

= The Voice Within =

" The Voice Within " is a song recorded by American singer Christina Aguilera for her fourth studio album , Stripped ( 2002 ) . The song was written by Aguilera and Glen Ballard , with production handled by Ballard . It is a piano @-@ driven ballad that talks about trusting oneself and one 's instincts . " The Voice Within " was released as the fifth and final single from Stripped on October 27 , 2003 by RCA Records .

Upon its release , " The Voice Within " received mainly positive reviews from music critics , who called it an inspirational ballad and praised Aguilera 's strong vocals on the track . Some likened the song to works by Celine Dion and Mariah Carey . Commercially , " The Voice Within " achieved moderate success on charts worldwide , peaking within the top ten of charts in several countries including Australia , Ireland , Switzerland and the United Kingdom , and it reached number 33 on the US Billboard Hot 100 .

An accompanying music video for " The Voice Within " was directed by David LaChapelle . It was filmed in black and white as a one shot . The video was nominated for three MTV Video Music Awards at the 2004 ceremony . In support of Stripped , Aguilera performed the track on her two major concert tours : Justified and Stripped Tour ( 2002 ? 03 ) and The Stripped Tour ( 2003 ) . " The Voice Within " has been covered on several television talent shows .

= = Recording and composition = =

" The Voice Within " was written by Christina Aguilera and Glen Ballard , and was produced by Ballard . The track was recorded by Scott Campbell at The Record Plant in Hollywood , Los Angeles , California and at NRG Recording Studios in North Hollywood , LA , CA , while it was mixed by Peter Mokran . Bass was performed by Mike Elizondo , while Matt Chamberlain played drums . Ballard also played guitar with John Goux , and played keyboards with Randy Kerber . Musically , " The Voice Within " is a piano @-@ driven ballad . Composed in the key of G major , it has a moderately slow tempo of 66 beats per minute . Aguilera 's vocal range on the track spans from the low @-@ note of D3 to the high @-@ note of F ? 5 . Her vocals on the song were been described as strong and powerful by critics . Lyrically , " The Voice Within " is an inspirational song that says that one should trust one 's heart and own mind , and find inner strength . The motivational lyrics include , " When there 's no @-@ one else , look inside yourself , like your oldest friend just trust the voice within " . As recalled by Aguilera , " I wrote this song when I was 20 , 21 , and it was a time in my life when you 're being pushed and pulled in so many directions . "

= = Release and reception = =

" The Voice Within " was released to US contemporary hit and adult contemporary radio stations on October 27 , 2003 as the fifth and final single from Stripped by RCA Records . It was also available for Maxi single sales in stores .

= = = Critical = = =

Upon its release , " The Voice Within " received generally favorable reviews from music critics . Chuck Taylor of Billboard praised the " breathtaking and organically flowing " melody , noting that " Aguilera delivers what is perhaps her most assured vocal yet , punching through the clouds and taking her place as a fist @-@ shaking member of the heavenly choir . " Taylor also highlighted that the track " is an inspired recording and a showcase for all that this artist can accomplish when she lets the voice precede that offputting image . " Josh Kun from Spin labelled it a " swoony Celine @-@ for @-@ teens ballad " . Sal Cinquemani for Slant Magazine gave the song a very positive review , naming it an " inspirational " ballad and praised her powerful vocals . CD Universe also praised Aguilera 's " rich , throaty style " vocals on the track and compared the song to works by Mariah Carey . Sputnikmusic 's critic Amanda Murray commented that the song is " tacky " yet "

powerful all the same " . Rachel McCrady of Wetpaint complimented the song 's inspiration melody , declaring that it " basically reduces us to tears every time we hear it " .

= = = Commercial = = =

On November 29 , 2003 , " The Voice Within " made it chart debut on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 62 , becoming the week 's " Hot Shot Debut " . On the chart issue dated December 6 , 2003 , the single jumped to number 57 . During the following week , the song rose to number 46 . In its fourth week charting , it charted at number 36 . Finally , it reached its peak at number 33 on January 10 , 2004 . The song became Aguilera 's eleventh top @-@ forty hit on the chart , and remained on the Hot 100 for a total of 16 weeks . It also charted at number 11 on the Pop Songs chart , number 16 on the Adult Contemporary chart , and number 33 on the Adult Pop Songs chart . The song reached number ten on the Canadian Hot 100 chart . Throughout Europe , " The Voice Within " achieved moderate success on charts , reaching the top ten on many of them . It was also a top @-@ ten song in Australia , peaking at number eight in the country , making the fifth single from the album to reach the top @-@ ten . In Switzerland , " The Voice Within " was Stripped 's highest charting @-@ single along with the lead @-@ single " Dirty " , peaking at number three .

= = = Accolades = = =

= = Music video = =

The song 's music video was directed by David LaChapelle , who previously directed the music videos for " Dirty " ( 2002 ) and " Can 't Hold Us Down " ( 2003 ) . He explained to MTV News that the video 's concept , " There 's all kinds of connotations to the word ' stripped . ' I wanted to strip it down to one take . Just her and this incredible voice . And really not have anything that is going to overshadow that . She 's trying to grow as an artist and along the way she 's taking all kinds of risks and a lot of times people let those things overshadow her ability and her talent . I wanted to bring it all back as a sort of bookend to this album " . The video begins with a close @-@ up scene of Aguilera and zooms out to her wearing a slip and sitting in an abandoned prop room . In one continuous black and white shot , Aguilera walks through several rooms , exits the building , and finally lays on a light box . The video was filmed at a deserted theater in downtown Los Angeles . It was inspired by neorealist works . The video was nominated for three 2004 MTV Video Music Awards : Best Female Video , Viewer 's Choice , and Best Cinematography .

= = Live performances and covers = =

Aguilera performed " The Voice Within " for the first time during the Justified & Stripped Tour ( 2003 ) , a tour held in support of Aguilera 's Stripped and Justin Timberlake 's album Justified ( 2002 ) . During the tour 's late 2003 extension , The Stripped Tour , Aguilera also performed the track . The performance is included in the video release Stripped Live in the U.K. ( 2004 ) . Aguilera included the song on her setlist at a concert in Kuala Lumpur in 2014 . In 2016 , Aguilera also performed the track during her set at the 15th edition of Mawazine Festival .

On October 3 , 2005 , Roxane LeBrasse covered " The Voice Within " during the top nine show of the third season of Australian singing contest Australian Idol . Despite being well received by judges , she was eliminated that night . On March 28 , 2006 , Katharine McPhee performed the track live on the 24th show of the fifth season of American Idol , which resulted McPhee as one of the bottom two . Simon Cowell compared McPhee 's abilities to those of Aguilera , commenting that her performance was almost as good as the original singer . " The Voice Within " was also covered by Meliz Serman on the 2006 TV series How Do You Solve a Problem like Maria ? . In 2009 , British girl group The Nolans performed " The Voice Within " live during there I 'm in the Mood Again Tour , which was held to support their 2009 comeback album I 'm in the Mood Again .

Hong Kong singer G.E.M. recorded a cover version of the song , which is included in her album My Secret Limited Edition ( 2010 ) . The same year , " The Voice Within " was also performed by Jessica Robinson on Over the Rainbow . On May 26 , 2012 , contestant Ruth Brown performed the song live during the semi @-@ finals of the first season of The Voice UK , which left tears on her eyes . Brown revealed that the song was personal to her because she had a hard time at school . Judge Sir Tom Jones complimented her performance , " The story of the song means a lot to her , I think this girl is stronger than even she realises it herself " , " You didn ' t just sing it , you lived it " . On June 8 , 2013 , eleven @-@ year @-@ old Ariksandra Libantino sang " The Voice Within " during the final round of the seventh series of Britain 's Got Talent . The song was also played during the first season of Ghost Whisperer on an episode entitled " The Vanishing " . Chris Mann and Jacquie Lee , both contestants and team members of Aguilera 's team on The Voice , performed the track during the second and fifth seasons , respectively .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording places

Recorded at The Record Plant in Hollywood , Los Angeles , California and NRG Recording Studios in North Hollywood , Los Angeles , California

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Stripped , RCA Records .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =