

= Underneath the Stars (song) =

" Underneath the Stars " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey . The romance song was written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff , for her fifth studio album , Daydream (1995) . It was released on April 5 , 1996 through Columbia Records , as the sixth and final single from the album , and as a B @-@ side to " Forever " in Australia . The R & B @-@ influenced song , which has been considered by Carey as one of her personal favorites , features a soft melody and retro @-@ style melody , and had music critics drawing comparisons to earlier works from one of her vocal inspirations , Minnie Riperton .

" Underneath the Stars " received a limited number of pressings in the United States , and failed to chart on the US Billboard Hot 100 . However , the song did manage to chart at number sixty @-@ nine on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs airplay component chart . Critically , it was considered one of the best songs on Daydream by music reviewers . A music video was shot for " Underneath the Stars " in Europe , but the video remains unreleased . The song was performed throughout the Daydream World Tour and the performance at the Tokyo Dome was later included on a rare DVD titled " Mariah Carey Live In Japan . "

= = Background = =

Throughout 1993 , Carey began conceptualizing Music Box (1993) , which became the highest selling album of Carey 's career . For her past two albums , Carey 's creative choices were heavily controlled by her label Columbia Records , as well as her husband and CEO of the company , Tommy Mottola . Carey 's previous effort , Emotions (1991) , drew influence from 1950s , 60s , and 70s balladry , gospel , R & B and soul music , and failed to achieve the same success matched by her debut album . Following its tepid commercial performance , Columbia aimed for Music Box to be a vehicle for very commercial singles that could garner strong radio airplay . The album was formed as a pop record , and more mainstream than anything on Emotions . Music Box went on to sell over 32 million copies worldwide , and earned its place among the best @-@ selling albums of all time . Due to the album 's success , Columbia allowed Carey more control over the music she recorded for Daydream (1995) .

Before Carey knew or began searching for the direction she wanted the album to follow , Carey already had the idea and melody for " Underneath the Stars , " and felt that it would fit into the album no matter what the eventual sound would be . As such , it became the first song Carey wrote and recorded for the album , and served as a sort of tribute to the music which she grew up listening to , as well as one of her main vocal inspirations , Minnie Riperton . " Underneath the Stars " was the first song Carey recorded for her fifth studio album , Daydream (1995) . The song was eventually chosen as the sixth and final single from the album , and was released on April 5 , 1996 through Columbia Records . In Australia , the song was released as a b @-@ side to Carey 's previous single , " Forever " (1996) .

= = Controversy = =

Throughout 1998 , Carey was compiling songs for her first compilation album , # 1 's . The album , alongside " Underneath the Stars " and " Breakdown " , led to a publicized conflict with Columbia Records . Carey wanted to include the two songs on the album , and felt that a greatest hits record should reflect on her most personal and favorite songs , not her most commercial . Sony on the other hand , wanted to release an album that featured her U.S. number one singles , void of any new material . To accompany her thirteen number ones , Carey recorded four new songs . She felt that not including any new material would result in cheating her fans . While compromised , Carey often expressed distaste towards the album 's song selection , expressing her disappointment in the omission of her " favorite songs . "

For this reason , Sony titled the album # 1 's , as Carey felt the need to express the album 's true content , a collection of her number one hits . In December 2001 , Columbia released the album

Greatest Hits , which featured Carey 's number one singles alongside songs she said " needed to be really heard , " such as " Underneath the Stars " and " Forever . " In an interview with MTV , Carey made the following statement regarding the album . " There 's a lot of songs that I 'm happy are gonna see the light of day . I think people are going to like this Greatest Hits because there are songs on it that were not necessarily singles . "

= = Composition = =

" Underneath the Stars " features a " ' 70s soul vibe , " courtesy of the use of a Rhodes piano , as well as synthetic record scratches , in order to give the song an authentic aged sound . The song also incorporates Carey 's usage of double voice , in which she sings the verses in a lower octave , and then sings the crescendo and climax in a higher register over it . Carey felt the additions were simple steps taken to further display a contemporary R & B groove , and pay homage to the style of Minnie Riperton , who was one of Carey 's biggest vocal influences growing up . According to author Chris Nickson , the song has a soft sound , and " a lot of texture " and bass , showing a more creative side to Carey . While reviewing Daydream , Stephen Holden from The New York Times described the song 's double voice , as well as its lyrical content : " ' Underneath the Stars , ' in which all the voices are Ms. Carey 's , achieves the same dissolving synergy between a lyric and entwining vocal lines as she sings : " Beautifully and bittersweetly / You were fading into me . "

= = Reception = =

While not commercially released , " Underneath the Stars " has been lauded with a widespread acclaim , becoming one of the album 's best @-@ received tracks , with music critics complimenting its instrumentation and vocals . Rolling Stone stated that , " Afanasieff cowrote his one of strongest tunes yet , the sweet , bouncy ' Underneath the Stars . ' " Chris Nickson , author of Mariah Carey Revisited : Her Story (1998) , said the song was as " strong as any slow jam released in the nineties , and one that would find a lot of flavor late at night with dancers . " Chris Dickinson from St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch called the song one of Carey 's best compositions , and wrote " it easily evokes a languid dreamy sensuality with its throbbing bass @-@ line and synthetic record scratches . " Writer and journalist Christopher John Farley from Time described " Underneath the Stars " as " cool and blissfully nostalgic , " while Cheo H. Coker called it " dynamic but subtle . " The song received a limited number of pressings in the United States , where it charted weakly on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , peaking at number sixty @-@ nine .

= = Music video and live performances = =

On February 11 , 2012 , Carey revealed through her Twitter account that a music video for the song was actually recorded . Filming sessions occurred in Netherlands , England and France ; Carey commented , however , that it " never got released & I don 't know where it is ! " Due to its limited release and chart performance , " Underneath the Stars " was only performed during Carey 's Daydream World Tour (1996) . During the shows in Japan , Carey featured the song as the tenth track on the set @-@ list . Appearing on stage wearing a long black evening gown , Carey discussed the song 's composition and development with the audience , prior to its recital . The live performance from the Tokyo Dome on March 7 , 1996 was recorded and released on a rare DVD titled " Mariah Carey Live In Japan . " The song has recently been performed in 2012 in Carey 's performances in Austria in April and Morocco in May . She often performs portions of the song a cappella in between songs during engagements off screen .

= = Track listing = =

CD single and 12 " Vinyl

" Underneath the Stars " ? 3 : 33

" Underneath the Stars " (Drifiting Re @-@ Mix) ? 4 : 00

" Underneath the Stars " (Drifiting Re @-@ Mix W / O Rap) ? 4 : 00

AUS CD single

" Forever " ? 4 : 01

" Underneath The Stars " ? 3 : 33

" Forever " (Live) ? 4 : 12

" Make It Happen " (Live) ? 4 : 43

= = Charts = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Daydream liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? vocals , songwriting , producer

Walter Afanasieff ? songwriting , producer , mixing

Herb Powers ? mastering