

= Don 't Forget About Us =

" Don 't Forget About Us " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey . It was written by Carey , Jermaine Dupri , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox and Johntá Austin , and released as the fifth single on December 12 , 2005 , for the re @-@ issue of her tenth studio album , The Emancipation of Mimi ( 2005 ) . Co @-@ produced by the former three , the song is influenced by R & B and hip hop soul music genres , and lyrically chronicles the emotions felt by the protagonist after the loss of their relationship . Carey explained that the true meaning of the song is to be interpreted by the listener , therefore not disclosing its entire meaning publicly .

The song received generally positive reviews from music critics , with many heavily comparing it to Carey 's previous single " We Belong Together " . Several reviewers felt the song 's similarity marked Carey 's lack of creativity with it , while others embraced its radio @-@ friendly formula . " Don 't Forget About Us " became Carey 's seventeenth chart topping single on the US Billboard Hot 100 , tying the record for most number @-@ one singles by a solo artist set by Elvis Presley 36 years before . Internationally , the song topped the singles chart in Belgium and Finland , and reached the top @-@ ten in Hungary and the Netherlands .

Carey performed the song at the 33rd annual American Music Awards , and during the half @-@ time of the Thanksgiving game between the Detroit Lions and the Atlanta Falcons . Additionally , the song was included on the set @-@ lists of Carey 's The Adventures of Mimi and Angels Advocate Tours . The song 's music video chronicles the two time frames , Carey in the present , as well as the past memories she shared with her ex @-@ lover that continue to haunt her . At the 49th annual Grammy Awards , " Don 't Forget About Us " was nominated for two awards during the ceremony held on February 11 , 2007 .

= = Background and recording = =

After being branded Carey 's " comeback album " by music critics , and becoming the highest selling album of her career post @-@ Glitter ( 2001 ) , The Emancipation of Mimi inspired Carey to return to the studio , in hopes of writing and producing new material for her next studio album . During a writing session with Jermaine Dupri , Carey wrote " Don 't Forget About Us " as a possible single for her next album , reminiscent of the material on The Emancipation of Mimi . After hearing the unfinished version of the song , L.A. Reid , CEO at the time of Carey 's label Island Records , was very satisfied with the song . He convinced Carey to continue writing and producing new songs , and suggested on re @-@ releasing the album , which had already sold over four million units in the United States alone . Carey agreed to the idea of re @-@ releasing The Emancipation of Mimi , feeling eager to release the song , as well as other material to her fans , instead of making them wait for a brand new album . In an interview with MTV News , Carey discussed the decision of releasing the song immediately , as well as the re @-@ release of the album :

'Don 't Forget About Us ' was a song that Jermaine [ Dupri ] and I started writing and didn 't finish , and L.A. Reid heard it . He was excited about it and he was like , ' We should re @-@ release the album . I agreed because were trying to figure out what to do with the song because we loved it so much , and we didn 't want to wait until the next album to send it to radio .

After completing the song , Carey announced on October 13 , 2005 via her official website , that she would be re @-@ releasing The Emancipation of Mimi . Additionally , she explained how the album would contain four new songs , and would be promoted internationally by the new single , " Don 't Forget About Us " . The song was released throughout the globe as the fifth official single from The Emancipation of Mimi , and the first from the re @-@ release , tentatively titled , Ultra Platinum Edition .

= = Composition = =

" Don 't Forget About Us " is a mid @-@ tempo song lasting three minutes and fifty @-@ three seconds , while drawing influence from pop and R & B with downtempo beats music genres . Written

by Carey , Jermaine Dupri , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox and Jhntá Austin , and produced by the former three , the song drew comparisons to Carey 's " We Belong Together " . According to Michael Paoletta from Billboard , the song features a similar tempo , lyrical style , instrumentation and production as the latter song , and incorporates a reminiscent vocal performance from Carey . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Music Publishing , the song is set in common time with a moderate tempo of 72 beats per minute . The song is composed in the key of G minor , with Carey 's vocal range spanning from the low @-@ note of D3 to the high @-@ note of F6 . Lyrically , the song describes the potency of a " first love " , and features a protagonist pleading to her lover to " not forget about them " . Critics noted that the song 's lyrics both let go of a lover , as well as cherishing their memory . Carey sings " Just let it die / With no goodbyes " , indicating a relationship that has long decayed , and how she has let it drift away , while also adding " here 's only one me and you / And how we used to shine / No matter what you go through / We are one , that 's a fact / That you can 't deny " , indicating that while they are no longer together , she will continue to cherish the memory of them , and how strong their love was . According to Carey , she refrained from giving away too much of the song 's lyrical meaning , in order to allow fans to possibly interpret the song in their own way :

I try not to get too specific so that people can apply the lyrics to their own lives . When I was growing up and listening to the radio and I would hear a song that reminded me of a certain person or a situation or whatever , I would want to be able to completely connect it to that moment . And then if I heard someone explaining it and making it into something totally different , it ruined it for me . So I kind of like to keep it open for people 's imaginations . It evokes something different depending on who listens to it and at what time . " Don 't Forget About Us " could give you a good , happy memory , or you could be miserable , crying , listening to it over and over . All in all , I think it 's good to have music you can live vicariously through , and that 's what a lot of people have told me this record has been for them .

= = Critical reception = =

" Don 't Forget About Us " garnered generally positive reviews from music critics , though many compared it to , and felt it shared several similarities with Carey 's previous single , " We Belong Together " . Bill Lamb from About.com rated the song four out of five stars , who while noting the song 's careful formula , complimented Carey 's more mature and lower range vocals : " Mariah is clearly settling into a more mature style and lower range vocals than in her early career . " Additionally , Lamb commented that although not as " strong " as " We Belong Together " , the song was marginally better than another single from The Emancipation of Mimi , " Shake It Off " . Billboard 's Michael Paoletta drew heavy comparisons to " We Belong Together " , noting the song 's similar tempo , lyrical style , instrumentation and vocal stamp . He commented that although " Don 't Forget About Us " was " satisfying " on its own , it suggested that Carey had hit a creative wall . Andre Meyer from CBC News described the song as " stronger " than anything Carey released from 2001 ? 2005 , and wrote " [ It ] cops the jittery R & B vibe that made Destiny ? s Child so potent . " Reviewers from The New Yorker and Music Week were both taken aback by the single , calling it " beautiful " and " gentle " , respectively . Todd Martens from the Los Angeles Times compared it heavily to Carey 's 2008 single " Bye Bye " , describing their piano melody as " a close match " . In 2007 , " Don 't Forget About Us " was nominated for two Grammy Awards , in the " Best Female R & B Vocal Performance " and " Best R & B Song " categories , although not winning either .

= = Chart performance = =

" Don 't Forget About Us " was released as the fourth international single from The Emancipation of Mimi ( 2005 ) , and the first from its re @-@ release , the Ultra Platinum Edition . The song reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 in its eleventh week , spending two consecutive weeks at the position . " Don 't Forget About Us " became Carey 's 17th chart @-@ topping single in the United States , tying the record set by Elvis Presley for most number @-@ one singles by a solo artist (

Carey has since surpassed this record with " Touch My Body " in 2008 ) . Currently , the only act to hold more US number @-@ one singles than Carey are The Beatles , who gained twenty throughout their career . " Don 't Forget About Us " stayed in the top forty for eighteen weeks and reached number one on other Billboard component charts , including the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . The song was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , denoting shipments of over 500 @,@ 000 units .

Outside the United States , the song achieved moderate international charting . In Australia , " Don 't Forget About Us " debuted at its peak position of number twelve on the singles chart , during the week of December 18 , 2005 . In its second week , the song stalled at number twelve , before beginning its eleven @-@ week decent on the chart . On both the Finnish and Italian singles charts , " Don 't Forget About Us " charted for only one week , placing at number one and eleven , respectively . In both the Wallonian and Flemish territories in Belgium , the song peaked at numbers two and one , although plummeting outside the top @-@ fifty the following week . On the Dutch Top 40 chart , " Don 't Forget About Us " debuted at number ninety @-@ two during the week dated February 2 , 2006 . Spending one week at its peak position of number four , the song dropped to thirty @-@ two the following week . In New Zealand , it peaked at number twelve , and spent a total of four weeks fluctuating in the singles chart . Similarly on February 26 , 2006 , the song debuted and peaked at number nineteen on the Swiss Singles Chart , and spent a total of five weeks on the chart . On the UK Singles Chart week dated December 12 , 2005 , " Don 't Forget About Us " began its seven @-@ week run at its peak of number eleven .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background = = =

Filmed in Los Angeles , the music video reunited Carey with Paul Hunter , director of the video for her 1997 single , " Honey " . Since its release , Carey claimed it to be one of her favorite videos , due to its complex scenery and fun nature . She explained that she had wanted to work with Hunter again for some time , and was happy to be able to film another music video alongside him . In an interview with MTV News , Carey described her feelings regarding the video , as well as sentiments towards the video 's director , Hunter : " But I was so happy to work with him again ' cause ever since ' Honey ' I 've been trying to relive the splendor of that moment . It 's more of just a plain beauty piece with sentimental overtones , but it was great to work with Paul again . " Following a tale of love and separation , the video alternates between two different time frames . The first of these involves a tearful Carey in the present , while the second invokes memories of a relationship with a former lover ( played by Dolce & Gabbana model Christian Monzon ) . When questioned regarding a possible relationship with Monzon , Carey said " Erm , how do we play this ? OK , he ? s a very nice guy , he ? s been in a fabulous Dolce & Gabbana advert - did you see it ? And we ? ve had some nice conversations and , um , a nice time . OK , I ? ll say he definitely did a very good job in the video . " Additionally , Carey and Hunter placed several secrets within the video 's scenery , that would be intended for the " die @-@ hard fans " . Following the video 's completion , it premiered on MTV and several other music video channels on November 1 , 2005 . Aside from the video 's script , Carey channeled Marilyn Monroe , one of her icons growing up . During a pool scene , Carey re @-@ enacts a part from Monroe 's film Something 's Got to Give ( 1962 ) . In an interview with MTV News , Carey spoke of the re @-@ enactment :

That shot was totally and completely inspired by ' Something 's Got to Give , ' Marilyn Monroe 's last movie that never got finished . It 's an homage to her , because I 've never seen anyone re @-@ create it . So many people have emulated so many of Marilyn 's classic moments , but it 's just that I 'm a big fan of hers , and I thought it was really pretty at night with the pool . No one could ever be as fabulous as Marilyn was , but it 's in honor and homage to her .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The music video chronicles two alternative time frames , with the first of Carey in the present , tearful and remorseful their separation , while the other of several different past memories in which she shared with her lover . The video begins with Carey wearing a long brown blouse , laying on a sofa in an elegantly furnished home . As the song begins , she stands up and walks around the living room , while remembering and lamenting her failed relationship . As the first memory of Carey and her lover together on a soccer field is shown , she is once again shown in the present , however clothed in a large white sweater while tears trickle down her cheek . As the memory continues of that night on the soccer field , they are seen together , caressing each other and holding each other in a tight embrace . Carey , in the present , makes her way into a heated pool , where she lays her leg on the deck , re @-@ enacting a famed scene from Marilyn Monroe 's unreleased film , *Something's Got to Give* ( 1962 ) . The next memory is of the pair together in the same pool , however in happier times . During the song 's bridge , the scenes alternate from Carey at her home in the present , to the duo holding each other intimately in a car . The video ends with Carey alone in the car , while wearing her lover 's jacket .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Don 't Forget About Us " music video peaked at # 1 on Billboard 's Hot Videoclip Tracks chart .

= = Remixes = =

The main remix of " Don 't Forget About Us " was produced by Jermaine Dupri and is known as the Mr. Dupri mix . It features guest appearances from rappers Juelz Santana , Krayzie Bone and Layzie Bone . The Mr. Dupri mix was added to iTunes Music Store for download , while several dance remixes ( by Ralphie Rosario & Craig J. , Quentin Harris and Tony Moran & Warren Rigg ) were produced and made available for sale at other download retailers . In January 2007 , a new remix titled the Desert Storm remix , produced by DJ Clue ( who also remixed " We Belong Together " and " Shake It Off " ) featuring Styles P and Fabolous , was released to U.S. radio . This remix appeared on DJ Clue 's album *Fidel Cashflow 2006* . A video was also helmed for the Desert Storm mix and can be found on Clue 's official MySpace page ; it has shots of Carey , Styles P , DJ Clue and Fabolous in the studio and enjoying themselves .

= = Live performances = =

Carey performed " Don 't Forget About Us " on several televised appearances , as well on all of her tours following its release . On November 15 , 2005 , the Chicago Tribune announced that Carey would perform during the half @-@ time on the Thanksgiving game between the Detroit Lions and the Atlanta Falcons . Airing on the 24th , Carey performed " Shake It Off " , as well as her newly released single from the album 's re @-@ release , " Don 't Forget About Us " . On November 22 , 2005 , Carey opened the 33rd annual American Music Awards with a performance of " Don 't Forget About Us " , held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles . Appearing on stage in a " sequined , silver , spaghetti @-@ strap gown slit to the waist " , Carey completed the song before accepting the first award of the evening . Dave West from Digital Spy described it as a " blistering performance " , and claimed Carey " wowed " the crowd with her live rendition of the song . Two months later , she celebrated the new year on television , placing as the featured performer at the Times Square Ball drop on New Year 's Eve in New York . The special , titled *Dick Clark 's New Year 's Rockin ' Eve* with Ryan Seacrest , aired on ABC at 10 pm on December 31 , and featured Carey on stage wearing a short sparkling dress , and performing a selection of the album 's singles .

On Carey 's 2006 *The Adventures of Mimi* Tour stop at Madison Square Garden , she sang " Don 't Forget About Us " while wearing a sparkling bikini top and black leggings . She introduced the song as a " thank you " to fans for " making this my 17th number one single " . Four years later during Carey 's *Angels Advocate* Tour in 2010 , she had not performed the song on the first few runs of the

tour . At the show in Phoenix , she told the crowd that she had forgotten the song until that night : " I had forgotten about this song the whole tour and I don 't know why . Funny I should forget it , considering the title . " Dressed in a " form @-@ fitting short dress with a flared , tutu @-@ like bottom " for the first portion of the night , Carey completed the song as the fourth on the set @-@ list .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from The Emancipation of Mimi liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? songwriter , producer , vocalist

Jermaine Dupri ? songwriter , producer

Bryan @-@ Michael Cox ? songwriter , producer

Johntá Austin ? songwriter

Brian Garten ? recording

= = Charts and certifications = =