

= Oh Mother =

" Oh Mother " is a song recorded by American singer Christina Aguilera for her fifth studio album , Back to Basics (2006) . The song was released on November 23 , 2007 by RCA Records as the fourth and final single from the album in European territories , while " Slow Down Baby " was serviced as the final single in Oceania . It was written by Aguilera , Derryck Thornton , Mark Rankin , Liz Thornton , Christophe Barratier , Bruno Coulais and Kara DioGuardi . Production was done by Big Tank and Q , with L Boggie credited as co @-@ producer and Aguilera serviced as additional producer .

" Oh Mother " is a downtempo piano ballad that talks about Aguilera 's abusive childhood . It incorporates various musical instruments , from strings to keyboards . It contains a sample from " Vois Sur Ton Chemin " , written by Bruno Coluais and Christopher Barratier . Upon its release , the song was met with mainly positive reviews from contemporary music critics . It also managed to enter charts in Europe with moderate success .

= = Background and recording = =

After releasing Stripped (2002) and collaborating with many different artists , Aguilera decided to record new old @-@ school style materials for her upcoming album . She later explained that the lengthy break allowed her to write a lot about what she had experienced during that time . Aguilera also explained that she wanted to bring something novel to her album , which has 24 songs on it . She wanted to try to evolve as an artist and a visionary . As a result , Back to Basics , Aguilera 's fifth studio album , is made up of two discs . On the first disc , she worked with " more beat @-@ driven " producers , such as DJ Premier and Mark Ronson , who included samples in the production . The second one was written and produced solely by longtime producer Linda Perry . Aguilera sent letters to different producers that she hoped could help her with the direction she was taking for the project , encouraging them to experiment , re @-@ invent and create a modern soul feel . She described the first disc as " kind of a throwback with elements of jazz , blues and soul music combined with a modern @-@ day twist , like hard @-@ hitting beats " .

" Oh Mother " was written by Aguilera , Derryck Thornton , Mark Rankin , Liz Thornton , Christophe Barratier , Bruno Coulais and Kara DioGuardi . Production was done by Big Tank and Q , with L Boggie credited as co @-@ producer and Aguilera serviced as additional producer . Piano and keyboards were provided by V. Young , while Rob Lewis served guitar and arranging . Lewis also played string instruments with Aroussiak Baltaian , Daniel Seidenberg , Garik Terzian , Ilana Setapen , Joel Pargman and Maia Jasper .

= = Composition = =

" Oh Mother " is a piano ballad . Written in the key of C ? minor , it is a downtempo track with a moderate tempo of 88 beats per minute . " Oh Mother " has a chord progression of C ? m ? A / C ? ? F ? m ? G ? 7 at the beginning . Aguilera 's vocal range on the track spans from the low @-@ note of F ? 3 to the high @-@ note of E5 . The track 's instrumentation comes from guitar , strings , piano and keyboards . It also features a sample of " Vois Sur Ton Chemin " , written by Bruno Coluais and Christopher Barratier . Spence D. for IGN called the track 's melody " lulling " and " lithe " .

According to Aguilera herself , " Oh Mother " talks about her abusive childhood . She revealed , " I think going through what I went through at a young age ? the abuse that went on in my household ? did affect me a lot . Domestic violence is a topic that is very hush @-@ hush in society " . Aguilera recalls the domestic violence of her childhood as she sings , " He took his anger out on her face , she kept all of her pain locked away " . Nick Levine for Digital Spy said that " Oh Mother " is a " retread " of " I 'm OK " , a song with the same topic from Aguilera 's 2002 album Stripped .

= = Release and reception = =

= = = Release and commercial performance = = =

" Oh Mother " was serviced as the fourth and final single from Back to Basics in Europe : on September 28 , 2007 , it was available for digital downloads in Switzerland ; on October 8 , 2007 , it was available for CD single sales in the United Kingdom . In Germany , the song was purchased as a CD single and as a digital download single on November 23 , 2007 . In the United Kingdom , " Oh Mother " was available for digital download on December 31 , 2007 . The single also impacted radio stations of countries in Europe including Switzerland , Germany , Czech Republic , and Austria in late 2007 .

On the Austrian Singles Chart , the single debuted at number 26 on December 7 , 2007 and peaked at number 23 during the following week . There , the track remained for a total of nine weeks . In German , " Oh Mother " peaked at number 18 on the Media Control Charts . The single also peaked in the Netherlands and Switzerland at number 54 and 79 , respectively .

= = = Critical response = = =

Upon its release , " Oh Mother " was met with mainly positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Lucy Davis from BBC Music wrote that the song " might mean a lot to some , those with the tiresome self defence lyrics should go ? when she gets on with the singing , there 's nothing to prove " . Slant Magazine editor Sal Cinquemani deemed " Oh Mother " a " lovely " piano and string melody " that we 're offered a reprieve " . Amanda Murray of Sputnikmusic was also positive toward " Oh Mother " , commenting that " another ode to her single mother and middle @-@ finger to her abusive father , is yet more proof that Aguilera works best when the subject matter actually means something to her , when the song is more than just something to sing " . Spence D. for IGN was positive toward the song 's meaning , writing that it " resonates with a bittersweet energy that helps it rise above the standard young pop queen fare of the day " . musicOMH 's John Murray was not impressed with the song , calling it " good " but saying that it would " just make the bad moments feel so much worse " . Digital Spy critic Nick Levine provided a negative review , giving it a two out of five stars rating and calling it " tremulous " with a " vibrato @-@ fuelled conclusion " . He also compared " Oh Mother " to Madonna 's song " Oh Father " (1989) for the same sad melody as well as the same theme of child abuse .

= = Promotion = =

To promote " Oh Mother " and Back to Basics , Aguilera performed the song on a number of occasions . On July 20 , 2006 , Aguilera performed the track at the Koko jazz club in London , which was held in front of 1 @, @ 500 fans and invited guests . The 40 @-@ minute concert comprised songs from the then @-@ upcoming Back to Basics and other songs , including " Lady Marmalade " (2001) and " Beautiful " (2002) . MTV UK was positive toward the performance , wrote , " The gig reflected the jazz club mood of Christina 's new album , with a swinging brass @-@ heavy backing band and fit dancers bounding sexily around the stage " . Later , " Oh Mother " was also performed during her worldwide Back to Basics Tour (2006 ? 07) . As she performed the track , the clip of a man repeatedly punching a woman as blood dripped from her face appeared on the screen . The tour was preceded by newspaper headlines that flashed across a big screen , such as , " Christina goes from ' dirty ' to demure " and " Christina cleans up her act " . The performance is included on the video release Back to Basics : Live and Down Under (2008) . A live video of the performance of " Oh Mother " during the tour , taken from the accompanying DVD , was premiered in late 2007 . Nick Levine for Digital Spy called it a " cheap @-@ looking " video .

= = Track listings = =

CD single and Germany digital download

" Oh Mother " ? 3 : 44

" Oh Mother " (instrumental) ? 3 : 47

Switzerland digital download

" Oh Mother " ? 3 : 45

= = Credits and personnel = =

Contains a sample from the song " Vois Sur Ton Chemin " , written by Bruno Coluais and Christopher Barratler .

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Back to Basics , RCA Records .

= = Charts = =