

= Unlocked (Alexandra Stan album) =

Unlocked is the second studio album recorded by Romanian recording artist Alexandra Stan . It was made available for digital download on 27 August 2014 through Victor Entertainment as a follow @-@ up to her 2011 album , Saxobeats , and its reissue , Cliché (Hush Hush) (2013) . Stan collaborated with several record producers on this album , including Andreas Schuller , Sebastian Jacome , Chrisan Prince , Erik Lidbom and Gabriel Huiban . She also took part at the FonoCamp 2013 , the first international songwriting camp held in Romania , where she further worked on material featured on this album . Unlocked premiered following an alleged physical altercation with her former manager , Marcel Prodan , over compensation , which caused Stan 's short career hiatus in 2013 .

The music of Unlocked draws from the EDM and dance @-@ pop styles of her previous material , while also incorporating different forms of instrumentation from her previous releases , such as Bhangra and Caucasian music in the songs " Kiss Me Goodbye " and " Give Me Your Everything " , respectively . Lyrically , the album approaches themes that delve on issuance , retrieval and a new beginning , while also speaking on Stan 's volatile relationship with her unidentified boyfriend . The record received generally positive reviews from music critics , many of whom praising its material for being " catchy " and " infectious " . Unlocked also drew comparisons to the works of American singer Britney Spears , Barbadian recording artist Rihanna and Australian performer Sia .

Upon its release , Unlocked debuted and peaked at number 21 on the Japanese Oricon Albums Chart , selling 3 @,@ 859 copies in its first week of release . As of September 2014 , the album has sold more than 17 @,@ 000 units , according to the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) . Six tracks from the album were released as singles , of which three (" Cherry Pop " , " Dance " and " We Wanna ") charted on the Japan Hot 100 . " Dance " reached the top 10 in Turkey , while " We Wanna " reached the top thirty in Argentina , Poland and Turkey , and the top sixty in Italy , Romania and Slovakia . To promote Unlocked , Stan embarked on two tours throughout 2014 , Cherry Pop Summer Tour and Unlocked Tour , in Russia , Mexico , Japan and Turkey .

= = Background and development = =

Shortly after releasing her debut album Saxobeats (2011) which featured her worldwide breakthrough single , " Mr. Saxobeat " , Stan started to work on new material for a new record with Marcel Prodan and Andrei Nemirschi , her long @-@ time composers and managers . " Lemonade " , " Cliché (Hush Hush) " and " All My People " were subsequently released worldwide as singles through 2012 and 2013 , and were intended for her then @-@ untitled second studio album . The album was intended for a September 2013 release , but following an alleged physical altercation with her former manager Prodan over compensation , the recording was delayed . Following this , Stan accused him of physically attacking and blackmailing her . After her recovery , Stan was sued by Prodan for using his songs in her live performances without his permission . Stan won the copyright battle in June 2014 . Cliché (Hush Hush) , Stan 's last album under Prodan 's label , Maan Records , was released in October 2013 . It was a re @-@ issue of Saxobeats with the addition of the three songs intended for Stan 's second studio album . Cliché (Hush Hush) was only released in Japan ; it failed to gain much success , although it did enter the top sixty on the Oricon Albums Chart . In late 2013 , Stan continued the work on her second studio album with a new team , including record producers and songwriters Alex Cotoi and Erik Lidbom . She also switched from Prodan 's label and signed a new deal with Fonogram Records . " Thanks for Leaving " , the first single from Unlocked , was released on 28 April 2014 . In the following four months , Stan released three more singles , " Cherry Pop " , " Dance " and " Give Me Your Everything " , under Roton and Fonogram Records . Stan took part at the FonoCamp 2013 , the first international songwriting camp in Romania , held in Azuga , where she further worked on Unlocked with fellow Romanian singers and producers .

= = Recordings and artwork = =

Stan was involved in the writing process of all the songs featured on *Unlocked* , with the exception of " Thanks for Leaving " , " Set Me Free " and " Trumpet Blows " . During interviews , she expressed that the lyrical content of " Thanks for Leaving " refers to her recovery following her violent incident with Prodan , making the song very personal to her . The music of *Unlocked* drew influences by several genres and subgenres , including dance , techno , pop , rhythm and blues , EDM , Bhangra , Caucasian @-@ flavoured music and German club music . Lyrically , the album revolves around Stan 's relationship with her love interest and approaches themes such as issuance , retrieval and a new beginning . " Vanilla Chocolat " and " We Wanna " feature lyrics written in French and Spanish , respectively . The official cover sleeve for *Unlocked* was a photograph by Dimitri Caceaune and shows Stan sporting a multicoloured jacket and standing in front of a neon light . An alternative artwork for the Japanese edition of the album portrayed her in sepia , with only one of her eyes being visible , as the left one is covered by her hair . During an interview , Stan expressed that " [Japanese people] are very obsessed with big eyes , so the photo sessions that [she had] prepared for the Japanese version of *Unlocked* feature [her] eyes being enlarged by make @-@ up . "

= = Reception = =

Unlocked opened the Japanese Oricon Albums Chart at number 21 , selling 3 @,@ 859 copies in its debut charting week . It fell to number 39 after two weeks , bringing sales to 4 @,@ 550 copies . The album continued to fall down the Japanese Albums Chart over the following weeks , falling from number 39 to number 83 . However , it climbed five positions higher to number 78 on the week ending on 7 October 2014 , selling 1 @,@ 030 copies . The record exited the Japanese Albums Chart after spending 17 non @-@ consecutive weeks , bringing total sales to 17 @,@ 045 copies . Music website Pop Shock described *Unlocked* as a " good old @-@ fashioned Europop " record . They praised its " infectious production , catchy absurd hooks and glossy vocals " , and called the album 's package and visuals " stunning " . " Vanilla Chocolat " and " Holding Aces " were described as the best tracks of *Unlocked* ; Pop Shock wrote that the latter one was good enough to be an X Factor , a reality television music competition , winner 's single . Robin Catling of website Everything Express wrote a mixed review for *Unlocked* , stating that it was clearly influenced by the works of American singer Britney Spears , Barbadian recording artist Rihanna and Australian singer Sia . " Dance " and " Little Lies " were compared to French disc jockey David Guetta and Spears ' Britney Jean (2013) album , respectively . Everything Express suggested that " Thanks for Leaving " could score highly at a Eurovision Song Contest , an annual musical competition . The review concluded , " *Unlocked* has some highlights amongst the derivative , magpie @-@ collected sparkle of pilfered pop , you might just find it difficult to remember by the end . "

= = Promotion = =

" Thanks For Leaving " was released on 28 April 2014 as the first single from *Unlocked* simultaneously with its accompanying music video . The track peaked at number 42 on the Romanian Radio Airplay Chart , and at number one on the Ukraine Pop 100 . On 28 May 2014 , " Cherry Pop " was announced as the sophomore single from the record . In order to promote it , an official music video shot by Khaled Mokhtar in Buftea , Romania was launched . The video shows Stan playing tennis against herself in a futuristic setting . The track was successful in Japan , where it charted at number 64 on the Japan Hot 100 . The most successful track of the record on the Japan Hot 100 , " Dance " , premiered as the third release on 18 July 2014 . The music video for the song was again shot by Khaled Mokhtar . The recording peaked at number 25 in Japan . It also reached number seventy on the Austrian Singles Chart . The album 's fourth single , " Give Me Your Everything " , was launched on 27 August 2014 . The accompanying controversial music video directed by Khaled Mokhtar portrays Stan chasing a man in a dark landscape . Upon its release , the video aroused controversy for a scene in which Stan is wearing a white robe with masonic

symbols inscribed on its back . Particularly , website Urban.ro named the clip " her most bizarre video ever " . " Vanilla Chocolat " was released on 24 December 2014 as the fifth song from Unlocked and it includes vocal collaboration from Connect @-@ R , a Romanian rapper . The accompanying selfie video sees Stan singing and performing in various live shows , as well as shots of her and Connect @-@ R at Roton Music . A bonus single only made available for purchase on the German version of the record , " We Wanna " , featured fellow Romanian recording artist , Inna , and American reggaeton performer Daddy Yankee . The track reached the top thirty in Argentina , Poland and Turkey , and the top sixty in Italy , Romania and Slovakia .

= = Track listing = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Unlocked .

Sample credits

" Little Lies " contains elements from the Fleetwood Mac recording of the same name , written by Christine McVie and Eddy Quintela , and produced by Lindsey Buckingham and Richard Dashut .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Unlocked .

= = Charts and sales = =

= = Release history = =