonna " can craft slow songs as effectively as she knocks out dance numbers " and found " an unaffected simplicity and sincerity " in her ballad singing . Writing for The Baltimore Sun , J. D. Considine believed that with the album " Madonna not only reminds us that there 's more to her music than dance tunes , but also demonstrates that her voice is nowhere near as thin and chirpy as her detractors imagine . " He further explained , " one of the most amazing things about the album is how sultry and assured she sounds ... The Madonna on display here not only has a richer , deeper voice than you imagined , but more interpretive insight as well . "

Alwyn W. Turner in the book *The Rough Guide to Rock* stated that the album features " the best of her slow pieces " displaying that " Madonna had evolved over the years into an excellent ballad singer . " Edna Gundersen from USA Today said that the album " flaunts the less sizzling , though equally galvanizing , highlights of her career . " She was mostly impressed with Madonna 's vocal and emotional power on the track " *You 'll See* " which became " the clearest proof that the ambitious blonde is more singer than celebrity . " J. Randy Taraborrelli in his book *Madonna : An Intimate Biography* picked the David Foster produced tracks as standouts , saying " It was interesting that , with all of his [David Foster] exciting musical ability from which to draw , he and Madonna would come up with two of the most sombre songs she has ever recorded ? but such is the excitement of collaboration ; one never knows what will come of it . " Tirzah Agassi from The Jerusalem Post said the arrangements on the new songs " show a great leap in sophistication " and felt that Madonna " has invested much in improving her vocal technique . " Robert Christgau criticized the album with a " dud " rating , indicating " a bad record whose details rarely merit further thought . "

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , *Something to Remember* debuted and peaked at number six on the Billboard 200 chart on the issue date of November 25 , 1995 . It stayed on the chart for 34 weeks and was certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of three million units . According to Nielsen SoundScan , the album has sold 2 @,@ 086 @,@ 000 copies as of August 2009 . This figure does not include sales from clubs , such as BMG Music Club

where the album sold an additional 179 @,@ 000 copies . In Canada , the album entered the RPM Albums Chart at number two on November 20 , 1995 . The album held the top ten position for eight consecutive weeks before descending to number 12 on January 29 , 1996 . It stayed on the chart for 26 weeks , and was certified double platinum by the Music Canada (MC) for shipments of 200 @,@ 000 copies . The album also performed well in other North American market such as Mexico , where it was certified platinum by Asociación Mexicana de Productores de Fonogramas y Videogramas (AMPROFON) for shipments of 250 @,@ 000 copies .

In the United Kingdom , Something to Remember debuted at number three on the UK Albums Chart on November 18 , 1995 . It dropped to number four in its second and third week , spending twelve consecutive weeks in the top ten before falling to number 11 on February 2 , 1996 . The album was certified triple platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments of 900 @,@ 000 copies . In Germany , the album reached number two on the Media Control Charts for two weeks and was certified platinum by the Bundesverband Musikindustrie (BVMI) for shipping 500 @,@ 000 copies . The album also reached the top ten of the charts in other European countries and peaked at number one in Austria , Finland and Italy , where it shipped more than 500 @,@ 000 copies according to the Federazione Industria Musicale Italiana (FIMI) . Its commercial success in the continent allowed the album to peak at number three on the European Top 100 Albums chart . It was certified triple platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) for selling over three million copies across Europe .

The album was also well received commercially in Asia @-@ Pacific territories . In Japan , the album peaked at number nine on the Oricon Albums Chart and was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for shipping 400 @,@ 000 copies . In Australia , the album debuted at number two on November 19 , 1995 and topped the record chart the following week . It stayed on the top 50 for 19 weeks and received quadruple platinum award from the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipments of 280 @,@ 000 copies . It also became a top @-@ ten album in New Zealand , peaking at number eight , and was certified platinum by the Recorded Music NZ (RMNZ) for shipments of 15 @,@ 000 copies . Overall , the album has sold more than ten million copies worldwide . With the commercial success it achieved , Something to Remember set a trend of releasing ballad albums afterward , such as the 1996 albums Love Songs by Elton John and If We Fall in Love Tonight by Rod Stewart .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =