

= One Sweet Day =

" One Sweet Day " is a song by American singer Mariah Carey and R & B group Boyz II Men . The song was written by Carey , Walter Afanasieff and Boyz II Men : Wanya Morris , Shawn Stockman , Nathan Morris , and Michael McCary . " One Sweet Day " was produced by Carey and Afanasieff for her fifth studio album , Daydream , and was released as the album 's second single on November 14 , 1995 (1995 @-@ 11 @-@ 14) . The song speaks about death of a loved one , how the protagonist took their presence for granted and misses them , and finally about seeing the person in heaven . Both Carey and Boyz II Men wrote the song about specific people in their lives , being inspired by sufferers of AIDS epidemic , which was globally prevalent at that time .

" One Sweet Day " received universal acclaim from critics , many of whom praised its lyrical content and vocals , as well as calling it a standout track from Daydream . It was ranked first in Rolling Stone 's reader 's poll for the Best Collaboration of All Time . The song spent 16 weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States , becoming the longest running number one song on the chart . Subsequently , " One Sweet Day " became the Billboard 's most successful song of the 1990s , topping the Hot 100 decade @-@ end chart . Internationally , the song topped the charts in Canada and New Zealand , and reached the top @-@ ten in Australia , Belgium , France , Ireland , the Netherlands , Norway , Sweden and the United Kingdom .

Carey performed " One Sweet Day " live alongside Boyz II Men at the 38th Grammy Awards ceremony , held on February 26 , 1996 . Additionally , the song was performed at Princess Diana 's memorial service in September 1997 . " One Sweet Day " was part of the set list on several of Carey 's succeeding tours , making its debut during the album 's accompanying set of concerts , the Daydream World Tour . It is featured on her compilation albums , # 1 's (1998) , Greatest Hits (2001) , The Ballads (2008) , and # 1 to Infinity (2015) .

The music video for " One Sweet Day " was filmed in February 1995 , and features snippets of Carey and Boyz II Men in and around the studio , and recording the song . The busy schedule of both Carey and Boyz II Men did not allow time to record a proper video . The singer later said that she was content a real music video was never filmed , fearing that no video could truly capture the song 's strong lyrical message . Critics felt the video choice was wise , and agreed that the simple concept paid homage to the song 's selfless message .

= = Background = =

" One Sweet Day " was a song that Carey wrote with the R & B group Boyz II Men . After Carey 's friend and past collaborator David Cole died , she began writing and developing a song that would pay homage to him and all the friends and family her fans had lost along the life 's journey . Carey had the idea and chorus composed , and after meeting with Boyz II Men , they realized they too had a similar idea in development . Together , using Carey 's chorus and idea , as well as the melody they had produced , they wrote and composed the song . The song was produced by Afanasieff , who built on the song 's melody and added various grooves and beats . Carey expressed how the song was " meant to be " and how all the pieces fit into place :

" I wrote the initial idea for ' One Sweet Day ' with Walter , and I had the chorus ... and I stopped and said , ' I really wanna do this with Boyz II Men , ' because ... obviously I 'm a big fan of theirs and I just thought that the work was crying out for them , the vocals that they do , so I put it away and said , ' Who knows if this could ever happen , but I just don 't wanna finish this song because I want it to be our song if we ever do it together . [The] whole idea of when you lose people that are close to you , it changes your life and changes your perspective . When they came into the studio , I played them the idea for the song and when [it] was finished , they looked at each other , a bit stunned , and told me that Nathan " Nate " Morris had written a song for his road manager who had passed away . It had basically the same lyrics and fitted over the same chord changes . It was really , really weird , we finished the song right then and there . We were all kinda flipped about it ourselves . Fate had a lot to do with that . I know some people won 't believe it , but we wouldn 't make up such a crazy story . "

After they began working on the song , Carey began to incorporate other lyrics into the chorus , trying to make the song relatable to the AIDS epidemic that was in full force in the mid @-@ 1990s . Additionally , Mariah 's sister Alison Carey had been diagnosed with HIV in 1988 when she was 27 , an event that ruined their relationship and tore them apart . Carey has stated that she wrote the song hoping that all her fans that have lost someone could relate to " One Sweet Day " and maybe help ease the pain of the loss . Carey described the song as " [the] whole idea of when you lose people that are close to you , it changes your life and changes our perspective . "

= = Composition = =

" One Sweet Day " is a downtempo song that blends R & B and pop music . It incorporates organ instrumentation and different contemporary grooves and beats into its primary arrangement , adding percussion and synthesizers as well . The song is set in the time signature common time and moves at a slow tempo of 64 beats per minute . It is written in the key of A ? major and features a basic chord progression of A ? ? D ? maj9 ? A ? ? D ? maj9 ? G ? add9 , while the basic melodic line spans roughly an octave and a half from E ? 4 to A ? 5 ; the piano in the piece ranges from D ? 2 to A ? 5 . The song contains choral lyrics written by Carey , who also arranged and co @-@ produced the song alongside Walter Afanasieff . Author Chris Nickson complimented the song 's instrumentation and arrangement , calling its use of synthesizers " wise " and " efficient . " Additionally , he claimed Afanasieff 's production and Carey 's vocal and production arrangement helped the song 's vocals and lyrical content flow together . The song finishes with the last chorus and coda in the key of B major .

= = Reception and recognition = =

" One Sweet Day " has been lauded with universal acclaim from contemporary music critics . Allmusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine praised the song for its craft and writing , commenting that " [in] " One Sweet Day , " a duet with Boyz II Men , Carey appeals to both audiences equally because of the sheer amount of craft and hard work she puts into her albums . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly felt the song truly highlighted the album , " [One Sweet Day] radiates a breezy sexiness that Carey , for all the brazen hussiness of her public persona , rarely permits herself to reveal in song . Stephen Holden from The New York Times shared similar sentiments and wrote " On ' One Sweet Day , ' the singer joins forces with Boyz II Men , those masters of pleading post @-@ doo @-@ wop vocal harmonies , for a tender eulogy that suggests that the singers have been personally touched by the AIDS crisis . " People felt the song was a " stand @-@ out track " and called Carey 's vocal performance " bravura belting " .

" One Sweet Day " won many prestigious awards throughout 1996 . At the Blockbuster Entertainment Awards , the song won the award for " Favorite Adult Contemporary Single Female ' One Sweet Day ' " . " One Sweet Day " also won the award for " Song of the Year " at the BMI Awards and a " Special Award for 16 weeks at # 1 " at the Billboard Music Awards . Together , Daydream and " One Sweet Day " were nominated for six Grammy Awards at the 38th annual ceremony , however , to Carey 's surprise , and to the shock of many critics , they lost all of the nominations . In a readers ' poll conducted by Rolling Stone , the song was ranked first for the category of the Best Collaboration of All Time .

= = Commercial performance = =

" One Sweet Day " became Carey 's tenth chart topping single on the Billboard Hot 100 and Boyz II Men 's fourth . The song remained at the peak for a record @-@ breaking , 16 consecutive weeks , from December 2 , 1995 to March 16 , 1996 . Boyz II Men had previously held this record twice , with " End of the Road " (1992) spending 13 weeks at the top and " I 'll Make Love to You " (1994) spending 14 . The former song shares this record with Brandy and Monica 's " The Boy Is Mine " , and the latter song shared its record with Whitney Houston 's " I Will Always Love You " . Carey 's

2005 song " We Belong Together " , The Black Eyed Peas 's 2009 " I Gotta Feeling " and Mark Ronson 's 2014 track , " Uptown Funk " , managed to stay at number one for 14 weeks as well . " One Sweet Day " replaced " Exhale (Shoop Shoop) " by Whitney Houston at number one , and was replaced by Celine Dion 's " Because You Loved Me " . The single also debuted at number one , making Carey the first artist to have more than one number @-@ one debut , and one of the two artists ever to have two consecutive singles debut at the top of the chart , along with Britney Spears , with " 3 " (2009) and " Hold It Against Me " (2011) . One Sweet Day was the third best @-@ selling single of 1995 in the US , with sales of over 1 @,@ 300 @,@ 000 , with the second best @-@ selling single being Carey 's " Fantasy " . The song spent 26 weeks in the top 40 , was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and was ranked number one on Billboard 's " Decade @-@ End Charts " . To date the single sold 2 @,@ 334 @,@ 000 physical units .

Outside the U.S. , " One Sweet Day " was not as successful but did manage to reach the top @-@ ten in over 13 countries and topped the chart in Canada and New Zealand , where it was certified platinum . In Canada , the song debuted on the RPM Singles Chart at number 89 on the RPM issue dated December 4 , 1995 , and reached the top of the chart on January 22 , 1996 . It was present on the chart for a total of 24 weeks , and ranked 12th on the RPM Year @-@ end chart for 1996 . It reached the top @-@ two in Australia (platinum) , The Netherlands ; the top @-@ five in France (silver) and Ireland and the top @-@ ten in Belgium , Norway (platinum) , Sweden and the United Kingdom (silver) . In the UK , it is one of Carey 's best @-@ selling singles , with estimated sales of 255 @,@ 000 .

= = Music video = =

The song 's music video was directed by Larry Jordan . When Carey and Boyz II Men got together to record " One Sweet Day " , they did not have enough time to re @-@ unite and film a video . Instead , a filming crew was present during the song 's recording , and filmed bits of Carey and Boyz recording the song . Walter Afanasieff later told Fred Bronson that shooting the video was " crazy " , stating " They had film crews and video guys , while I 'm at the board trying to produce . And these guys were running around having a ball , because Mariah and them are laughing and screaming and they 're being interviewed . And I 'm tapping people on the shoulder . ' We 've got to get to the microphone ! ' They 're gone in a couple of hours , so I recorded everything they did , praying that it was enough . " After the song 's release , Carey expressed her content with the video. that she was happy a real music video was never filmed , fearing that no video could truly capture the song 's " precious message " . Critics agreed , feeling that the song was a perfect match for the video and its message . Aside from the recording sessions , the video also shared bits of Carey and Boyz bonding and sharing their ideas in the studio , where Carey felt they " bonded " .

= = Live performances = =

" One Sweet Day " was performed at the 38th Annual Grammy Awards , held on February 28 , 1996 . During the performance , Carey wore a long black dress and matching sleeveless blouse , while the group wore white jackets and black pants . After the song 's bridge , a choir of male and female vocalists took place on the rafters placed over the stage , all wearing white gowns . The song was also performed at the memorial service for Princess Diana in September 1997 , where other performers included Elton John . During the service and song recital , Carey wore a conservative long black sheer gown , with long golden curls . Boyz II Men all wore similar matching dark suit and garments . The song became part of Carey 's BET Christmas special in 2001 , where she sang the song alongside Boyz II Men . During the special , Carey wore a red gown in honor of the show 's holiday theme , and featured a long golden hairstyle . One of the male vocalists had already been switched , as one of the group members had already resigned .

Aside from live television appearances , the song was performed on many of Carey 's tours . " One Sweet Day " was performed at every show on her Daydream World Tour (1996) , where Boyz II

Men were featured on a large projection screen . The footage was taken from Carey 's filmed concert at Madison Square Garden in late @-@ 1995 , and was played in sync with Carey 's verses . A similar concept was used for her Butterfly World Tour (1998) , with the addition of several live back up vocalists joining on stage . Additionally , the song was performed on select dates on her The Adventures of Mimi tour (2006) . During the tour 's filmed show in Anaheim California , the group joined Carey live on stage and performed the song together . For the segment of the show , Carey wore a long turquoise gown , with several slits and cuts fashioned into the sides . During the Angels Advocate Tour in 2010 , Carey performed a snippet of the song in Singapore , with Trey Lorenz filling in for the group 's verses . Carey also performed the song as a part of her 2015 Las Vegas residency , Mariah Carey Number 1 's , with Lorenz reprising his role as well as Daniel Moore .

= = Cover versions = =

" One Sweet Day " was performed by the seven finalists on the seventh season of American Idol . The performance was taped due to the " Mariah Carey " themed week , where all the competitors sang songs from Carey 's repertoire . The song was additionally sung on the fifth season of the UK TV show The X Factor , by the British boy @-@ band JLS . Their performance received praise from all four judges , who commented how it was an " impossibly hard song to sing " because it was a " Mariah song " . The song was also performed by John Adeleye during the seventh season The X Factor . The theme of the night was " # 1 songs " . Shannon Magrane performed the song on the eleventh season of American Idol the week the contestants performed songs from their birth years . Andy Williams released a version in 2007 on his album , I Don 't Remember Ever Growing Up .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Daydream liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? co @-@ production , songwriting , vocals

Walter Afanasieff ? co @-@ production , songwriting

Nathan Morris ? songwriting , vocals

Wanya Morris ? songwriting , vocals

Shawn Stockman ? songwriting , vocals

Michael McCary ? songwriting , vocals

= = Charts and certifications = =