

= Christmas Time Is in the Air Again =

" Christmas Time is in the Air Again " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey from her second Christmas album and thirteenth studio album , Merry Christmas II You (2010) . It was written and produced by Carey in collaboration with Broadway composer Marc Shaiman . Lyrically , it is about finding love during the Christmas season . The track garnered positive reviews from critics , with one describing it as an outstanding performance and the only song on the album that could compare to one of Carey 's previous Christmas singles , " All I Want for Christmas Is You " . It was released as a single in December 2012 . An accompanying lyric video was released , and Carey has performed " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " live on NBC 's Christmas in Rockefeller Centre event and during her December 2014 Beacon Theatre residency called All I Want For Christmas Is You , A Night of Joy & Festivity .

= = Background and composition = =

" Christmas Time is in the Air Again " is an original composition written and produced by Carey with Broadway composer Marc Shaiman for Carey 's second Christmas album / thirteenth studio album Merry Christmas II You (2010) . It was recorded by Brian Garten at multiple recording studios , including Henson Studios , 20th Century Fox Scoring Stage , Guardian Angel Studios , Germano Studios , Capitol Recording Studios , while it was mixed by Phil Tan and assistant Damien Lewis at The Ninja Beat Club . An extensive list of additional and assistant engineers were enlisted in the production of the track : Brett " Snacky " Pierce , Scott Risett , Kenta Yonesaka , Alex Guapera , Charlie Paakkari , Tim Lauber , Tom Steel , Greg Dennon , Denis St. Amand . Aside from being credited as a songwriter and producer , the song was orchestrated and arranged by Shaiman , who also performed the piano .

The ballad begins with Carey singing " Oh , Christmas time is in the air again " in her " whisper register " , backed by a string section performed by Mike Valerio on the upright bass and George Doering playing the guitar . Other instrumentalists who performed on the bell and chime embellished track were Victor Indrizzo on the drums and Luis Conte on percussion . The orchestra was recorded and pre @-@ mixed by John Richards and the concertmaster was Ralph Morrison ; Shari Sutcliffe was enlisted as the orchestra contractor . Lyrically , the track is about falling in love during the Christmas season . Set in the key of D ? major , the song has a " slow " feel and a tempo of 50 beats per minute ; Carey 's voice spans just short of two octaves from F ? 3 to E5 . On November 26 , 2012 , Carey announced via her Twitter account that " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " would be released as a single .

= = Critical reception = =

The Village Voice writer Rich Juzwiak felt that " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " was the only song on Merry Christmas II You that matched " the magic " of her 1994 single " All I Want for Christmas Is You " , describing it as " exquisite " . He continued to write that it is " a sweeping big @-@ band ballad that you 'd swear was a cover from some Judy Garland movie you didn 't pay that much attention to once . Not even Santa himself has the power to conjure the spontaneous nostalgia found here . " BBC critic Mike Diver was complimentary of the track , writing that , although the effect is " less instant " compared to the first single , " Oh Santa ! " , it fits in well with the rest of the album and is " perfectly formed " . Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone simply described the orchestration of the original compositions " One Child " and " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " as overwhelmingly Christmasy . In her 2012 single review of the song , Entertainment Focus writer Pip Ellwood awarded " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " four out of a possible five stars . She praised the composition for its " classy , soulful and sumptuous " feel and labelled it as " yet another festive classic from the Queen of Christmas " . Ellwood concluded her review by writing that the release of the song two years after that of Merry Christmas II You should " get it some more well @-@ deserved attention " .

= = Promotion = =

It was confirmed on November 15 , 2012 , that Carey would be performing at the NBC event Christmas in Rockefeller Centre later that month . The singer performed " All I Want for Christmas Is You " and " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " . Idolator writer Sam Lanksy wrote that she performed with " maestro vocals " , but felt that her vocals on the latter rendition " eclipsed " that of the former . The song was included on the set @-@ list of her Beacon Theatre residency called All I Want For Christmas Is You , A Night of Joy & Festivity in December 2014 . The New York Times critic Jon Caramanica felt as though Carey was " completely undersinging " . Carey released a lyric video for " Christmas Time Is in the Air Again " on December 17 , 2012 . As Carey 's vocals play , the lyrics of the song are intercut with Christmas @-@ themed images .

= = Charts = =