

= You Can Dance =

You Can Dance is the first remix album by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna . It was released on November 17 , 1987 , by Sire Records . The album contains remixes of tracks from her first three studio albums ? Madonna (1983) , Like a Virgin (1984) and True Blue (1986) ? and a new track , " Spotlight " . In the 1980s , remixing was still a new concept and technology , by which a particular vocal phrase could be endlessly copied , repeated , chopped up , transposed up and down in pitch and give them more echo , reverberation , treble or bass . Madonna became interested in the concept , noting that she hated when others remixed her songs and wanted to do it by herself .

Madonna turned to her old friend and producer John " Jellybean " Benitez to help her remix the songs , and also enlisted the help of Patrick Leonard , the producer of True Blue . The mixes on You Can Dance exhibited a number of typical mixing techniques . Instrumental passages were lengthened to increase the time for dancing , which undermined the tighter structure of the original pop song . Vocal phrases were repeated and subjected to multiple echoes , panned across the stereophonic sound outlets . At certain points , almost no music is heard except the drums and at other times , the drums are removed with only the hi @-@ hat left to keep time . The album cover denoted Madonna 's continuous fascination with Hispanic culture .

After its release , You Can Dance received generally mixed reviews from critics , some of whom noted how the already known songs appeared to them in a complete new structure , calling it an essential album to be played at parties . You Can Dance was a commercial success , earning a platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipment of a million copies , and reaching the top twenty of the Billboard 200 . It reached the top ten of the album charts of France , Italy , Japan , Netherlands , New Zealand , Norway and the United Kingdom , and went on to sell five million copies worldwide , making it the second best @-@ selling remix album of all time , behind only Blood on the Dance Floor from Michael Jackson . " Spotlight " was the only single released from the album in Japan , but charted on the airplay charts of Billboard due to radio play .

= = Background = =

In November 1987 , Warner Bros. Records commissioned the release of You Can Dance ? Madonna 's first retrospective ? which was aimed at the dance segment of her audience . It was an album containing seven of Madonna 's songs in remixed format , which was still a revolutionary concept in the 1980s . By the mid @-@ eighties , post @-@ disco dance music was extremely popular and the concept of remix was widely regarded as a new direction of music . Several artists were remixing their tracks and compiling them to create new albums . Mixing was an interpretative process , where the artist was usually involved , but the development was generally looked after the record producer . The different parts of a song , including the lead vocals , background vocals , guitars , bass , synths , drum machine ? all went through the process of mixing to sound considerably different from their original counterpart . Mixing determined how loud these instruments were going to sound in relation to each other and what particular sound effects should be added to each instrument . Improvements in studio technologies meant the possibility of shaping the sound of a song in any way , after it has been recorded . The arrangements were itself created at the mixing stage , rather than being created previously . A particular vocal phrase could be endlessly copied , repeated , chopped up , transposed up and down in pitch and give them more echo , reverberation , treble or bass .

It was this concept which intrigued Madonna , while she was developing her third studio album True Blue (1986) . She said , " I hate it when people do master mixes of my records . I don 't want to hear my songs changed like that . I don 't know that I like it , people screwing with my records . The jury is out on it for me . But the fans like it , and really , this one was for the fans , for the kids in the clubs who wanted to hear these songs in a fresh new way . " She went to Warner with the idea of releasing her songs by remixing them in a complete dance tune . From Warner 's point of view , the

rise of remix was a commercial boon , because it meant making more money out of the same piece of music . Instead of paying Madonna to go to studio and record different tracks , they found that allowing her to record the same tracks in different formats was much less costly . Hence they decided to release the album , but gave full freedom to Madonna to choose the producers with whom she wanted to develop the remixes .

= = Development = =

Madonna turned to her old friend and producer John " Jellybean " Benitez to help her remixing the songs , and also enlisted the help of Patrick Leonard , the producer of True Blue . Together they chose six of Madonna 's old songs and decided to give it a remixed form . The songs chosen were " Holiday " , " Everybody " and " Physical Attraction " from Madonna (1983) , " Into the Groove " and " Over and Over " from Like a Virgin (1984) , and lastly , " Where 's the Party " from True Blue . Along with the pre @-@ released tracks , a never @-@ before released song called " Spotlight " was included as a bonus . Madonna said that she was inspired by the song " Everybody Is a Star " (1970) , by American rock band Sly and the Family Stone . Written by Madonna , Stephen Bray and Curtis Hudson , " Spotlight " was originally recorded during the True Blue recording sessions . It was omitted from the album because Madonna felt that it was similar in composition and structure to " Holiday " .

After the remixing of the songs started , Benitez noted , " We decided on basic questions like ' How loud should the drums be ? How much should the vocals stand out ? ' These are creative decisions which will change the finished piece of music . " Shep Pettibone , one of the producers of the album commented that " normally , without some music to work on , the remixer has nothing . But we already had Madonna 's catalogue of danceable songs which was enough material for lifetime . " The mixes on You Can Dance exhibited a number of typical mixing techniques . Instrumental passages were lengthened to increase the time for dancing , which undermined the tighter structure of the original pop song . Vocal phrases were repeated and subjected to multiple echoes , panned across the stereophonic sound outlets . At certain points , almost no music is heard except the drums and at others , the drums are removed with only the hi @-@ hat left to keep time .

The album cover denoted Madonna 's continued fascination with Spanish culture and fashion . She wore a female toreador outfit with a lacy bustier , embroidered bolero jacket and a cummerbund with a flouncy bustle . Jeri Heiden , who had worked on the cover art for True Blue , was given the task of editing the photos and making them compatible for appearance in an album cover . Shot by Herb Ritts , the cover showed Madonna again as a platinum blond . Heiden explained in an interview with Aperture magazine in October 2006 that the cover was not meant to be a tie @-@ in with the True Blue cover . " It was just Madonna 's look at the time ? Platinum Blond . And of course the handwriting reappears on that album . " The album sleeve included a free poster and the gold wrap @-@ around liner notes contained approximate running time to indicate the difference between the length of the remix and the original track . Brian Chin , a Rolling Stone journalist , wrote the liner notes for the album , explaining the process of remix and why the seven songs were chosen for the tracklist .

= = Composition = =

According to Rikky Rooksby , author of The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , " Improvements in studio technology meant that possibilities for shaping the sound after it has been recorded are almost limitless . " Such possibility were applied in the song composition and the remixes present in You Can Dance . Previously to change the sound of an instrument , or to jump from one sound to another , recordings used to stop playing the instrument and the drums at that point . But for the remixes on You Can Dance , the fade engineering technology was applied to the songs , wherein the fader was simply pulled down , and was pushed up again when the sound of the instruments were made to come up to the surface . The first song on the album is " Spotlight " which begins with the sound of drums , bass synths and handclaps , followed by Madonna uttering the

words " Spotlight , shine bright " . After the first verse , the sound of keyboard is heard during the chorus . It continues like this through the second verse , which is followed by an interlude featuring vocal echoes , a piano segment and violin phrases . Madonna follows the music played by the piano and utters the words " Pa @-@ da @-@ pa @-@ da @-@ pappapappa pa pa " in the same melody . The lyrics deal with Madonna making the listener remember that " everybody is a star " and that if one wants to be famous and be under the " spotlight " , the person should sing about it and reality may catch up with him or her . According to the sheet music published at SheetMusicPlus.com , the song is set in the time signature of common time , with a tempo of 100 beats per minute . It is set in the key of F major with Madonna 's voice spanning from the notes of C5 to B ? 5 . " Spotlight " has a basic sequence of Am ? C ? Am ? C ? G ? F as its chord progression .

The second track is " Holiday " , which Benitez said that he always wanted to remix , commenting " There are new sounds on the 1987 remix [of ' Holiday '] , but it had a groove that needed no improvement . " The sound of the guitar is brought to the front in the remix , with a piano break and a middle section consisting of drum beats . The mix for " Everybody " starts with four repetitions of the vocal hook and then moves into a rhythm centered arrangement . Like " Holiday " , the middle section of " Everybody " features a drum break , with a synth tune backing it up . The word " dance " is echoed and slowed @-@ down continuously through the break , gradually changing into the intermedia verse . At the very end , the drums are pulled out , leaving Madonna repeating the " get up and do your thing " phrase , which hovers over to the intro of the next song " Physical Attraction " . It begins with the arrangement of the original song , until the middle eight , where the composition is varied . A disconcerting sound is present at the end of the track , which , after sometime increases in volume until then next track " Over and Over " begins . In the " Into the Groove " remix , overdubs are present with the continuous repetition of the phrase " c 'mon " . The first verse does not start until about ninety seconds into the remix . After the first " Now I know you 're mine " line is sung , there is a percussion break , and repetition of the phrases " step to the beat " and " c 'mon " . The last verse incorporates echoing on the vocals , causing overlap of the phrases . The remix ends with instrumentation from congas , whistles and timbales , giving it a Mexican ending .

