

= Breakaway (Kelly Clarkson album) =

Breakaway is the second studio album by American singer Kelly Clarkson , released on November 30 , 2004 , by RCA Records . The album is a follow @-@ up to her successful debut album , Thankful (2003) . Executive produced by Clive Davis , Breakaway sees Clarkson collaborating with various producers and songwriters for the first time , primarily Dr. Luke , Max Martin , Avril Lavigne , Kara DioGuardi , Ben Moody , and David Hodges ; the latter two are former members of American rock band Evanescence . Despite the established commercial success of Thankful , music critics still continued to typecast Clarkson as an American Idol winner and were also critical of her attempts of establishing a commercial appeal on her own . Wanting to stray from those , she was convinced by Davis to work with Dr. Luke and Martin in Stockholm , and with Moody and Hodges in Los Angeles , in pursuit of a pop rock direction . This also led her to part ways with her manager Simon Fuller and hire the management services of Jeff Kwatinetz before the album 's release . Breakaway is predominately a pop rock album with elements of rock and soul music , marking a departure from the R & B @-@ oriented sound of Thankful ; its lyrics explore themes of heartbreak , love , and escapism .

Breakaway received a positive response from music critics , with many commending the album 's new @-@ found pop rock sound and Clarkson 's vocal performances . " It received several awards and nominations , including winning two Grammy Awards and receiving a nomination for a Juno Award . The album became a commercial success worldwide . By selling over 15 million copies worldwide , it remains her most successful album to date . After debuting at number three on the Billboard 200 in the United States , it stayed on the top twenty of the chart for more than a year , eventually being certified 6 × multi @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of more than six million copies .

Breakaway 's singles " Breakaway " , " Since U Been Gone " , " Behind These Hazel Eyes " , " Because of You " , and " Walk Away " became worldwide hits and have become some of Clarkson 's signature songs . Their successes prompted Billboard to credit her for landscaping the core sound of mainstream pop music as an uptempo dance @-@ oriented sound in the 2000s . Furthermore , Breakaway established Clarkson as one of the four highest @-@ selling acts of Sony BMG in the 2000s , and made Davis , Dr. Luke , and Martin prominent pop producers . Internationally , the album topped the music charts of Ireland and the Netherlands and became the world 's 7th biggest @-@ selling release of 2005 , eventually being certified platinum in over 17 countries . To support Breakaway , Clarkson embarked on three international concert tours from 2005 to 2006 : the Breakaway World Tour , Hazel Eyes Tour , and the Addicted Tour . Billboard placed the album 77th in the Greatest of All Time Billboard 200 Albums .

= = Background and production = =

In early 2004 , Clarkson began working on new material for her second studio album , which followed her successful debut album Thankful (2003) , while co @-@ headlining the Independent Tour with Clay Aiken , the runner @-@ up from the second season of American Idol . She had also expressed intentions to record with Fantasia Barrino , who had then just won the series ' third season ; both were expected to release their albums in the same month .

As she began to work for the album with music executive Clive Davis , Clarkson was invited by Whitney Houston to record the song " Breakaway " , which would be included for the soundtrack of the 2004 Walt Disney Pictures feature film The Princess Diaries 2 : Royal Engagement , which Houston had co @-@ produced . The song , written by Avril Lavigne , Matthew Gerrard , and Bridget Benenante , was initially written for Lavigne 's debut album Let Go (2002) but deemed unsuitable for the album 's themes at the time . Initially reluctant , Clarkson agreed to record the song . " Breakaway " was first released on July 2004 by Walt Disney Records as a single from the soundtrack , acting as an interim record until her second album 's lead single was released . After debuting on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 60 , it peaked at number six , a week before the album 's release .

In April 2004 , Clarkson entered the studio immediately after the Independent Tour . She said in an interview , " I 've written most of (the songs) so far , but there 's some people who have some stuff for me . I 'm not one of those people who thinks you have to write everything . (I 'll sing it) as long as I can relate to it . " During the album 's development , Davis revealed that he was reluctant to let Clarkson write material for the album . He revealed , " I always encourage people to write their own songs , but in the pop arena , where the career is totally dependent on hits , you get skeptical . Artists with great voices like Melissa Manchester and Taylor Dayne could have had much longer careers if they didn 't insist on writing their own material . " Clarkson reiterates that she 's been writing songs since her teens , but rather than argue over labels or abilities , the two reached a détente ? she would co @-@ write half the album , with the other half being penned by other songwriters and producers . She said , " I just think it 's funny that all these middle @-@ age guys told me , ' You don 't know how a pop song needs to sound . ' I 'm a 23 @-@ year @-@ old girl ! But I was fighting those battles alone . " In February 2004 , Clarkson met with musicians Ben Moody and David Hodges , who had just departed from their band Evanescence in late 2003 . She said , " I didn 't know that he (Moody) wasn 't with Evanescence anymore , " Clarkson said . " I just really liked their vibe and I thought it might be cool to work with one of them . So I just randomly asked people I work with , ' Hey , do you think that he 'd work with me ? ' And then I found out that he kind of split and that 's what he 's doing ... so it worked out perfectly . " Moody recalled , " It 's cool because she wants to do some branching out , and I 'm doing nothing but branching out , We got together and she had all these songs in mind of what she wanted to do . It 's just a really , really cool process for me , because everybody is a new experience . Everybody works differently . "

Worried of Clarkson being continually typecast as a talent show winner , Davis met with various producers , primarily Max Martin , and encouraged them to produce records for Clarkson in a pop rock direction . Clarkson revealed that she expected that she 'll always be labeled as an American Idol winner , she remarked , " I 'm the first one , so it 's going to be on my grave , I 'm aware of that . (There 's no getting away from it) so why even try ? " Upon their meeting , Martin presented songs he wrote with Dr. Luke . These songs include " Since U Been Gone " and a demo version of what would have been " Behind These Hazel Eyes " . Davis wanted Clarkson to record the songs , describing them having " a sharp rock edge but were still capable of being pop hits . They would push Kelly in a promising direction for her , while maintaining and even growing her audience . " Martin insisted that the songs should given to rock acts , wanting to stray from his reputation for producing pop singles for the Backstreet Boys and , Britney Spears in the 1990s . Davis recalled , " Max was looking to move on from what he had done with Backstreet Boys , and I really spent time convincing them that an American Idol winner could bring all the feeling and passion that was required to the song . " Martin and Dr. Luke eventually agreed and invited Clarkson to travel to Sweden to record the songs . Upon hearing the tracks , Clarkson was skeptical of the pop elements ; and the three eventually decided to develop a rock sound , a move Clarkson claimed Davis did not approve . Davis reiterated that he was ecstatic with the prospect , claiming that she disliked it and demanded that both the songs be removed from the album . Clarkson then asserted that she wanted it to be on the record and claimed that Davis had detested " Because of You " instead , saying that she " was a shitty writer (sic) who should be grateful for the gifts that he bestows upon . Davis reiterated the he loved the song and felt that Clarkson could indeed write hits .

= = Composition = =

= = = Style and inspirations = = =

Wanting to stray away from the R & B @-@ styled music of Thankful , which she described as a showcase of versatility , she revealed that Thankful 's success " empowered me to step more into rock , step more into the soulful vibe . " She described the music of the second album as " like the first CD in the sense that it 's versatile , but it 's more into the rock , It 's more into the soulful roots , and it 's just a little bit deeper , so it 's pretty cool . " Dr. Luke revealed in an interview that alternative

music and indie music were inspirations to " Since U Been Gone " , saying , " That was a conscious move by Max and myself , because we were listening to alternative and indie music and talking about some song @-@ I don 't remember what it was . I said , ' Ah , I love this song , ' and Max was like , ' If they would just write a damn pop chorus on it ! ' It was driving him nuts , because that indie song was sort of on six , going to seven , going to eight , the chorus comes ... and it goes back down to five . It drove him crazy . And when he said that , it was like , light bulb . ' Why don 't we do that , but put a big chorus on it ? ' It worked . " Songs such as " Behind These Hazel Eyes " , and " Because of You " were also inspired by her real life experiences , the former about her relationship with an ex @-@ boyfriend and the latter about her experience after her parents ' divorce .

= = = Songs = = =

Clarkson shares writing credits on six songs from Breakaway . " Breakaway " was included as the album 's opening and title track . She described it as a simple song , and further explained , " I think that it 's simplicity is what 's beautiful about it . Whenever writers or producers come to work with me , they take advantage of the fact that I can really belt it out . What 's cool about ' Breakaway ' is that it doesn 't take advantage of that . The song just uses the simplicity of my voice . I 've done country music , I 've done pop , I 've done gospel ... all of my singles have sounded different . But this song was different from everything I 've done ; people didn 't even know it was me ! " Written by Martin and Dr. Luke , Clarkson described the second track " Since U Been Gone " , as " not as " smooth " as pop or R & B. Clarkson said of the track , the very last to be recorded for the album , " It 's very emotional . Vocally , it can be a lot more challenging , but is very fun to play live . " Written by Clarkson , Dr. Luke , and Martin , the third track " Behind These Hazel Eyes " , was the last song she had co @-@ written for the album . She recalled , " I wrote ' Behind The Hazel Eyes ' about my last boyfriend . It 's the last song I wrote for the album , I almost didn 't make the deadline . " The fourth track , " Because of You " , was originally intended for Thankful . Clarkson wrote a draft of the song after a late night talk with a friend who had hard time with her family , with Moody and Hodges providing additional writing . " Gone " , the fifth track , was written by Kara DioGuardi and John Shanks . Clarkson admits she cannot relate thoroughly on the song , but felt that it should be heard nonetheless . The sixth track , " Addicted , was written by Clarkson , Moody , and Hodges . Clarkson revealed that the song was inspired by the songs featured on Evanescence 's debut album Fallen (2003) . She remarked , " I wanted to work on them with someone as passionate about music as I am . And then I heard that Evanescence record ... I loved their record because of the passion behind it .

Clarkson co @-@ wrote the seventh track , " Where Is Your Heart " , with DioGuardi and Chantal Kreviazuk . She revealed that it was also about her boyfriend , Hodges , whom she described as " wanting to get really into our relationship , and I just thought , ' Where are you in our relationship ? ' " " Walk Away " , the eight track , was also written by the three , with additional writing by Raine Maida . Clarkson described it as " one of the brighter songs " on Breakaway , and said that " It 's very blunt and to the point . ' I 'm done with you , you 're upsetting me . ' " DioGuardi and Shanks co @-@ wrote the ninth track , " You Found Me " . Clarkson revealed , " When I recorded this one , I was actually in a good place with a guy . It was very fitting at the time that I recorded it . " DioGuardi had also co @-@ written the tenth track , " I Hate Myself for Losing You " , with Jimmy Harry and Shep Solomon . Clarkson described the song as " depressing " , but felt it could be used as a foreshadowing device . She explained " I read something that Sting said in an interview , he talked about how the great thing about writing is that it is an emotional and therapeutic thing and you can get it out . " The eleventh track , " Hear Me " , was written by Clarkson , DioGuardi , and Clif Magness . Clarkson explained the song , " It 's is almost like a prayer to God . I haven 't met the person whom I will spend the rest of my life with , but the song is a prayer to God about that . That 's what the song is . ' God , I 'm ready for ' the one ! ' " The twelfth and closing track is a live recording of " Beautiful Disaster " , originally from Thankful . Clarkson admitted that she hated Thankful 's version of the song , and thought the production was distracting from the lyrics . So she decided to record a piano ballad version instead .

== Release ==

Breakaway was first released in the North America on November 30 , 2004 by RCA Records , 19 Recordings , and S Records , following an influx of releases by American Idol contestants Aiken , Ruben Studdard , and Barrino . The New York Times columnist Jeff Leeds noted that the release could benefit from a holiday season , but " it could also hinder their efforts to establish themselves as recording artists with distinctive personalities and the legitimacy needed for long careers . " Davis reiterated that the release was intended to recede from their ties from American Idol , saying , " I 'm not interested in merely souvenir sales " . The album was titled Breakaway to capitalize on the success of the The Princess Diaries 2 : Royal Engagement soundtrack single " Breakaway " , which was also reissued as the album 's final single . Immediately before the album was released , Clarkson left 19 Management , dismissed Fuller as her manager , and quickly hired the managing services of Jeff Kwatinetz of the The Firm , though still contracted to 19 Recordings . A promotion plan was created for Clarkson for Breakaway 's release . Davis positioned her to be RCA 's top global priority , and at the recommendation of The Firm , removed American Idol from her official biography . Rather than being booked on arenas for her tour , Kwatinetz booked Clarkson for smaller amphitheaters to hone her performance skills . He remarked , " American Idol gave her a lot of exposure that allowed her to skip some steps in her development , and that 's hazardous . " Breakaway was first released internationally on January 3 , 2005 by the Bertelsmann Music Group (now Sony Music Entertainment) , and was released in the United Kingdom on July 18 , 2005 by RCA . On November 2005 , a special edition CD + DVD was released , containing additional bonus tracks and music videos .

=== Promotion ===

Clarkson , along with Studdard and Barrino , hosted a television musical special on the Fox Broadcasting Company entitled Kelly , Ruben & Fantasia : Home for Christmas on November 25 , 2004 . On the eve of Breakaway 's release , she performed " Since U Been Gone " on the The Tonight Show with Jay Leno . On February 2005 , she appeared on Saturday Night Live to perform " Since U Been Gone " and " Breakaway " . On September 2005 , she appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show and performed " Breakaway " as well as " Because of You " . Clarkson also performed in award ceremonies and events , she performed " Since U Been Gone " on the 2005 MTV Video Music Awards at the AmericanAirlines Arena and on the 2006 BRIT Awards at the Earls Court . She performed " Because of You " on the 48th Annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center and on the 15th Echo Awards at the Estrel Berlin .

=== Singles ===

Breakaway 's lead single , " Since U Been Gone " , was released on November 2004 , but gained traction at the beginning of 2005 . After debuting at number seventy , it peaked on the Billboard Hot 100 at number two , and stayed in the chart 's top ten for 20 weeks . Despite a number two peak , " Since U Been Gone " remains as Clarkson 's most successful single on the Billboard Hot 100 , outpacing even her number one hits on the chart . It also topped nine other Billboard charts , including the Billboard Mainstream Top 40 and the Billboard Dance / Mix Show Airplay , and became a successful hit around the world . The second single , " Behind These Hazel Eyes " , was released on April 2005 and continued the chart success . After debuting at number 87 on the Billboard Hot 100 , it peaked at number six while " Since U Been Gone " is still in the top ten . It stayed on the chart 's top ten for 15 weeks , and also became an international hit . The third single , " Because of You " , released on August 2005 , performed successfully along with its predecessors , peaking at number seven on the Billboard Hot 100 . While " Since U Been Gone " became Breakaway 's most successful release in the United States , " Because of You " became the album 's most successful release internationally . It topped the Dutch Top 40 chart in the Netherlands ,

Schweizer Hitparade chart in Switzerland , the Tracklisten Airplay chart in Denmark and became a number one single on the Billboard European Hot 100 Singles chart ; while also attaining a top ten position in nine regions . The follow @-@ up track , " Walk Away " , was released on January 2006 as Breakaway 's fourth single and its final release in the United States . After debuting at number 97 , it peaked at number 12 on the Billboard Hot 100 , and became a top forty hit internationally . Originally released as a single from The Princess Diaries 2 : Royal Engagement soundtrack in July 2004 , the title track " Breakaway " was reissued as the album 's fifth and final single in May 2006 . After peaking on the Billboard Hot 100 at number six , it became a top twenty hit internationally .

= = = Tours = = =

From 2005 to 2006 , Clarkson embarked on three concert tours to promote Breakaway : the Hazel Eyes Tour , the Breakaway World Tour , and the Addicted Tour . The Hazel Eyes tour took place in various theaters throughout North America , with the concert at UCF Arena being streamed live on AOL and AOL Radio . The Breakaway World Tour , which took place in between the Hazel Eyes Tour , marked as her first world tour , visiting theaters and arenas throughout in Europe and Oceania . Upon returning to the United States , she then embarked on the Addicted Tour , performing at various amphitheaters across North America .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The album received positive reviews from music critics . AllMusic senior editor Stephen Thomas Erlewine , who gave it four out of five stars , wrote " what gives Breakaway its spine are the driving , anthemic pop tunes , numbers that sound simultaneously mainstream and youthful , which is a hard trick to pull off " and describing the tracks as the ones that illustrate Clarkson as a rare thing in the 2000s : a pop singer who 's neither hip nor square , just solidly and enjoyably in the mainstream . Sputnikmusic 's Dave Donnelly gave it a " 4 " rating , remarking that " Breakaway is not a Thriller to her Off The Wall by no means , but that she has at least created a rare type of album : a one that which offers a full selection of potential singles , reminiscent of Michael Jackson 's Bad or Thriller , which he described as having a mass appeal with artistic integrity and perceived longevity . Breakaway may be remembered in years to come as a pop classic , alongside Madonna 's early material perhaps . " Raymond Fiore of Entertainment Weekly gave the album a " B " rating , noting it 's rock direction and describing it as " Avril @-@ meets @-@ Evanescence , with a splash of Pat Benatar . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine gave Breakaway a three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half star rating , and commented that though her rocky leanings were hinted at on the less coherent Thankful , Clarkson had always cited Mariah Carey as a primary influence and that she still owes a lot to that former powerhouse artist . Furthering describing it as " what Mariah might sound like if she ever decided to rock out . " Charles Merwin wrote for Stylus Magazine that the album 's probable non @-@ singles still maintain a quality " high enough to quell worries about the " I love the singles , but that 's all I really need to hear " arguments . " He described Clarkson as ranking some where at the top of her class as far as rock albums go among the teen pop set , saying that she " has a long way to go before we 'll ever feel comfortable calling her anything besides an American Idol , but for now she has a sound that seems believable enough to support her considerable chops . " In a quick review , Billboard described Breakaway as a " rare exhibition of substance over style " .

Some critics , however , were less impressed by the album . Shirley Halperin of the Rolling Stone offered a mixed review . Giving the album a three @-@ star rating , saying Clarkson isn 't ready for her new sound . She asked , " You can 't help but wonder , Who is the real Kelly Clarkson , and when will she stop wearing her big sister 's hand @-@ me @-@ downs ? " Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian gave it a two @-@ star rating , saying that the title track expresses Clarkson 's novel desire to " spread my wings and learn to fly " , but settles into a catchy enough rut that at times . "

== Commercial performance ==

Breakaway is currently Clarkson 's most successful release to date , with sales of over 15 million copies worldwide . On the week ending December 18 , 2004 , the album debuted at number three on Billboard 200 chart in the United States with 250 @, @ 000 copies , which were 47 @, @ 000 less than her first week sales of Thankful . Music commercial analysts noted that Clarkson 's commercial appeal has endured beyond American Idol , but also commented on its slumping performance . Billboard director Geoff Mayfield noted the lackluster performance may have been caused by being released in a competitive holiday market . Despite failing to top the chart , the record stayed on the top twenty of the Billboard 200 for 61 consecutive weeks , and became the first title in five years to spend its entire year in the top twenty of the chart . By the end of 2005 , Breakaway became the year 's third best @-@ selling album in the United States , according to Nielsen Soundscan . It was certified 6 x multi @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America on May 23 , 2007 , and as of 2014 , it has sold over 6 @, @ 307 @, @ 000 copies in the United States and becoming her best @-@ selling record in the region .

Breakaway has also enjoyed commercial success internationally ; it became her first album to chart in over nineteen regions . By the end of 2005 , the album became the world 's seventh best @-@ selling release of the year according to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry . In the United Kingdom , it debuted on the Official UK Albums Chart at number ten with 17 @, @ 631 copies . At the beginning of 2006 , the album ascended to number three on the chart . As of 2012 , it has sold over 1 @, @ 571 @, @ 278 copies in the region . In Australia , Breakaway debuted on the ARIA Albums Chart at number twenty @-@ nine , and also spent its entire year on the top fifty , peaking at number two . In Ireland , the album debuted on the IRMA Artist Albums chart at number twenty @-@ one , and topped the chart in 2006 . Together with the Australian Recording Industry Association , the Irish Recorded Music Association certified the record as 7 x multi @-@ platinum , its highest certification overall . In the Netherlands , the album debuted on the Mega Album Top 100 at number forty @-@ seven and topped the chart for three weeks . In other regions , Breakaway peaked in the top five in the national charts of Austria , Belgium , Denmark , Germany , Greece , New Zealand , Portugal , and Switzerland ; and has attained a top twenty position in six regions worldwide .

== Accolades ==

It has received various accolades from several music industry awards . It won Grammy Awards for Best Pop Vocal Album and Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for " Since U Been Gone " at the 49th ceremony , marking the first time she won a Grammy Award . It was also nominated for a Juno Award for International Album of the Year at the 36th Juno Awards . In the 2005 American Music Awards , Breakaway received four nominations , including Favorite Pop / Rock Album , and earned Clarkson two awards for Artist of the Year and Favorite Adult Contemporary Artist . In addition , she won the award for Favorite Pop / Rock Female Artist at the 2006 American Music Awards . It also earned her twelve nominations at the 2005 Billboard Music Awards , nine of which she had won . At the 2005 Teen Choice Awards , Breakaway won four awards , including a Choice Album award . At the TMF Awards , the album enabled Clarkson to win three awards , including a Best Pop Artist and a Best Female Artist award .

Breakaway also appeared on decade @-@ end best @-@ of lists . Newsweek ranked it as the ninth best album of the 2000s . Entertainment Weekly ranked it as the 29th of the 100 best albums from 1988 to 2008 . Rolling Stone ranked it as the 11th top album of the decade @-@ end reader 's poll .

== Impact ==

Music commercial analysts reported that Clarkson has attained a commercial appeal on her own

with Breakaway , despite their initial skepticism of her establishing prominence beyond American Idol . Davis recalled that " With the songs " Since U Been Gone " and " Behind These Hazel Eyes " , we were able to take Clarkson to a major seller of albums all over the world where they had never even heard of American Idol . " According to Mediabase , which monitors radio station airplay in North America , Clarkson was the most played artist on the radio of 2006 . David Corey , program director of WXKS @-@ FM , described it as " very rare " . Just before the release of her third studio album , Davis also stated that she was one of the top four artists at Sony BMG " .

Billboard credits Clarkson for landscaping the core sound of mainstream pop music in the 2000s to a uptempo dance @-@ oriented sound with the release of " Since U Been Gone " and the singles that followed it . The album 's producers also came into prominence due to the album 's success . Dr. Luke , who was the house band lead guitarist for Saturday Night Live at the time of the Breakaway 's release , has credited " Since U Been Gone " as his first big break . Max Martin , who had already found major success as a music producer in the 1990s and early 2000s with , among others , Britney Spears , Backstreet Boys and NSYNC , achieved more prominence due to the success of " Since U Been Gone " and " Behind These Hazel Eyes " .

Breakaway 's critical acclaim also enabled Clarkson to also earn critical respect , particularly from the rock and indie music scene , who had looked down upon American Idol contestants . In his memoir , Davis recalled a meeting Fuller and BMG President Charles Goldstuck , where Fuller acknowledged how the worldwide success of Breakaway has validated American Idol itself . The popularity of " Since U Been Gone " among the rock community has also resulted to various cover versions by rock acts , such as A Day to Remember , Ted Leo , and Tokyo Police Club . She recalled , " It 's ridiculous how well that song was received by hard rockers , by indie people . I was walking around with a friend of mine and this hard @-@ rock guy came up to me and was like , ' I look stupid , but I tell my friends I love this song . ' People at concerts are like , ' That 's my guilty pleasure . I don 't mean to be mean , but I didn 't want to like the American Idol girl . ' But they love that song , and it kind of won them over . "

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits lifted from the album 's liner notes .

Recorded at

Performance credits

Instruments

Production

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =