

= My All =

" My All " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey from her sixth studio album , Butterfly ( 1997 ) . It was released as the album 's fifth single overall and second commercial single on April 21 , 1998 by Columbia Records . The song was written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff . " My All " is built around Latin guitar chord melodies , and makes subtle use of Latin percussion throughout the first chorus , before taking on a more conventional contemporary R & B @-@ style beat . Carey was inspired to write the song and use Latin inspired melodies after her trip to Puerto Rico , where she was influenced by the culture . The song 's lyrics tell of a lonely woman declaring she would give " her all " to have just one more night with her estranged lover .

The music video for the song was released in March 1998 . It shows many scenes of Carey laying on a submerged vessel in a large body of water , while lamenting her lost lover . Towards the video 's climax , Carey and her love interest climb atop a lighthouse and caress each other under the night 's sky . " My All " was performed live on various occasions , including the 1998 World Music Awards and Blockbuster Entertainment Awards , Saturday Night Live , The Rosie O 'Donnell Show and various European television and music chart programs . The song was also part of Carey 's 1998 Butterfly World Tour , and was performed during many future tours and concerts . House music producer David Morales remixed the song , which was sung in live medley 's with the original .

" My All " was well received by contemporary music critics and charted strongly throughout various music markets . In the United States , the song became Carey 's thirteenth chart topper on the Billboard Hot 100 , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . Throughout Europe , the song performed moderately , peaking at number four in the United Kingdom and in the top ten in Belgium ( Wallonia ) , France , Spain and Switzerland . In France , due to strong sales , the song was certified silver by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique ( SNEP ) .

= = Background = =

Carey began writing and composing themes for Butterfly by the end of 1996 . She considered this period in time a " redefining moment for herself , " where she began writing and recording the music she truly loved , Contemporary R & B and hip hop . Additionally , Carey began incorporating other genres of music into her song @-@ writing , assisting her in developing new ideas and melodies . Carey expressed how the mixed emotions she felt at that point in her life helped develop the song , as she would " pour herself and emotions into anything she was writing at the time . " In an interview with Fred Bronson , Carey expressed how her visit to Puerto Rico and the current emotions in her life inspired her to write " My All " :

I had gone to Puerto Rico and was influenced by Latin music at that moment . When I came back , the melody was in my head . It was at a melancholy point in my life and the song reflects the yearning that was going on inside of me . It was like being in a situation but you want to break free and you can 't , so your confined yet you 're releasing those emotion through the lyrics and the actual act of singing . Thats why think a lot of people felt very strongly about that song , because the emotion is clear when you listen to it .

Carey began to infuse her personality into her work , something that showed throughout various tracks . During her stay , she was influenced by the Latin culture , and began harmonizing and singing the music she heard there . When she arrived back to New York , she already had the melody developed , and soon began working on the song in San Francisco with Afanasieff .

= = Recording = =

Carey and Afanasieff had worked together since her debut release in 1990 . Together , they had written most of Carey 's biggest hits at the time , including " Hero " and " One Sweet Day . " " My All " would be the last time the two would collaborate , as he is absent from the writing credits in her follow @-@ up album , Rainbow ( 1999 ) . During the recording of the song , Carey and then

husband Tommy Mottola were in the midst of their divorce . Afanasieff , who had developed relationships with the two of them , was caught in the middle . He spoke of the difficulties he had recording " My All " with Carey , as their relationship had already strained during the divorce . Afanasieff had been employed by Mottola and Columbia Records , and had worked extensively with Carey in the studio . In an interview with Fred Bronson , Afanasieff spoke in depth of the personal problems he experienced with Carey in 1997 :

I needed to maintain a very strong relationship with Tommy [ Mottola ] . During that period , the beginning of their end , I had to stay away more than normal from her because she was going through a rough time . She felt that shutting her relationship with Tommy was also a cleansing of who she was . She felt that part of what she was dropping was the shmaltzy pop singer ballad kind of stuff he was adamant about . I had to make my exit and say ' Mariah , you need to redefine yourself , that 's fine . I 'm here doing what I do and if and when you want to come back and do it again , I 'm here .

" My All " was written in Carey 's home @-@ studio in upstate New York , and was recorded in Afanasieff 's recording studio in San Francisco . After she presented him with the melody she had developed in Puerto Rico , he began playing chord changes on the piano , while Carey sang the tune and directed him . After they produced the chorus , Carey wrote the lyrics , while he added a drum groove to the basic melody . According to Afanasieff , " My All " had tapped into both their Latin backgrounds . While she hadn 't spent much time with her Venezuelan paternal grandfather , Carey said the music was " definitely subconsciously in me . " On the other hand , Afanasieff was born in Brazil , and had heard Russian and Brazilian music his whole life . In an interview with Fred Bronson , Afanasieff described the steps they took to record the song :

I remember being in the back part of the studio , and we were sitting there late at night and writing . I was strolling through some sounds and came upon a particular sound from a steel acoustic guitar . I played these really beautiful chord changes that eventually led to ' My All . ' She started singing and I started playing , and we came up with the basis for the song . I put a little drum groove down and it was one of the easier songs to write with her .

= = Composition = =

" My All " is a slow @-@ tempo ballad , that blends contemporary R & B beats and Latin guitar and chord melodies , making subtle use of Latin percussion in the first chorus . The song is described as having a " lush sound " and featured synthetic guitar arpeggios that were produced in the studio . " My All " was compared to Toni Braxton 's music style , described as " slink , slow @-@ jam R & B sounds . " The song is set in the signature common time , and is written in the key of G minor . It features a basic chord progression of A ? -F ? -1 . Carey 's vocal range in the song spans from the low note of B2 to the high note of F5 , with the piano and guitar pieces range from G ? 3 to G ? 5 . The track was very different than anything Carey had ever recorded , incorporating strong " Latin cultured background . " The instrumentation and vocal arrangement used in the song was compared to Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds ' productions , due to its " soft R & B coos and guitar melodies . "

= = Critical reception = =

" My All " garnered critical acclaim from contemporary music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic chose the song as one of the three " track choices " from the album . Larry Flick from Billboard praised the song , calling it an " anthemic gem . " Flick also described the song as " sparkling with a house flavor that 's mildly reminiscent of Toni Braxton 's landmark ' Un @-@ break My Heart ' . " While reviewing the album , Flick also reviewed the Morales remix , writing " Morales straddles the fence between underground aggression and pop @-@ radio fluff with deceptive ease , crafting a track anchored with a muscular bassline and embellished with vibrant synths . It 's 10 minutes of pure disco bliss . " David Browne from Entertainment Weekly praised the song 's instrumentation , noting " with its gently plucked guitars , is the best Babyface track Babyface never produced . "

= = Chart performance = =

Although " My All " was the fourth single released from Butterfly , it was only the second commercial worldwide release . The song debuted at number 2 behind Next 's Too Close and eventually became Carey 's 13th chart topper in the United States , placing her in fourth place for most number ones in the US . Also , it gave Carey the honor of having the most number ones for a female artist . It stayed atop the Hot 100 for one week , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , denoting shipments of over one million units . " My All " peaked at number four on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , and eighteen on the Adult Contemporary chart . It finished number seventeen on the Billboard end of year chart , and ninety @-@ nine on the end of decade chart . In Canada , the song entered the Canadian RPM Chart at number 89 during the week of May 18 , 1998 . In its fifth week , the song peaked at number 28 , spending 16 weeks in the chart before exiting the week of August 31 .

" My All " performed weakly in Australia , peaking at number 39 while spending only two weeks on the ARIA Top @-@ 40 . In Belgium ( Wallonia ) , it peaked at number nine , and spent 14 weeks on the Ultratop singles chart . The song performed well in France , peaking at number six and spending 24 weeks fluctuating in the French singles chart . " My All " was certified silver by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique ( SNEP ) , denoting shipments of over 200 @,@ 000 units throughout France . The song performed moderately in Ireland , peaking at number 21 , and spending seven weeks on the Irish Singles Chart . In Norway and Sweden , it peaked at numbers 14 and 15 , respectively . The song charted well in Switzerland , spending 21 weeks in the top @-@ 100 , and peaking at number seven . In the United Kingdom , ' My All " debuted and peaked at number four on the UK Singles Chart during the week of June 13 , 1998 . The song spent eight weeks fluctuating in the singles chart , until the week of August 1 , 1998 where it dropped outside the top @-@ 100 . Sales in the UK are estimated at 160 @,@ 000 units .

= = Remixes and other versions = =

" My All " features two remixes : the first is a contemporary R & B version titled , " My All / Stay Awhile " ( So So Def Remix ) . Carey re @-@ recorded her vocals for the song , while building it around a sample from the Loose Ends song " Stay a Little While , Child . " Carey 's vocal interpolation blends the first verse and chorus of " My All " with the verse and chorus of " Stay a Little While , Child . " It was produced by Jermaine Dupri and features raps from Lord Tariq and Peter Gunz . The single also features a version without any rap verses . The second remix is a dance version mixed by David Morales . The dance remix is known as the Classic Club Mix ; it was Carey 's first collaboration with Morales that did not feature entirely new vocals . Consequently , the song is fairly close to the original chord progressions of the album version , though some new vocals were added . The remix was performed live as a medley with the original during many of Carey 's live concert tours .

Carey recorded a Spanish version of " My All " titled , " Mi Todo . " Unlike with " Hero " ( 1993 ) and " Open Arms " ( 1995 ) , Carey recorded the Spanish version of the song in a different key from the original English version . The first line of the song had been mistranslated and was grammatically incorrect . Carey later mentioned on her website that she would no longer record Spanish versions of her songs until she could verify the correct lyrics and pronunciation . " Mi Todo " was remixed as well , however only being released as a promotional single in Mexico .

= = Music videos = =

" My All " and the " My All / Stay Awhile " ( So So Def Remix ) featured different music videos . The video for " My All " was shot entirely in black and white in Puerto Rico , and was directed by fashion photographer Herb Ritts . The video begins with Carey lying on an overturned vessel on a beach , staring into the night sky , lamenting her estranged lover . As the scenes progress , Carey 's love

interest is seen atop a lighthouse in the middle of the ocean , searching for his lost companion . Further scenes show Carey laying on a large conch shell , wet and vulnerable . Soon after , she begins walking on a path of large white flowers , until she reaches the top of the lighthouse where she is rejoined with her lover . After the song 's second verse , Carey and the man begin caressing each other , and embracing atop the lighthouse . After they share an intimate moment , Carey is shown walking back on the trail of white flowers , smiling and happy . The scenes of Carey lying in the shell and in front of the flowers were inspired by Sandro Botticelli 's painting The Birth of Venus . According to author Chris Nickson , the snippets of Carey on the overturned vessel showed her vulnerability without her loved one , truly highlighting the yearning emphasized in the song .

A music video was also filmed for the So So Def remix . Directed by Diane Martel , it was shot in a grainy fashion to simulate a home video . The video features cameo appearances by Dupri , Tariq and Gunz . It begins with scenes of Carey and Dupri at a small in @-@ home gathering , lounging and enjoying each other 's company . As the video progresses , the other two featured hip @-@ hop musicians appear at the house , alongside various other guests . They begin to dance to music , while sipping on cocktails by the pool . As the video reaches its climax , scenes of Carey singing in an outdoor garden are shown , while the others join her on the pool deck .

= = Live performances = =

" My All " was performed on several live television appearances , as well as most of Carey 's tours following the song 's release . Carey first sang " My All " on The Rosie O 'Donnell Show in November 1997 , and was followed by an interview . The performance featured three female backup singers , and a Latin @-@ influenced percussionist and guitar player . Additionally , Carey performed the song at the 1998 World Music Awards , completing both the original and dance remix as a medley . The performance was via @-@ satellite from Carey 's tour at the time , which was broadcast onto a large screen . At the Blockbuster Entertainment Awards in 1998 , Carey sang the original version of the song , featuring a full orchestra and live backup vocals .

The song was performed on Saturday Night Live during the week of September 12 , 1997 , where Carey sang it back @-@ to @-@ back with " Butterfly " . Additionally , Carey was one of the five featured performers at the 1998 VH1 Divas , where she sang " My All " as well as the dance remix . The song was performed on the British music chart program , Top of the Pops , where a live medley of the original and dance versions were performed . " My All " was performed during Carey 's Butterfly World Tour in 1998 . For the performances in Japan , Carey featured a Latin guitarist and backing vocals . The guitarist was present during the song 's recital throughout the entire tour , replacing the orchestra used during her television appearances . For the shows , Carey wore a beige outfit , with varying hairstyles . Neither remix version was performed during the tour .

For her Rainbow World Tour ( 2000 ) Carey performed the original version of the song , once again featuring the orchestra and live female background vocals . 2 years later on December 7 , 2002 , Carey performed the original version of " My All " in front of a crowd of 50 @,@ 000 people , at the closing ceremony concert of the Mexican Teletón , which took place in the country 's Azteca Stadium . Since the Charmbracelet World Tour tour in 2004 , Carey has not performed the full version of the original , substituting it for the dance remix after the second verse . During the shows in the Adventures of Mimi tour , Carey donned a black bikini and matching cape , while featuring one male and two female background singers . On the Angels Advocate Tour ( 2010 ) , she performed the original and dance remix versions , wearing a red outfit while performing the song seated . Again , the original and dance remix was performed as a medley , featuring the same backup from the previous tour . After completing the song , Carey was whisked away by a shirtless male dancer , and carried off the stage for a costume change , as the back @-@ up continued into the dance version .

= = Cover versions = =

On February 25 , 2014 , Alisa Kozhikina , the representative of Russia to the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2014 won in the Grand Finals of Golos Deti , the Russian edition of The Voice ,

performing a Russian version of the song called " Vsyo " .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Butterfly liner notes .

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

Walter Afanasieff ? songwriting , co @-@ production

= = Formats and track listing = =

= = Charts and certifications = =