= = Critical reception = =

Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic said that " [You Can Dance] keeps the spotlight on her first record , adding non @-@ LP singles like ' Into the Groove ' for good measure , along with a bonus track of ' Where 's the Party ' . Since it is a dance album , it doesn 't matter that ' Holiday ' and ' Into the Groove ' are here twice , once each in dub versions , because the essential grooves and music are quite different in each incarnation . It is true that some of this now sounds dated ? these are quite clearly extended mixes from the mid 80s ? but that 's part of its charm , and it all holds together quite well . Not essential , but fun . " In The Village Voice , Robert Christgau considered that " the effects , repeats , breaks , and segues added by a star crew of remixers [...] amount to new music ? this time the songs don 't surface , they reach out and grab you " . He also argued that You Can Dance reminded the audience that before MTV , they " loved the way she sounded " . Author J. Randy Taraborrelli noted that " You Can Dance made one point clear about Madonna . While she was evolving into a serious pop star , musically she still knew how to host the best party . " He complimented the remixed versions of " Holiday " , " Everybody " , " Physical Attraction " and " Into the Groove " .

Timothy Green from The Miami Herald said that " [The album has] got a good beat and you can dance to it . Madonna 's new album isn 't really new , but rather a collection of danceable hits , remixed by club deejays masterful at that peculiar art of taking the artists ' work , track by track , and reconstructing it . Most such remixes become 12 @-@ inch dance singles , and You Can Dance , is basically a compilation of these . The remixes sound fresh and gives a new outlook on the already famous and popular songs . " Jan DeKnock from the Chicago Tribune was not impressed with the album , calling it calculative . However , Daniel Brogan from the same newspaper praised the album , saying that " Madonna has brought a new joy to the people buying gifts for Christmas , as You Can Dance is a fun @-@ filled , fast @-@ paced retrospective that will burn the dance floor till New Year

. " Richard Harrington from The Washington Post called the album " an energetic collection of extended dance remixes , that will surely be the highlight of the party crowds flocking around the town . " John Milward from USA Today felt that " although the remixes sound a little exhaustive , its nevertheless party time with Madonna 's album . "

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , the album was released on November 18 , 1987 , and reached a peak of number 14 on the Billboard 200 . The LP cuts debuted at number 41 on the Hot Dance Music / Club Play chart , and moved up to number 17 the next week . An extended series of remixes called " You Can Dance ? LP Cuts " was serviced to the dance radio stations later . The LP cuts ultimately topped the Dance chart , becoming Madonna 's seventh number one on the Hot Dance Music / Club Play chart . The album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipment of one million copies across United States . In Canada , the album debuted at number 55 on the RPM Albums Chart on December 5 , 1987 . After five weeks , it reached a peak of number 11 on the chart . It was present for a total of 21 weeks on the chart .

In Australia , You Can Dance debuted at number 15 on the Kent Music Report albums chart , and peaked at number 13 . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipment of 70 @,@ 000 copies of the album . You Can Dance reached a peak of number four in New Zealand . In the United Kingdom , You Can Dance was released on November 28 , 1987 and entered the UK Albums Chart and peaked at number five . It was Madonna 's fifth top @-@ ten album there present for a total of 16 weeks on the chart , and was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipment of 300 @,@ 000 copies of the album . The album re @-@ entered the chart at number 69 , on March 4 , 1995 , after being released in mid @-@ price in United Kingdom . Across Europe , the album reached number six on the European Top 100 Albums chart , and the top five in Norway and Spain , while charting within the top twenty of Austria , Germany , Sweden and Switzerland . You Can Dance also reached number two in France and topped the charts in Italy . Worldwide , it went on to sell five million copies , becoming the second best @-@ selling remix album of all time .

= = Singles = =

" Spotlight " was released as the only single from the album in Japan on April 25 , 1988 . Dennis Hunt from Los Angeles Times commented that " Spotlight " was " lost in the dazzling collection of the extended remixes of her best dance tunes . " " Spotlight " was not officially released as a single in the United States , therefore it was not eligible at the time to appear on Billboard 's Hot 100 . Even so , radio stations started to play the song unofficially and it managed to garner enough airplay to appear on the Hot 100 Airplay chart of Billboard in early 1988 . It debuted on the Airplay chart at 37 on the issue dated January 16 , 1988 , and was the highest debut of the week . After three weeks , " Spotlight " reached a peak of 32 on the chart , but fell to 40 the next week , before being sent for recurrent rotation . It also charted on the Hot Crossover Singles chart , reaching a peak of 15 on January 9 , 1988 . The song was released commercially in Japan on April 25 , 1988 . " Spotlight " peaked at number 68 on the Oricon weekly singles chart , remaining on the chart for five weeks . It also charted on the Oricon international singles chart , reaching a peak of three on May 19 , 1988 , staying on the chart for ten weeks .

= = Track listings = =

Notes

^ a signifies an additional producer and remixer

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted as per the You Can Dance LP liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =