

= Mariah Carey ( album ) =

Mariah Carey is the self @-@ titled debut studio album by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey , released on June 12 , 1990 by Columbia Records . Its music incorporates a range of contemporary genres with a mix of slow ballads and dance tracks . Originally , Carey wrote four songs with Ben Margulies , which solely constituted her demo tape . While altered and partially re @-@ sung after being signed to Columbia , all four songs made the final cut for the album . Aside from Margulies , Carey worked with a range of professional writers and producers , all of whom were hired by Columbia CEO , Tommy Mottola . Mariah Carey featured production and writing from Rhett Lawrence , Ric Wake and Narada Michael Walden , all of whom were top record producers at the time . Together with Carey , they conceived the album and reconstructed her original demo tape .

Upon release , the album received generally positive reviews from music critics , who complimented Carey 's voice and technique , as well as the album 's content . It became a commercial success as well , topping the Billboard 200 album chart for eleven consecutive weeks . Mariah Carey was certified nine @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , denoting shipments of nine million copies in the United States . The album experienced similar success in Canada , where it topped the charts and was certified seven @-@ times platinum . Mariah Carey fared well in other worldwide territories , reaching the top ten in the Netherlands , Australia , New Zealand , Norway , Sweden and United Kingdom . Worldwide , the album has sold more than 15 million copies .

Five singles were released from the album , four of which became number @-@ one hits on the Hot 100 . " Vision of Love " was chosen as the album 's lead single , topping the charts in Canada , New Zealand , and the United States . The song was critically lauded , and was regarded as one of the strongest debut singles by a female singer . The album 's second single , " Love Takes Time " was also well received and peaked the charts in Canada and the US . With the following two singles , " Someday " and " I Don 't Wanna Cry " reaching number one in the US , Carey became the first artist since The Jackson 5 to have their first four singles top the charts in the United States .

= = Background = =

In 1988 , an 18 @-@ year @-@ old Carey moved out of her mother 's house in Long Island , and into a small apartment in Manhattan . She had a demo tape consisting of four songs , which she had written during her high school years with Ben Margulies . As 1988 unfolded , Carey , still without a record deal , struggled to draw the attention of record executives in New York . While working several jobs , she continued writing and producing music with Margulies , making changes and additions to the demo . After months of difficulty , Carey met with singer Brenda K. Starr , and soon began singing back @-@ up for her . Eventually , Starr began hearing what she described as " glimpses " of Carey 's voice throughout sessions , and noticed her " gifted voice " . She realized Carey was capable of achieving success , but only needed help to break through into mainstream music .

One night , Starr took Carey to a record industry gala , attempting to convince a record label executive to listen her demo . Jerry L. Greenberg , president of Atlantic Records took notice of her . As Carey handed him the record , Tommy Mottola quickly grabbed the tape , insisting that he would deal with " the project " . As Mottola got into his limousine later that evening , he played Carey 's demo and quickly realized the talent that he had just discovered . He quickly returned to the event , but a discouraged Carey had already left .

After a week of tracking her down through Starr 's management , Mottola got in touch with Carey and brought her over to Columbia Records . After meeting with Carey and her mother Patricia for the first time , Mottola said , " When I heard and saw Mariah , there was absolutely no doubt that she was in every way destined for super @-@ stardom . " After a few brief meetings , Carey was signed to Columbia in December 1988 .

Mottola had assumed the top position at Sony , the parent label of Columbia , and began taking the company through various stages of change . One he felt was very important for the label 's success

was to discover a young and very talented female vocalist , to rival Whitney Houston from Arista Records , or a pop star to match Madonna , who was signed to Sire Records at the time . He felt that Carey represented both . Mottola 's confidence in Carey led him to hire a range of talented and well @-@ known musicians and songwriters to assist with Carey 's demo , as well as to create new material . Among them were Ric Wake , Narada Michael Walden and Rhett Lawrence .

= = Recording and composition = =

Carey and Ben Margulies began writing prior to Carey 's signing , and had composed over fourteen songs ; seven of which earned a place on the album . Originally , Carey and Margulies planned to produce the entire album as well , an idea her label did not permit . On the album , Carey worked with a range of producers and writers , including from Ben Margulies , Rhett Lawrence , Narada Michael Walden , Ric Wake and Walter Afanasieff ; the latter would continue working extensively working with Carey on future projects . As production for the album began , Carey worked with Walden in New York , where they produced " I Don 't Wanna Cry " . While he described Carey as " very shy , " he noted how professional she was for someone her age . Additionally , Carey wrote " There 's Got to Be a Way " during her first recording session with Wake . During the session , they wrote four songs , but they only produced the latter song for the album . After flying to New York and working with Carey , Walden was astonished by her voice . Together , they collaborated on transforming many of the demo 's songs into more commercial recordings , which took place in Tarpan Studios in San Rafael , California . For her work with Lawrence , Carey traveled to New York once again . In the studio , she presented him with the demo of " Vision of Love " which she had written with Margulies years prior . Lawrence saw " potential " in the song , but he did not think much of it in its early stages . He described the song 's sound as having a " fifties sort of shuffle " . According to Lawrence , Carey needed a more contemporary sound , so they met in the studio alongside Margulies and producer Chris Toland . They added a new arrangement to the original chord progression , while Carey changed the song 's melody and key . Afterwards , Margulies added few drum notes to the arrangement , including additional guitar and bass notes .

When Carey worked with Walden on " I Don 't Wanna Cry " , they worked on several other songs . Together , they decided to " slow down the tempo " and create a " crying type of ballad , " one which according to him , featured a direct inspiration from gospel genres . After they completed the song , Lawrence noted how much of a perfectionist Carey was . He said that after finishing the song , she returned to the studio the following week , all in order to correct " one line " that troubled her . As one of the four original songs she gave to Mottola , " Someday " became Wake 's favorite from the start , " I loved that song right from the beginning ... Then Mariah called me one day and said ' I 'd love to do it if you want to do it . ' It was great , I 'm glad she called me . " During its recording , Carey revealed how the song came into existence . She had been working on the demo with Margulies in his studio . As he began playing different notes on the electric keyboard , Carey directed him on the chord changes , while providing the chorus , lyrics and melody . In " All in Your Mind " , Carey does a great vocal performance , doing staccatos up to F7 . According to the artist , her voice " split " while doing those ornaments . While she thought to remove it from the song 's recording , Wake and Walden were very impressed by the vocal flips , claiming that it would fit in perfectly .

The debut album was completed and being mastered when Carey wrote " Love Takes Time " with Ben Margulies . Margulies said , " It was sort of a gospelish thing I was improvising , then we began working on it . It was on a work tape that we had ... and we recorded a very quick demo . It was just a piano vocal demo - I played live piano , and she sang it . " Carey was on a mini @-@ tour of ten states , playing acoustically with a piano player and three back @-@ up singers . While on a company plane , she played the demo of " Love Takes Time " for Columbia Records president Don Ienner . " All the important guys were on the plane , " Margulies said . " Tommy Mottola , Ienner , and Bobby Colomby . " Carey was told the song was a " career @-@ maker , " and that it had to go on the first album . She protested - her album was already being mastered , and she intended this ballad for her next release .

The demo was sent to producer Afanasieff . When Carey flew west to work with Narada Michael

Walden on some tracks for her first album , Tommy Mottola and Don lenner were impressed with Afanasieff 's work and gave him an executive staff producer job with the label . " I guess to see if he made the right choice , ( Tommy ) called me up one day , " remembers Afanasieff . " He said , ' We 've got this Mariah Carey album done , but there 's a song that she and Ben Margulies wrote that is phenomenal , and I want to try everything we can to put it on the album . ' I said , ' What do you want me to do ? ' and he said , ' You only have a couple of days , but are you ready to cut it ? ' I couldn 't believe the opportunity that it was . I 'd never produced anything by myself up until that time . "

The demo was very close to what Mottola wanted the finished product to be , according to Afanasieff . " We cut the song and the music and the basics in about a day - and the only reason is this deadline . It was do it or we were gonna miss out on the whole thing . We got the tape and recorded everything and we got on the plane and went to New York ( and ) did her vocals . She did all the backgrounds , practically sang all night ... We came back to the studio that afternoon , and we had to fix one line very quickly , and then ( engineer ) Dana ( Jon Chapelle ) and I got back on the plane with the tape , went back to the studio in Sausalito , and mixed it . So it was a three @-@ day process : a day and a half for music , kind of like a day for vocals , and a day for mixing . "

Afanasieff heard from Columbia executives as soon as they received the mix . They wanted Carey 's vocal a little louder , so a remix was quickly completed . The producer asked if the song would still make the debut album , and was told , " We 're going to do our best . "

On the first copies of the album that were printed , " Love Takes Time " was not listed on the cassette or compact disc liner notes , even though the song was on the cassette or CD itself . " ( On ) some of the original first copies of the record , they didn 't have time to print the name of the song , " Margulies laughs . " And so the song 's on there , but it doesn 't say that it 's on there . It was a song that actually was strong enough to stop the pressing ... I don 't know if they had to throw away a few hundred copies . "

= = Critical reception = =

The album received mostly positive reviews from music critics . Ashley S. Battel from AllMusic called the album " extremely impressive " and described the songs as " smooth @-@ sounding ballads and uplifting dance / R & B cuts . " Battel concluded her review with " With this collection of songs acting as a springboard for future successes , Carey establishes a strong standard of comparison for other breakthrough artists of this genre . " Many critics expressed how Mariah Carey was one of the most impressive debuts of the year , praising its songs , lyrics and Carey 's voice and songwriting .

Billboard gave the album a very positive review calling it an " impressive debut , " and writing " Carey convincingly seizes many opportunities to display her incredible vocal range on such memorable tracks as the popular ' Vision of Love . ' " Rolling Stone gave the album praise writing " Carey debuted with an album of uplifting dance pop and R & B ballads , each song 's composition co @-@ credited to Carey and each providing an opportunity to unleash her wide vocal range . " American critic Robert Christgau gave the album a mixed review , writing , " She gets too political in her brave , young , idealistic attack on ' war , destitution and sorrow ' : ' Couldn 't we accept each other / Can 't we make ourselves aware . ' Elsewhere she sticks to what she doesn 't know ? love.'

Mariah Carey was nominated for the 1991 Grammy Award for Album of the Year , while " Vision of Love " received nominations in the categories of Song of the Year , Record of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance . Carey won for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance and also received the award for Best New Artist .

= = Chart performance = =

Mariah Carey entered the US Billboard 200 at number 80 , and reached the top 20 in its fourth week . The album topped the chart in its 36th week , due to Carey 's exposure at the 33rd Annual Grammy Awards , and stayed there for 11 consecutive weeks ; to date , it is the longest stay at number one in Carey 's career . It remained in the top 20 for 65 weeks and on the Billboard 200 for

113 weeks . Mariah Carey was certified nine @-@ times platinum by the RIAA on December 15 , 1999 . The album has sold 4 @,@ 885 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , according to Nielsen SoundScan , which began counting sales after January 1 , 1991 . It became the best @-@ selling album of 1991 in the United States .

In Canada , the album peaked at number one on the Canadian RPM Albums Chart during the week of April 20 , 1991 . To date , Mariah Carey is certified seven @-@ times platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) , denoting shipments of 700 @,@ 000 copies . The album peaked at number six in Australia , where it went double platinum and finished sixth on the ARIA Charts end of 1991 top 50 albums . During the week of September 15 , 1990 , Mariah Carey entered the UK Albums Chart at its peak of number six . After spending 40 weeks fluctuating in the chart , the album was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) , denoting shipments of 300 @,@ 000 copies . As of November 2010 , the album has sold 15 million copies worldwide .

= = Singles = =

" Vision of Love " was the first single released from the album and became one of the most popular and critically praised songs of Carey 's career . Additionally , " Vision of Love " is credited with bringing the use of melisma to the 1990s and inspiring various future talents . " Vision of Love " was nominated for three 1991 Grammy Awards : Best Female Pop Vocal Performance ( which it won ) , Record of the Year and Song of the Year . The song received the Soul Train Music Award for Best R & B / Soul Single , Female and a Songwriter Award at the BMI Pop Awards . In the United States , it peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 , during the week of August 2 , 1990 , staying atop the chart for four consecutive weeks . " Vision of Love " topped the singles chart in Canada and New Zealand as well , and appeared within the top ten in Australia , Ireland , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . Aside from its chart success , the song was lauded by music critics . In a retrospective review on the album in 2005 , Entertainment Weekly called the song " inspired " and complimented Carey 's use of the whistle register in the song . Additionally , Rolling Stone said that " the fluttering strings of notes that decorate songs like ' Vision of Love ' , inspired the entire American Idol vocal school , for better or worse , and virtually every other female R & B singer since the nineties . " Bill Lamb from About.com said that " ' Vision of Love ' is one of the best songs of Mariah 's recording career [ ... ] It is simply one of the most stunning debut releases ever by a pop recording artist . "

" Love Takes Time " served as the album 's second single . The song became Carey 's second single to top the singles chart in the United States , and third chart topper in Canada . While the song achieved strong success stateside , " Love Takes Time " barely charted inside the top ten in New Zealand and outside the top 20 in Germany , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . " Someday " ( the album 's third single ) followed a similar pattern as " Love Takes Time , " topping the chart in the US and Canada . In Australia , it peaked outside the top 40 , and hit number 38 in France and the UK . " I Don 't Wanna Cry " , the album 's fourth single , also topped the charts in the United States . The song became Carey 's fourth chart topper in the US , finishing number 25 on Billboard 's year @-@ end chart . Aside from peaking at number two in Canada , it charted at number 49 in Australia . A fifth single , " There 's Got to Be a Way " , was released in the United Kingdom , where it peaked at number fifty @-@ four .

= = Promotion = =

Aside from the heavy marketing and promotional campaign held by Sony Music , Carey performed on several television programs and award ceremonies , stateside and throughout Europe . Carey 's first televised appearance was at the 1990 NBA Playoffs where she sang " America the Beautiful " . Soon after , she performed " Vision of Love " back @-@ to @-@ back on both The Arsenio Hall Show and The Tonight Show . In September 1990 , Carey appeared on Good Morning America where she performed an a cappella version of " Vision of Love , " alongside the Billy T. Scott Ensemble . " Vision of Love " was performed on various other American television shows such as

the 1991 Grammy Awards and The Oprah Winfrey Show , as well as European programs such as The Veronica Countdown ( The Netherlands ) and the Wogan Show ( United Kingdom ) . Carey has performed " Vision of Love " on most of her tours , up until her Angels Advocate Tour in 2010 , where it remained absent from the set @-@ list .

Promotion for the album continued with Carey 's follow up singles . " Love Takes Time " was performed on " The Arsenio Hall Show " as well as Carey 's televised performance at " The Tattoo Club . " The third single from Mariah Carey , " Someday " , was performed at the 1991 American Music Awards which helped it reach number one in the United States . Carey 's fourth single " I Don 't Wanna Cry " , reached the top of the Hot 100 without any immediate promotion , as Carey had not performed the song until her Music Box Tour in 1993 . As promotion for Mariah Carey ended , Sony released a fifth single " There 's Got to Be a Way " , in the UK . Most of the albums singles were performed live throughout Carey 's short Music Box Tour . Both " Vision of Love " and " I Don 't Wanna Cry " were performed on Carey 's Asian and European Daydream World Tour ( 1996 ) .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =