

= Together Again ( Janet Jackson song ) =

" Together Again " is a song by American recording artist Janet Jackson from her sixth studio album , The Velvet Rope ( 1997 ) . It was written and produced by Jackson , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , with additional writing by Jackson 's then @-@ husband , René Elizondo , Jr . It was released as the second single from the album on December 2 , 1997 , by Virgin . Originally written as a ballad , the track was rearranged as a dance and house song . Jackson was inspired to write the song by her own personal experience of losing a friend to AIDS , as well as by a piece of fan mail she received from a young boy in England who had lost his father .

" Together Again " was well received by music critics , who praised the song 's structure and Jackson 's vocals , comparing them to those of Diana Ross and works by Donna Summer . Commercially , the song was a success , topping the Billboard Hot 100 chart for two weeks , as well as reaching the top of the Hot Dance Club Songs . The song was additionally certified Gold by the RIAA . Worldwide , it peaked within the top five in most countries , such as Canada and the United Kingdom , and topped the charts in the Netherlands . It is Jackson 's best selling single selling 6 million copies worldwide and is one of the best selling singles of all time .

Two music videos were produced for " Together Again " . The video for the original , directed by Seb Janiak , shows Jackson and her dancers performing in a futuristic African paradise where people are seen living side by side with wild animals such as elephants , giraffes , and wildcats . Another music video released for the ' Deeper Remix ' was directed by René Elizondo , Jr. and shows Jackson in an apartment . Jackson performed " Together Again " in a number of occasions to promote The Velvet Rope , including at the American Music Awards , and also on all of her tours since its release . It is also included in two of Jackson 's greatest hits collections , Number Ones ( 2009 ) and Icon : Number Ones ( 2010 ) .

= = Background = =

" Together Again " was written as a tribute from Jackson to a friend who had recently died from AIDS as well as AIDS victims and their families worldwide , as stated in the liner notes of The Velvet Rope ( 1997 ) . Originally written as a ballad , the track was re @-@ arranged as a dance and house song . Jackson was reportedly inspired to write the song from her own personal experience , as well as a piece of fan @-@ mail she received from a young boy in England who had lost his father . According to Jimmy Jam , " it had a deep meaning for her because it was about a friend she lost to AIDS , but as with all her songs , she tries to make them apply in a general sense to anybody . The idea was to make it a joyous song musically " . The arrangement of the song was constructed in 30 minutes by Jam , Lewis and Jackson while in the recording studio . Once the melody was in place , Jackson finished writing the lyrics to the song . The song 's sound was inspired by Donna Summer 's song " Last Dance " . Jackson told MTV News that her inspiration to write " Together Again " was " Runaway " by Nuyorican Soul , as the song reminded her of being in Studio 54 in New York when she was a child . " Runaway " gave Jackson a kind of New York feel of disco and she wanted to do something like this .

= = Composition = =

" Together Again " was written and produced by Jackson , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , with additional writing by Jackson 's then @-@ husband , René Elizondo , Jr . It is a dance and house track . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by EMI Music Publishing , the song is set in common time with a key of C major . Jackson 's vocals range between A3 to D5 . The song has a moderate tempo of 123 beats per minute with the chord progression following the sequence of C ? Em7 / B ? Em7 ( b5 ) / Bb ? A7 ? Dm9 ? G13 ? Dm9 ? G13 . The bass line in the chorus descends according to the key until reaching the supertonic , after which it goes back to the dominant note set up the resolution , the repetition of the chorus or the interlude , which begins on the submedian . At the end of the second bridge , the song modulates up a minor third into E @-@

flat major . Three versions of the song were released ; the original dance version , the " Deep Remix " , a R & B and hip @-@ hop version , and the " Deeper Remix " , which is a R & B and soul remake . Lyrically , it was described as a ode from Jackson to a friend who had died from AIDS . Larry Flick from Billboard noted its " tear @-@ stained lyrics " . Ernest Hardy of Rolling Stone described it as " unsullied pop bliss " , saying " The bass @-@ heavy house track " Together Again " showcases a poignant lead vocal , giving off a ' 60s soul / girl group vibe " ,

= = Critical reception = =

Music critics received " Together Again " positively . BBC deemed it a " thumping great hit , an old @-@ fashioned piece of professional dance music , played perfectly " . Music critic Joey Guerra from The Daily Cougar stated , " Jackson pours her heart into " Together Again , " which builds to an ecstatic house beat " which takes " a cue from the soaring melodies of ' 60s girl groups " . He further commented that the song is " genuine happy @-@ feeling . It sounds lame at first but pay attention to what she 's singing ; that vocal smile changes everything . " " She even makes a bid for gay icon status " , wrote Neil McCormick in a review of The Velvet Rope for The Daily Telegraph , " delivering a diva @-@ ish performance reminiscent of Diana Ross on ' Together Again ' . "

" Together Again " was also compared to other singers ' works . Jon Pareles from The New York Times described " Together Again " as " a creamy Diana Ross homage " , noting that Jackson " deploys her small voice shrewdly " in it . Larry Flick from Billboard magazine called " Together Again " " a gorgeous disco ode to loved ones lost to AIDS @-@ related illnesses " . Jackson " has clearly been studying Donna Summer records , delivering a wonderfully nuanced performance that takes firm command of the track 's vibrant house beat without sacrificing an ounce of emotion " . Danyel Smith , while interviewing Jackson for Vibe in November 1997 , elaborated that the song was a big , perfect ode to Donna Summer , and likened it to her songs " MacArthur Park " and " Last Dance " . In 1999 , ' Together Again " won the award for " Most Played Song " at the BMI Pop Awards .

= = Chart performance = =

" Together Again " debuted at number nine on the Billboard Hot 100 chart on the issue dated December 20 , 1997 , before becoming Jackson 's eighth number @-@ one single on January 31 , 1998 , spending two weeks at number one , and a total of forty @-@ six weeks on the chart . The song also peaked atop the Hot Dance Club Songs chart and at number eight on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . " Together Again " was certified Gold by the RIAA . In Canada , it peaked at number two on the official singles chart and also reached number two on the dance chart . In Australasia , " Together Again " also experienced success . In Australia , it debuted at number eighteen on the issue dated December 7 , 1997 , peaking at number four and staying on the ARIA Charts for twenty @-@ five weeks and was certified double @-@ platinum by the ARIA for 70 @,@ 000 copies shipped . In New Zealand , it debuted at number sixteen the week of December 21 , 1997 . On February 22 , 1998 , it reached its peak of number five , staying on the chart for ten weeks .

The song debuted and peaked at number four on the UK Singles Chart on December 13 , 1997 , falling to six the following week , two weeks later it returned to its peak of four , spending ten weeks in the top ten and nineteen weeks inside the chart . It was certified Platinum by the BPI eventually selling nearly 800 @,@ 000 units in the UK . It also spent 1 week atop the UK R & B singles chart and number six on the UK Dance Chart . It is Jackson 's best selling UK single.In Austria , it entered the singles chart at number twenty @-@ five , eventually peaking number six and spending a total of fourteen weeks on the chart . In France , the song peaked at number two for ten weeks , and was certified Platinum by the SNEP . In Germany , it peaked at number two for two weeks and remaining on the German Singles Chart for twenty @-@ four weeks . It was certified Platinum for 500 @,@ 000 copies sold . In the Netherlands , " Together Again " entered the singles chart at number sixty @-@ one during the week of December 13 , 1997 . It eventually peaked at number one , staying a total of thirty @-@ two weeks on the chart . The NVPI certified the single Gold for shipment of 10

@, @ 000 copies . On the Swiss Singles Chart dated January 11 , 1998 , " Together Again " debuted at number thirteen . After two weeks , it peaked at number two and was later certified Gold by the IFPI . A portion of the single 's worldwide sales were donated by Jackson to The American Foundation for AIDS Research .

= = Music videos = =

Two music videos were produced for " Together Again " . The original version was directed by French photographer Seb Janiak and choreographed by Tina Landon . Filmed in the Serengeti , Tanzania , the video depicts Jackson with mini red ponytails on her head . She and her dancers perform in a futuristic African @-@ flavored paradise where people are seen living side by side with wild animals such as elephants , giraffes , and wildcats . At a point of the video , Jackson appears to be hugging another version of herself . Dan MacRae from ET Canada commented , " Janet is positively beaming as she participates in some lovely choreography and chills out with local wildlife " . This version received a nomination for Best Dance Video at the 1998 MTV Video Music Awards . Another music video was released for the " Deeper Remix " . Directed by René Elizondo , Jr , the video depicts Jackson in an apartment remembering a friend . Both videos are featured on the DVD edition of 2001 's All for You and the 2004 video compilation From Janet to Damita Jo : The Videos .

= = Live performances = =

In order to promote The Velvet Rope and the single , Jackson performed " Together Again " at the American Music Awards of 1998 . The singer has also performed the song on all of her tours since its release . She included the song on the 1998 The Velvet Rope Tour . Dressed up in " chandeliers and sensible clothing " , it was performed as the closing song from the concert . Jon Pareles from The New York Times viewed the performance as " an elegy disguised as an arm @-@ waving , feel @-@ good song " . The performance of the song at the October 11 , 1998 show in New York City , at the Madison Square Garden , was broadcast during a special titled The Velvet Rope : Live in Madison Square Garden by HBO . It was also added to the setlist at its DVD release , The Velvet Rope Tour ? Live in Concert in 1999 . It was again performed as the encore on the All for You Tour in support of her follow @-@ up album All for You in 2001 and 2002 . Gina Vivinetto from St. Petersburg Times , while reviewing the concert , described the performance , " The show closed with a buoyant Together Again that found Jackson grinning , surrounded by dancers moving in refreshing , unscripted merriment " . The February 16 , 2002 final date of the tour at the Aloha Stadium in Hawaii , was broadcast by HBO , and included a performance of " Together Again " . This rendition was also added to the setlist at its DVD release , Janet : Live in Hawaii , in 2002 . Jackson also performed it on VH1 's The Concert for New York City benefit concert which paid tribute to victims of the September 11 attacks the same year .

In 2004 , while promoting her eighth studio album Damita Jo , Jackson made surprise performances of " Together Again " and " All Nite ( Don 't Stop ) " at New York 's Gay Pride March . " Together Again " was one of her older songs on the 2008 Rock Witchu Tour , her first tour in seven years . It was at the middle of the setlist . She was dressed in a gold and black glam hip hop @-@ inspired track suit , and one gold glove . Variety magazine 's Phil Gallo likened her vocals in the song to that of Diana Ross 's . Rap @-@ Up noted the audience " went wild " during the song . While reviewing the Vancouver concert , Marsha Lederman of Globe and Mail noted that the most memorable moment of the show was when Jackson " stopped on the catwalk after her hit Together Again , listened to the crowd roar its approval , and became emotional ? really emotional . We 're talking tears . ' Thank you , ' she said ? seeming to really mean it , as she waved her hands , begging the audience to stop " , she completed . While promoting her second greatest hits album Number Ones , the singer performed an eight @-@ minute medley of six hits during the American Music Awards of 2009 . It included " Control " , " Miss You Much " , " What Have You Done for Me Lately " , " If " , " Make Me " , and finished with " Together Again " . For the latter 's performance , Jackson stood

alone at center stage , smiling , as she received applause and standing ovation from the audience . It also was the closing song of her concert at Essence Music Festival in New Orleans , in July 2010 , which she headlined . " Together Again " was again performed as a closing number on her Number Ones : Up Close and Personal 2011 tour as a dedication to her late brother , Michael Jackson , wearing a tight white one @-@ piece disco suit . MTV News ' writer Vaughn Schoonmaker noted that the song appeared to be the biggest hit of the show . Jackson included the song on her 2015 @-@ 2016 Unbreakable World Tour .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Janet Jackson - vocals , songwriter , producer , vocal and rhythm arrangement

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis - songwriters , producers , all other instruments , vocal and rhythm arrangements

René Elizondo , Jr . - songwriter

Steve Hodge - engineering , mixing

Alexander Richbourg - drum machine

Xavier Smith ? assistant engineer

Source :

= = Charts = =