

= Always Be My Baby =

" Always Be My Baby " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey , taken from her fifth studio album , Daydream (1995) . It was released by Columbia Records on March 9 , 1996 as the third U.S. single and fourth overall . The song was written by Carey , Jermaine Dupri and Manuel Seal , who also produced the song . A mid @-@ tempo song , its lyrics describe the feeling of attachment and unity Carey feels towards her estranged lover , even though they are no longer together . She says he will always be a part of her and will " always be her baby " even after they move on .

Music critics praised " Always Be My Baby " . The song became Carey 's 11th chart topper on the Billboard Hot 100 , tying her with Madonna and Whitney Houston for most number one singles for a female artist . It spent two weeks atop the chart and became Carey 's eighth chart @-@ topper on the Canadian Singles Chart . In other regions , the song performed moderately , peaking at number three in the United Kingdom , number five in New Zealand , number 17 in Australia and in the top 20 in most music markets where it charted .

The song 's music video features scenes of Carey frolicking by a campsite , as well as swinging on a large swing over a lake . Additional inter @-@ cuts include scenes of two children , one male and female , sneaking out at night and spending time together by a campfire similar to Carey 's location . Most scenes from the video were filmed at The Fresh Air Fund 's Camp Mariah , named after Mariah Carey for her generous support and dedication to Fresh Air Fund children . The song was performed live during her Daydream World Tour (1996) and many of her future tours and concerts . " Always Be My Baby " was also featured in Carey 's compilation albums : Number 1 's (1998) , Greatest Hits (2001) , The Ballads (2008) and Number 1 to Infinity (2015) .

= = Background and recording = =

While Carey was writing and recording Daydream in early 1995 , she began searching for different producers , in order to give her work a new sound . Jermaine Dupri , who had risen to fame during that period , began working with Carey on material for her album . After recording the song in December 1994 , Carey recalled that she chose to work with Dupri because he had a " very distinct vibe . " Additionally , Carey commissioned the assistance of hip @-@ hop and contemporary R & B producer , Manuel Seal . As Seal played different keys on the piano , Carey led him with the melody she was " hearing inside her head " and began humming the phrase " always be my baby . " In an interview with Fred Bronson , Carey discussed the process it took to write and produce the song :

Jermaine , Manuel and I sat down and Jermaine programmed the drums . I told him the feel I wanted and Manuel put his hands on the keyboards and I started singing the melody . We went back and forth with the bridge and the B @-@ section . I had the outline of the lyrics and started singing ' Always be my baby ' off the top of my head .

Like producers before him , Dupri commended Carey 's vocal abilities , " she can pretty much do anything with her voice . She 's really strong vocally . " Another musical craft the song featured was the inclusion of heavy background vocals of her lower registers , with Carey then belting and singing the higher notes over the her background vocals and melody , creating a " double voice effect . " When discussing the technique used in the background vocals , Carey said :

The background vocals are an important part of the picture for me . That 's why I like to do them myself a lot of the time , or initially I 'll lay down the tracks . I 'll double my voice or do a couple of tracks of my own voice . It 's easy for me to match my voice . And then if I 'm going to use other background singers , I 'll let them go on top of mine .

= = Composition = =

" Always Be My Baby " is a ballad , which incorporates pop and contemporary R & B genres . It has a moderate tempo of 76 beats per minute . The song features a " double voice " which is an effect Carey created in the studio , where her lower vocal notes are used as backup , and her higher chest

notes are used as the song 's main focal point . The song 's instrumentation is written in the key of E major and increases by one semitone to F major . It is set in signature common time . Carey 's vocals span from the note of B2 to F5 .

= = Critical analysis = =

The song earned positive reviews from music critics . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly complimented the song 's " relaxed swing " and felt its instrumentation helped make it a standout from the album . Stephen Holden , editor of The New York Times , complimented " Always Be My Baby , " calling it one of " the best on the album . " At the 38th Grammy Awards the song received a nomination for Best Female R & B Vocal Performance .

= = Chart performance = =

" Always Be My Baby " was released by Columbia Records on March 9 , 1996 in Europe , and debuted at number two on the Billboard Hot 100 on the issue dated April 6 , 1996 , behind Celine Dion 's " Because You Loved Me , " which had replaced Carey 's previous single , " One Sweet Day " , at number one . " Always Be My Baby " stayed at number two for four weeks , and topped the Hot 100 on May 4 , 1996 , where it spent two weeks before returning to the number two position for an additional five weeks . At the end of its US chart run , the song spent a total of nine weeks at number two , the fourth longest stay in the chart 's history . The song became Carey 's 11th chart topper in the United States , tying her with pop singers Whitney Houston and Madonna as the female solo artist with the most number one singles , a record she passed soon after . After spending two weeks atop the Hot 100 , the three singles from Daydream had given Carey a combined 26 weeks (six months) atop the chart , something never duplicated by another artist until Usher and The Black Eyed Peas in the mid to late 2000s . In Canada , the song became Carey 's eighth chart topper , after it ascended to the number one position on the Canadian RPM Singles Chart during the week of May 20 , 1996 .

While it charted well outside the US , the song didn 't manage to chart as high as her previous two singles " Fantasy " and " One Sweet Day . " In Australia , the song entered the Australian Singles Chart at number 28 during the week of March 13 , 1996 . The song spent 16 weeks fluctuating in the chart before spending its last week at number 47 on June 30 . " Always Be My Baby " was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , denoting shipments of over 35 @,@ 000 units . The song debuted and peaked at number five in New Zealand , spending three consecutive weeks at the position . After 16 weeks , the song fell off the singles chart and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) . In the United Kingdom , the song entered the UK Singles Chart at number three , where it peaked . In its second week , the song fell to number four , staying on the chart for a total of ten weeks . As of 2008 , sales in the UK are estimated at 220 @,@ 000 . In Ireland , the song peaked at number ten on the Irish Singles Chart , spending nine weeks in the chart . In the Netherlands , " Always Be My Baby " entered the singles chart at number 43 during the week on April 20 , 1996 . The song peaked at number 27 , spending one week at the position and five weeks in the chart overall . " Always Be My Baby " entered the singles chart in Sweden at number 58 during the week of May 3 , 1996 . After peaking at number 38 and spending a total of five weeks in the chart , the song fell off the Swedish Singles Chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Always Be My Baby " was the second video Carey 's directed . In it , she is the seemingly happy narrator of a tale of young love , as a young boy and a girl elope in the middle of the night . The video was filmed on location at Carey 's sponsored charity , the Fresh Air Fund upstate New York camp . The video begins with scenes of Carey on a lakeside tire @-@ swing , smiling and beginning to retell a story of young love . As she sits upon the swing , scenes of two

children sneaking out of their bungalow in the middle of the night are shown . They frolic together beside a fireplace , soon coming up to the lakeside swing Carey had been on before . They soon go swimming wearing their clothes , much like Carey did in her video for " Dreamlover " though she does not jump into the water herself this time . As they jump into the water , Carey is then seen by the campfire they passed on their journey to the lake , smiling with friends and enjoying herself by the fire . Eventually the boy and girl are seen kissing underwater . The video concludes with scenes of the young boy and girl walking together back to their bungalow , walking hand @-@ in @-@ hand . Having possibly witnessed the entire event , Carey is seen once again by the large swing , chuckling and staring into the night 's sky .

An alternate video was shot for the song 's remix . It too was directed by Carey , and was shot in black and white . The shot of Carey in a beret that would become the cover for this single is a scene from the video . The video features cameo appearances by Da Brat and Xscape . It begins with Carey and the duo spending time recording the song in Carey 's in @-@ home studio . In the video , Carey is wearing a large white , straw hat and features long golden hair . As the trio finishes the song , scenes of Carey by her pool are shown , with cameos made by her dog , Jack . Brat and Xscape are seen poolside with Carey , playing cards and drinking beer , as the trio further bond and laugh . Towards the end of the video , scenes of the trio in the studio are shown , and intermingled with snippets of Carey walking inside her mansion , shared with then husband Tommy Mottola . The video ends with Carey and Brat bonding by the studio and pool .

= = Live performances and cover versions = =

Carey performed the song throughout the entire run of her Daydream World Tour (1996) , Rainbow World Tour (2000) , The Adventures of Mimi (2006) , and The Elusive Chanteuse Show (2014) and during select shows on her Charmbracelet World Tour (2002 ? 03) , and Angels Advocate Tour (2009 ? 10) . During the Japanese shows in 1996 , Carey donned a white suit and jacket , and featured three female back @-@ up singers . Red spotlights were used throughout the performance , as well as some light dance routines . During her Rainbow World Tour , Carey wore a two piece outfit , a pair of pants and top , with golden heels . Three back @-@ up singers were provided , one male and two female , while Carey interacted with the front row fans . On her Adventures of Mimi Tour in 2006 , Carey donned a pair of black leggings , worn with a bikini @-@ like top . Wearing Christian Louboutin pumps , Carey sang on the arena 's secondary stage , where she sang three of the set @-@ list 's titles . On her Elusive Chanteuse Show in 2014 , Carey often used the song as her encore , entering the stage in a tight @-@ fitted blue gown and black gloves . Carey included the song in her 2015 Las Vegas residency , Mariah Carey Number 1 's , where she walked through the audience for the second verse and chorus .

On the seventh season of American Idol , David Cook performed a rock arrangement of the song during the April 15 , 2008 episode , in which Carey mentored the contestants on her songs . His version received high praise from all three judges , and even Carey herself . Cook 's studio recording of the song was released on the iTunes Store during the show 's run as " Always Be My Baby (American Idol Studio Version) - Single " and was among the season 's best @-@ selling singles .

In 2016 British DJ Sigala released the single Say You Do , which incorporates parts of the song into its chorus .

= = Official versions and remixes = =

Carey recorded three different sets of vocals for " Always Be My Baby . "

The main remix of the song was also produced by Jermaine Dupri . Known as the " Mr. Dupri Mix , " it features re @-@ sung vocals with all of the lyrics and most of the melodic structure retained while using a sample of the song " Tell Me If You Still Care " by The SOS Band . It includes a rap from Da Brat and background vocals from Xscape .

Carey recorded yet another set of vocals for dance remixes produced by David Morales that were

only released on maxi @-@ single in the UK . Named the " Always Club Mix " (along with its edit , the " Def Classic Radio Mix ") , this club remix of the song has a totally new melodic structure , with the lyrics altered to fit the new melody and song structure . DJ Satoshi Tomiie also created a dance dub that used these new vocals ; calling it the " ST Dub , " it appeared on the maxi @-@ single that included the Morales mixes .

The original album vocals were also remixed into a reggae version that included Jamaican @-@ American reggae rap artist Li 'l Vicious . Called the " Reggae Soul Mix , " this remix includes a rap breakdown by Vicious , with him shouting over Carey 's vocals throughout the track .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Daydream liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? co @-@ production , arrangement , songwriting , vocals , background vocals

Jermaine Dupri ? co @-@ production , songwriting

Manuel Seal Jr . ? co @-@ production , songwriting

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Chart successions = =