

= One Child (Mariah Carey song) =

" One Child " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey from her second Christmas album / thirteenth studio album , Merry Christmas II You (2010) . It was written and produced by Carey in collaboration with Broadway composer Marc Shaiman . Backed by a children 's choir , the lyrics are about the birth of Jesus . " One Child " received a mixed to negative response from critics , many of whom disapproved of the overbearing sentiment . In the United States , the track peaked at number 12 on the Billboard Gospel Digital Chart , and on the lower regions of the South Korea international single 's charts . Carey performed the song at the Christmas in Washington event in November 2010 .

= = Background and composition = =

Carey wrote and produced " One Child " with Broadway composer Marc Shaiman . It was reported by Showbiz411 in August 2010 that Carey had enlisted Shaiman to work on the then untitled album ; the magazine described the pairing as " unusual " but noted that the outcome could be " colossal " . Lasting for a duration of four minutes and twenty @-@ five seconds , the song is one of two original ballads included on Merry Christmas II You . It encompasses a range of genres , including Christmas , adult contemporary , urban contemporary and religious music .

The music and Carey 's vocals recorded by Brian Garten at several recording studios , which included Henson Studios and 20th Century Fox Scoring Stage in Los Angeles , Guardian Angel Studios Bel Air , Germano Studios New York City and Capitol Recording Studios in Hollywood . It was mixed by Phil Tan at The Ninja beat Club in Atlanta . Damien Lewis served as his assistant . " One Child " was arranged by Shaiman , and he carried out the orchestration with Brad Dechter . The song , in the key of C major , has a " tenderly " feel and a tempo of 64 beats per minute . The track is backed by a children 's chorus , which was recorded by Martin Cooke . Assisted by Kenta Yonesaka , Alex Gulper , Peter Stanislaus , Charlie Paakkari , Tim Lauber , Tom Steel , Greg Dennon and Denis St. Amand . The children who participated in the chorus were Mariah Britt , Joshua Britt , Evyn Johnson , Makiah Johnson , Mason Johnson , Delaney Meyer , Elsie Moon and Cayla Nisperos ; their voices span from G3 to F ? 5 . Carey provided her background vocals alongside Melonie Daniels , Sharlotte Gibson , Sherry McGhee and Nicki Richards .

= = Critical reception = =

" One Child " garnered a mixed to negative response from critics . Andy Gill for The Independent thought that the children 's choir gave the song a " Jackson 5 @-@ esque glutinous " feel . A reviewer for Sputnikmusic described the song as a rewrite of " Jesus Born on This Day " , written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff for the singer 's first Christmas album , Merry Christmas (1994) . Mike Diver for BBC wrote that although the song is " bogged down in sentiment " , " any unpleasantness in the mouth is soon washed clean by the arrival of that hit " , while Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone simply described the orchestration as " gooey " . Jack Foley of IndieLondon echoed Diver 's observation about its sentiment , writing that the " more serious songs " on the album such as " One Child " , " Oh Come All Ye Faithful " and " Auld Lang Syne " are " stifling " and makes the album an " endurance test " . He continued with " Hence , Auld Lang Syne , One Child and Oh Come All Ye Faithful literally make your skin crawl and howling for the nearest slice of Linkin Park to add some musical grit to your life . " The Village Voice writer Rich Juzwiak was critical of the song , describing it as a " needless retelling " of the birth of Jesus that does not add anything new or original to the story of his birth . He continued to write that he was not surprised at the outcome of the song as Carey is not a historian .

= = Live performances = =

Accompanied by a gospel choir , Carey performed " One Child " and " O Come All Ye Faithful " at

the Christmas in Washington event at the National Building Museum in Washington , D.C .. The performance aired on December 17 , 2010 , on TNT . Wearing a " billowy red dress adorned with a bow , " it was noted by Idolator that Carey decided not to perform her " modern yuletide staple " " All I Want for Christmas Is You " or the first single from the album " Oh Santa ! " in favor of " subdued and graceful tracks " .

= = Charts = =