

= Never Too Far / Hero Medley =

" Never Too Far / Hero Medley " is a medley recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey , first released as a charity single on December 11 , 2001 through Virgin Records America and serving as the lead single for Carey 's second compilation album , Greatest Hits ( 2001 ) . The medley combines the first verse of " Never Too Far " , co @-@ written and co @-@ produced by Carey and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , with a re @-@ recorded version of the first verse and bridge of " Hero " , written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff . As the latter did not receive co @-@ production credits due to the change in instrumentation , Randy Jackson was named as producer alongside Carey instead . The single was meant to express a message of unity and love in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks .

Though Carey did not promote Glitter ( 2001 ) , due to her hospitalization , she embarked on a short promotional tour for the single , and attended several charitable events . Carey performed the medley live at the 2001 Radio Music Awards , British music program Top of the Pops , the United We Stand : What More Can I Give concert benefit , and her own special titled , At Home For The Holidays With Mariah Carey . Following the singles release , the song managed to attain a peak position of number eighty @-@ one on the Billboard Hot 100 , in light of all of Carey 's live appearances . Though promoted throughout Europe , the single was never given an official release outside the United States , therefore failing to chart in any other significant global music market .

= = Background and recording = =

Following the weak commercial success of Glitter ( 2001 ) , her debut release under Virgin Records , Carey suffered an emotional and physical breakdown , followed by an extended hospitalization . During this period , Carey 's older label , Columbia records , planned to release a compilation album of her biggest hits , titled Greatest Hits ( 2001 ) . As they had one more album to release from Carey under her old contract , they began assembling content for its release . Though still signed to Virgin , Carey composed a charity single in which all proceeds would go towards helping rebuild America , following the terrorist attacks . Consequently , she re @-@ recorded her 1993 song " Hero " , and made a medley of it with a single from Glitter , " Never Too Far " . The song features a different instrumental introduction , and begins with the first verse and chorus of " Never Too Far " , and blends into the bridge of " Hero " . Several writers for the medley are credited , with Carey having written " Never Too Far " with Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , and the latter with Walter Afanasieff . Aside from Jam and Lewis , Randy Jackson assisted Carey in the song 's production . In an interview with MTV , Carey described the single and its conception :

" I started doing different charity events where I did a combination of ' Never Too Far ' and ' Hero ' . We made it into a medley and put them in the same key and made it work . People responded really well to it . It 's been interesting for me , since the events of September 11 , the way people have been playing ' Hero ' and really even talking to me about ' Never Too Far ' , ' cause that song is also about loss . I figured that it would be a nice thing to do , to put them both out for Christmas . There 's also an unreleased track on the B @-@ side , which is called ' There for Me ' which kind of has the same sentiment . The proceeds from ' Never Too Far ' and ' Hero ' and ' There for Me ' are going to go to the Heroes Fund , and it 's going to benefit police officers ' families , relief workers ' families . "

= = = " There For Me " = = =

The song 's B @-@ side , titled " There For Me " , was a leftover track from Carey 's Rainbow ( 1999 ) , which she wrote alongside David Foster and Diane Warren . After Carey abandoned work with longtime collaborator Walter Afanasieff , she began working with Foster throughout Rainbow . During their many creative meetings , Foster introduced Carey to Warren , a song @-@ writer in which he had collaborated several times in the past . Throughout the process of writing and producing the song , the female pair did not work well with each other , as Carey accused Warren of repeating lyrical phrases too often , while Warren did not agree with some of Carey 's production

choices . After they completed the song , Carey wrote two other ballads with Warren for Rainbow , entitled " After Tonight " and " Can 't Take That Away ( Mariah 's Theme ) " .

= = Composition = =

" Never Too Far / Hero " is a mid @-@ tempo ballad , drawing influence from pop and R & B music genres . The song was written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis and Randy Jackson , and was released as the lead single from her second compilation album , Greatest Hits ( 2001 ) . It incorporates music from several musical instruments , including the piano , guitar and organ . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Music Publishing , the song is set in common time with a moderate tempo of 62 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of C major with Carey 's vocal range spanning from the low @-@ note of D ? 3 to the high @-@ note of Ab5 . The song 's chorus has a basic chord progression of Gsus2 ? G ? G / F ? ? Em7 ? G / D ? C @-@ G / B ? Am7 . In an interview with Fred Bronson , Carey described her original feelings towards the song , prior to its release as a single :

One person could say that ' hero ' is a schmaltzy piece of garbage , but another person can write to me a letter and say , ' I 've considered committing suicide everyday of my life for the last ten years until I heard that song and I realized after all I can be my own hero . ' And that , that 's an unexplainable feeling , like I 've done something with my life , y 'know ? ... It meant something to someone .

While " Hero " describes the hidden power inside each individual , " Never Too Far " encourages those who are doubtful over their very existence , and how through perseverance , one can see that nothing is ever ' too far away ' . Together combined , the single gives over a supportive message , for those who are either looking for meaning in life , or just doubting their own worth and ability . During a show on Carey 's The Adventures of Mimi Tour , she described the meaning " Hero " had to her and her fans :

" I wrote a song a while back even before " One Sweet Day " and it was not my favorite song in the world , but I wrote it . Someone asked me to write a song and they told me the story , and you know it was kind of a moving concept or whatever . And I did it , and I was like you know it ? s not necessarily what I like per se , but after doing the song over and over again and having people coming up to and saying , thank you for writing ? Hero ? because it saved my life or it saved my father ? s life or my brothers or sisters life , or something of that nature , I said I always have to sing that song when I ? m performing because if I don ? t , you never know who I ? m leaving out and you know what , in times of my life I ? ve had to turn to that song lyrically and flip it onto my own life and sing it to myself . So its from the ? Music Box ? album , and it ? s called ? Hero ' , this is for you . "

= = Reception = =

Elysa Gardner from USA Today called " Never Too Far / Hero " a " refreshing medley " and felt it would easily be accepted among Carey 's other popular and heartfelt inspirational ballads . The medley was only given a commercial release in the United States . Though " Hero " ( a single from Carey 's album Music Box ) had gone to number @-@ one on the US Billboard Hot 100 , " Never Too Far " ( a single from Glitter ) had failed to chart . " Never Too Far / Hero Medley " performed marginally better , peaking at number eighty @-@ one and remaining on the chart for three weeks , however still not delivering the kind of success Carey was accustomed to prior to Glitter . The charity single was released to help victims of the September 11 attacks , with all proceeds from the sales of the single going towards the Heroes Fund , a charity benefit for victims of the attacks and their families , police officers , and relief workers .

= = Live performances = =

Though having not promoted Glitter during the time of its release , due to her breakdown and

subsequent hospitalization , Carey embarked on a short promotional campaign for the single , as well as charity benefits for the September 11 attacks victims . At the 2001 Radio Music Awards , Carey made her second public appearance following her breakdown , the first being a performance of " Hero " at the America : A Tribute to Heroes telethon on September 21 , 2001 . Entering the stage in a long black evening gown , Carey performed the medley live , followed by a standing ovation from the audience . On October 21 , 2001 , a benefit titled United We Stand : What More Can I Give was held at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium in Washington , D.C. , accompanied by the charity single " What More Can I Give " , in which Carey participated . Carey donned a black open @-@ back dress with a plunging neckline , and performed " Never Too Far / Hero " , followed by a live rendition of " What More Can I Give " .

On November 16 , 2001 , Carey taped a special titled A Home For The Holidays With Mariah Carey , which aired on December 21 of that same year . The special featured additional performances by Destiny 's Child , Josh Groban , Enrique Iglesias and Mandy Moore . Carey opened the special , with a performance of " Never Too Far / Hero " while wearing a form @-@ fitting red evening gown . Aside from the single , Carey performed " I 'll Be There " and " Reflections ( Care Enough ) " , a single from Glitter . Following stateside promotion of the charity single , Carey performed it alongside Westlife on the British music chart program , Top of the Pops .

= = Formats and track listings = =

US CD single

" Never Too Far / Hero Medley "

" There for Me "

" Never Too Far " Hero Remixes ( European CD Maxi Single )

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Extended Mix "

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Radio Mix "

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Radio Mix With Intro "

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Al B. Rich Inspiration Mix ? Radio Edit "

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Al B. Rich Inspiration Mix ? X @-@ Tended Mix "

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Mike Rizzo Extended Club Recall Mix "

" Never Too Far / Hero ? Mike Rizzo Radio Recall Mix "

= = Credits and personnel = =

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

Walter Afanasieff ? songwriting

James Harris ? songwriting , co @-@ production

Terry Lewis ? songwriting , co @-@ production

Randy Jackson ? co @-@ production

Credits adapted from the Greatest Hits liner notes .

= = Charts = =