

= When Christmas Comes =

" When Christmas Comes " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey from her second Christmas album / thirteenth studio album , Merry Christmas II You (2010) . Carey wrote and produced the song in collaboration with James Poyser . A soul song with an influence of R & B , the lyrics are about giving the gift of love . In November 2011 , Carey re @-@ recorded the song as duet with John Legend , which was later released as a single . Both versions of the track were a hit in South Korea , with the duet debuting at number one with sales in excess of 80 @,@ 000 copies . The song 's accompanying music video features Carey and Legend at a hosting a Christmas house party . It has been performed by Carey at her ABC 2010 Christmas special and during her 2014 Beacon Theatre residency All I Want For Christmas Is You , A Night of Joy & Festivity in December 2014 .

= = Background and composition = =

" When Christmas Comes " was written and produced by Mariah Carey and James Poyser for the former 's second Christmas album / thirteenth studio album , Merry Christmas II You (2010) . Her vocals were recorded by Brian Garten at Guardian Angel Studios in Bel Air , Westlake Recording Studios and Hensons Studios , both located in Los Angeles , and Germano Studios in New York City . Carey performed her own background vocals along with Melonie Daniels , Sharlotte Gibson and Nicki Richards . The music for the song was recorded by Garten and Kevin Guarneri ; Alex Evans played the drums , while John " Jubu " Smith played the guitar . On November 7 , 2011 , Carey revealed that she would be releasing " When Christmas Comes " as a duet with John Legend . The duet was released in the United States on November 21 and the United Kingdom on November 28 .

It as an R & B @-@ influenced soul song with a " simple groove " that lasts for a duration of four minutes and forty @-@ six seconds . The single release version with Legend lasts for additional second . The instrumental consists of horns , including the trumpet performed by Rick Baptist and Greg Adams , and the trombone by Nick Lane . Other brass instruments include Dan Higgins on the sax and flute . In addition to being a producer , Poyser performs the keyboard . Lyrically , the song is about " giving the gift of love " , as Carey and Legend harmonize the lyrics " And me and you gon ' have ourselves a holiday / And we don 't need nobody else to celebrate / And we 're gon ' kiss our worries and our cares away / I can 't wait / Because this Christmas time , get together / It 's gonna be so nice , better than ever / And baby you ? re the one , special treasure . " Prior to the final chorus , the pair freelance the a portion of the lyrics from " Jingle Bells " . As noted by Scott Shelter of PopCrush , " listeners are treated to notes from the upper reaches of Mariah ? s five @-@ octave range , which she rarely shows off anymore . " In an interview for Vevo , Carey stated that she felt that Legend was the " perfect choice " to re @-@ create the song as a duet with , and that his " soulful " creative decisions " took it up several notches " .

= = Critical reception = =

Mike Diver for BBC was complimentary of " When Christmas Comes " , writing 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 " . The Village Voice writer Rich Juzwiak thought that the use of a full band was a " retread " of the songs Carey recorded for her tenth studio album , The Emancipation of Mimi (2005) . Of the duet , Shelter described it as " sultry " , awarded it four stars out of a possible five , and labelled it as being superior to the original version with vocals solely by Carey included on the album .

= = Commercial performance = =

The original version of " When Christmas Comes " peaked at number seven on both the South

Korea International Digital Singles chart and Download Singles chart , respectively , on November 20 , 2010 . The single version with Legend debuted at number one on South Korean Download chart on November 27 , 2011 , with sales of 81 @,@ 624 . The following week , it fell to number eight with 32 @,@ 952 copies sold . It sold a further 18 @,@ 947 and 13 @,@ 339 copies in its third and fourth weeks , respectively . Despite debuting atop Download chart with 81 @,@ 624 copies sold , it peaked at number two on the Digital chart . In the United States , the duet debuted at number twenty @-@ five on the Adult R & B Songs chart , and climbed to number seventeen the following week . It dropped one position to number eighteen in its third week , but resurged to a peak of number fifteen the week after on January 7 , 2012 . " When Christmas Comes " debuted at number seventy on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , becoming the " Hot Shot Debut " for the week dated December 17 , 2011 , and the first song from Merry Christmas II You to enter the chart . It is Carey 's fifty @-@ third entry overall . The track peaked at number fifty @-@ seven on the Japan Hot 100 in 2012 .

= = Promotion = =

An accompanying music video directed by Sanaa Hamri for " When Christmas Comes " was filmed at Carey 's Los Angeles home and features Carey and Legend throwing a celebratory Christmas house party , which includes a cameo by Nick Cannon . It features footage from the film A Charlie Brown Christmas . On November 15 , Carey posted images of the video shoot on her website , one of which shows the two singers sitting at piano . It premiered on December 13 , 2011 . Carey has performed the track live on her ABC Christmas Special in December 2010 , and at her Beacon Theatre residency called All I Want For Christmas Is You , A Night of Joy & Festivity in December 2014 .

= = Track listings = =

; Digital download (2010 album version)
" When Christmas Comes " ? 4 : 46
; Digital download (2011 single release)
" When Christmas Comes " with John Legend ? 4 : 45

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =