

= Make It Happen (Mariah Carey song) =

" Make It Happen " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey . Written and produced by Carey and C + C Music Factory 's David Cole and Robert Clivillés , it was released on April 4 , 1992 , by Columbia Records as the third single from her second studio album , Emotions (1991) . The pop- , R & B- , and dance @-@ influenced track incorporates traces of gospel in its bridge and crescendo . Described by author Chris Nickson as Carey 's most personal and inspirational song (up until " Hero ") , it tells of her personal struggles prior to her rise to fame , and how her faith in God helped sustain her .

The song was praised by music critics , many of whom applauded Carey 's incorporation of several musical genres , as well as the song 's personalized lyrical content . Aside from its critical acceptance , " Make It Happen " was successful in the United States , but charted weakly internationally compared to her previous singles . It peaked at number 5 on the Billboard Hot 100 and finished at number 42 on Billboard 's Year @-@ End Chart . The song reached number 7 in Canada and the top 40 in the United Kingdom and Australia , but did not reach the top 50 in the Netherlands and Germany .

The song 's music video was filmed in a cathedral @-@ like church . A benefit event inside , titled " Save Our Church " , features Carey as the main performer , leading a choir in song as she sings to the constant cheering and applause of the crowd . Aside from the video 's message of prayer and religion , the video features men and women of different backgrounds . Carey included the song on the set lists of all of her concert tours throughout her career , and the track was included on her compilation albums Greatest Hits (2001) , Playlist : The Very Best of Mariah Carey (2010) , and The Essential Mariah Carey (2012) .

= = Background = =

As a child , Carey lived with her mother Patricia in a small apartment on Long Island , New York . They were poor and had to move several times as Patricia found different jobs . As a result , Carey frequently transferred into different schools , and at the age of seventeen , she moved into a small Manhattan studio with other young women to pursue a career in music . She had already begun working on her demo tape with Ben Margulies , a classmate at her school in Huntington , Long Island . During this period , she lived a lifestyle of poverty , often sharing a box of spaghetti with her five roommates and wearing torn shoes . She held several jobs , while juggling school , writing , and recording music .

After graduating from high school , Carey invested more time into her music while working sporadically at different jobs . She began working for Puerto Rican singer Brenda K. Starr as a background singer , hoping to find new opportunities and meet important record executives along the way . At a gala for Sony executives , Starr gave a copy of Carey 's demo tape to Tommy Mottola , CEO of Columbia Records . Mottola was sufficiently impressed with the tape to sign Carey to the label . Two years later in 1991 , Carey was well under way writing and recording material for her second studio album , Emotions (1991) . During the months spent conceptualizing the album , Carey decided to write a song that would illustrate her lifestyle prior to her success . She felt listeners ' hearing her rags @-@ to @-@ riches story might inspire them to pursue their dreams . As a result , Carey wrote what was described by author Chris Nickson as her " most inspirational song " (up until " Hero ") , titled " Make It Happen " .

= = Composition = =

Following the success of her self @-@ titled debut album , Carey desired to pen her personal struggles prior to her signing with Columbia . She hoped to give her fans an idea of what her life two years prior and to instill relief or inspiration in them . In the song , Carey sings " Not more than three short years ago / I was abandoned and alone / Without a penny to my name / So very young and so afraid / No proper shoes upon my feet / Sometimes I couldn 't even eat / I often cried myself to sleep

. " Later in the song , Carey sings " But still I had to keep on going / I struggled and I prayed / And finally found my way , " retelling how her faith helped guide her until her career blossomed and expressing to listeners the importance of finding and connecting with God . Author Chris Nickson wrote the following regarding the song , its lyrics and composition :

That wasn 't just a faith in herself and her talent , but also the ability to let herself go , to pray to God , and to trust in what would happen . These were , by far , her most inspiring words to date , letting others know that no matter what they were doing , no matter how difficult things were , with help they would win through . Musically , the piece had a restrained dance beat , very Mowtownish , that owed a little more to gospel , with a chorus - sung by Mariah , Trey and Patrique - that rose gloriously from the verse to repeat and drive and its very positive message home .

" Make It Happen " is a dance track that draws influence from pop , R & B , gospel , and dance @-@ pop genres ; its tempo is 108 beats per minute . The song was written and produced by Carey and C + C Music Factory 's David Cole and Robert Clivillés , and it was released as the third and final single from her second studio album , Emotions . It employs several musical instruments , including the piano , guitar , bass , organ , and tambourine . Additionally , Carey incorporated a church choir into the track 's bridge , which , according to Nickson , helped the song become even more of an anthem . The song is set in common time and is composed in the key of D major . Carey 's vocal range spans from the low @-@ note of C3 to the high @-@ note of G5 , while the song 's chorus follows a chord progression of Gsus2 ? G ? G / F ? ? Em7 ? G / D ? C ? G / B ? Am7 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Make It Happen " has received acclaim from music critics , many of whom complimented its uplifting lyrical content . Allmusic critic Stephen Thomas Erlewine named the song one of his top two picks from Emotions , while Jon Pareles from The New York Times called it an " uplifting pop @-@ gospel homily " . Steve Morse of The Boston Globe wrote : " [Its] positive message also soars through a gospel rearrangement . After hearing it , we understand why [Carey named] gospel star Shirley Caesar ... such a strong influence " . In a different review of the album , Morse called " Make It Happen " " glorious " and described it as " a clear slice of spiritual autobiography " . In a review for Carey 's Greatest Hits in December 2001 , Devon Powers from PopMatters called the song 's lyrics " power through prayer " and described some of its vocals as having " churchy overtones " . Rob Tannenbaum from Rolling Stone described the track as " a teary tale of how she kept her religious faith despite hard times " , while complimenting its " overheated [vocal] growling " . Chicago Tribune editor Jan DeKnock called it " upbeat " and " inspirational " , while Mellisa A. Jacque from the St. Petersburg Times wrote " Carey evokes a deep @-@ felt strength and love for life , and the music has a jazzy feel in its sparsity " . Chicago Sun @-@ Times critic Michael Corcoran called it a " so @-@ so composition " and described it as a " zombie dance @-@ pop " production , though he said the song was salvaged by Carey 's " stunning vocals " .

= = = Copyright lawsuit = = =

Carey , Cole , Clivillés and Sony Music Entertainment were sued in June 1994 by songwriter Kevin McCord , who accused the party of incorporating significant musical elements from his 1979 song , " I Want to Thank You " , into " Make It Happen " . McCord said , " If you listen to the chords at the beginning of the song , the similarity is obvious . It 's the exact same chords in a different key " ; he also noted lyrical similarities . Carey 's side initially claimed McCord had no standing to sue , but McCord 's attorney showed the song 's copyright owners had transferred their legal interest in " I Want to Thank You " to McCord " in an effort to adjudicate their claims " . Though a Carey spokesperson maintained the copyright infringement allegations were false , McCord said he had turned down settlement offers from Carey 's camp . McCord eventually accepted a settlement offer

of about US \$ 500 @, @ 000 .

= = Chart performance = =

Carey 's debut album sold over 15 million copies globally and produced four chart @-@ topping singles on the Billboard Hot 100 . Although " Emotions " became Carey 's fifth chart @-@ topping single in the US , sales for the album , Emotions , stalled . As sales of Emotions continued to plummet , Columbia released " Make It Happen " as the third worldwide single from the album . Following a strong promotional boost for the song , it only peaked at number 5 on the Hot 100 , becoming Carey 's lowest charting US single to that point . It remained in the top 40 for 16 weeks and was ranked at number 42 on Billboard 's 1992 Year @-@ End Chart . On the February 22 , 1992 , issue of RPM , " Make It Happen " debuted at number 97 on the Canadian singles chart . On May 16 , the song reached its peak position of number 7 , staying in the singles chart for 19 weeks .

The song 's charting throughout Australia and Europe was weak in comparison to Carey 's previous singles . On the May 10 , 1992 , Australian Singles Chart , " Make It Happen " debuted at number 45 . The following week , it rose to its peak of number 35 , and spent five weeks within the chart . Similarly , in the Netherlands , the song attained a peak of 59 and spent only five weeks in the Dutch Top 100 . The song entered the UK Singles Chart at number 20 on the week ending April 18 , 1992 . The following week , the song rose three spots to its peak position and charted for five weeks . " Make It Happen " was awarded a BMI Pop Award in 1992 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Make It Happen " was directed by Marcus Nispel and features Carey performing at a closing church . A benefit being depicted within , titled " Save Our Church " , involves several other churchgoers who have congregated there to raise money through song . As the video begins , inspectors enter the building , searching the premises prior to its closing . Soon after , however , Carey makes her way to the stage with a few background singers and is soon joined inside the edifice by swarming groups of religious individuals . As she begins playing the song , an additional choir forms on the small stage with several small children on the upper tiers . Several musicians enter the room as the video progresses .

Towards the video 's climax , the crowd cheers Carey and begin clapping and chanting praises . Nispel said he added additional raw sounds , such as cheers , praises , and shouts , into the video in order make it feel like a " real , live experience " . In his biography of Carey , Nickson noted the inclusion of men , women , and children of different races and ages : " The video tried to incorporate and further the song 's image of religious belief and racial equality . The audience , as they filled into the dusty and deserted building , was made up of the widest cross section possible : old and young (with a strong emphasis on the children) , abled and disabled , all races and color . "

= = Live performances = =

Carey has performed " Make It Happen " on live television , during charity appearances , and on numerous concert tours . Her first live performance of the song was an acoustic version on the television show MTV Unplugged in 1992 , which was later released on the EP entitled MTV Unplugged (1992) . Carey 's performance was recorded on March 16 , 1992 , at Kaufman Astoria Studios in Queens , New York . The show featured several musicians , back @-@ up vocalists , and a crew of ten just for the filming and recording . The show was directed by Larry Jordan , who had previously worked with Carey on the music video set for " Someday " . Nickson felt the song was superior to the studio version , due to its stripped performance and vocals :

The roughness of this version succeeded in a way the recorded version on ' Emotions ' could never manage . In the sterile atmosphere of a studio , where perfection , technology , and overdubbing were the rules , spontaneity had no place . On the stage , it was valued , and this performance had it . Everyone pushed everyone just a little further , to create something wonderful , and judging by the

response , the audience realized it , as did Mariah when the song was finished . It was a rare moment , one that true performers strive for and don 't find often enough to satisfy themselves .

Carey performed " Make It Happen " at an intimate concert at Proctor Theatre in New York on July 15 , 1993 . The concert was released as the home video Here Is Mariah Carey (1993) . At the VH1 Divas taping in 1998 , Carey was the opening performer of the event , and after " My All " , her single at the time , she followed with " Make It Happen " . As during the usual live performances of the song , a gospel choir accompanied her . On July 2 , 2005 , a benefit concert was held in Hyde Park , London , titled Live 8 . The televised event was watched by over 9 @. @ 6 million Britons and attended by over 200 @, @ 000 . Carey performed a three song set list , opening with " Make It Happen " followed by " Hero " and " We Belong Together " , featuring a live choir of African children during the first two songs . On April 12 , 2005 , Carey performed the song as part of a three @- @ song concert for Good Morning America , drawing the biggest crowd in Times Square since December 2004 . Following a live rendition of " It 's Like That " with Jermaine Dupri , Carey was joined on stage by several male and female vocalists , all wearing white gowns and serving as a gospel choir . Similarly , on October 2 , 2009 , Carey played a four @- @ song set list at Rockefeller Center for a taping of The Today Show . " Make It Happen " was performed with a church choir and children 's quartet .

Aside from the televised appearances and charity events , " Make It Happen " was featured on the set lists of several of Carey 's world tours . The song was routinely performed on the Music Box Tour and the Daydream World Tour in 1993 and early @- @ mid 1996 , respectively . During her first show at Japan 's Tokyo Dome on March 7 , 1996 , Carey performed the song alongside a twenty @- @ five person choir and several additional musicians and background vocalists . " Make It Happen " was featured on Carey 's Butterfly World Tour in early 1998 , during which she was joined on stage by several choir members and musicians . Similarly , two years later , the song was placed as the ninth song on the set list during select dates of her Rainbow World Tour . Similar set @- @ ups were featured for her following Charmbracelet World Tour and The Adventures of Mimi Tour , where church choirs were brought out for the song , in addition to additional background vocalists and musicians . In the Angels Advocate Tour , the song served as a dancer 's interlude ; Carey entered during the bridge of the song . On September 26 , 2010 , during the song 's performance in a show in Singapore for that tour , Carey slipped on stage , and the small slip was blamed on Carey 's US \$ 10 @, @ 000 heels . She asked her assistant to remove them and completed the concert barefoot .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Skyline Studios , Electric Lady Studios and Axis Studios , NYC .

Mixed at Axis Studios , NYC .

Personnel

Lyrics ? Mariah Carey

Music ? Mariah Carey , David Cole , Robert Clivillés

Production ? Mariah Carey , David Cole , Robert Clivillés

Programming ? Alan Friedman (for YIPE !)

Mixing ? Bob Rosa

Engineers ? Acar S. Key , John Mathias

Keyboards ? David Cole

Guitar ? Paul Pesco

Drum programming ? David Cole , Robert Clivillés

Vocal arrangement ? Mariah Carey , David Cole

Background vocals ? Mariah Carey , Trey Lorenz , Patrique McMillan

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Emotions .

= = Charts = =