

MUSIC

COWBOY CARTER

Country music like you've never experienced before

TAASEEN MOHAMMED ISLAM

Cowboy Carter is one of Beyoncé's longest albums, clocking in at an hour and eighteen minutes with over 27 tracks. The album is heavily influenced by country and folk music. The album incorporates numerous genres such as R&B, Brazilian funk, Italian opera, pop, blues, rock, and hip-hop to create an unconventional country sound. However, the production of *Cowboy Carter* is drastically different from *Renaissance*. It is intimate and stripped back rather than ethereal and polished with the seamless integration of the tracks being the only common denominator between the bodies of work.

In terms of collaborations, the album has a range of high-profile artists on it – from Dolly Parton to Miley Cyrus and Post Malone – all complementing Beyoncé's storytelling throughout the record. A new wave of emerging black country artists were also featured on this record, such as Tanner Adell, Shaboozey, and Willie Jones. In terms of writing and production credits, the likes of Paul McCartney, Pharrell Williams, and RAYE were involved.

This album has numerous standout tracks, including "DAUGHTER", "AMERICAN REQUIEM", "YA YA", "TYRANT", and Beyoncé's rendition of the classic "JOLENE". *Cowboy Carter* also flips the domination of white voices on American country and folk culture. Beyoncé provides a historically absent lens into the black roots of country music, which has prompted a lot of controversy and debate about Black artist's place in the landscape of country music. However, the album has garnered global acclaim.

Ultimately, Beyoncé completely reinvents country music on *Cowboy Carter*, once again proving she's an artist who can make incredible music regardless of genre and is still an undisputed superstar almost 25 years into her career.



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