

= Romances (Luis Miguel album) =

Romances is the twelfth studio album by Mexican singer Luis Miguel , released on 12 August 1997 , by Warner Music Latina . It is the third album of the Romance series , in which Miguel covers Latin songs from 1940 to 1978 . Aside from Miguel , the production also involved arranger Bebu Silveti , and Armando Manzanero , who directed all of Miguel 's Romance albums . Romances consists of twelve cover versions and two new compositions by Manzanero and Silveti . Recording took place in early 1997 at the Ocean Way recording studio in Los Angeles , California .

Romances has sold over 4 @. @ 5 million copies and received platinum certifications in several Latin American countries , the United States and Spain . Miguel promoted the album by touring the United States , Latin America and Spain . The album was generally well received by critics , who praised Miguel 's vocals as well as the song selection . The album earned Miguel several awards , including a Grammy Award in the United States . Six singles were released : " Por Debajo de la Mesa " , " El Reloj " , " Contigo (Estar Contigo) " , " De Quererte Así (De T 'Avoir Aimee) " , " Bésame Mucho " , and " Sabor a Mí " .

= = Background = =

In 1991 Miguel released Romance , a collection of classic Latin ballads , the oldest of which dates back to the 1940s . The album was produced by Armando Manzanero and arranged by Bebu Silveti , and was credited for revitalizing the bolero genre . It also made history as the first Spanish @-@ language album to be certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in the United States . A follow @-@ up to Romance was released in 1994 under the title Segundo Romance (Second Romance) , which was produced by Miguel , Juan Carlos Calderón and Kiko Cibrian . Both albums received a platinum certification by the RIAA in the United States and also became successful in countries outside of Latin America and the United States , such as Finland and Saudi Arabia , selling over twelve million copies combined .

In December 1996 Miguel held a press conference in Buenos Aires , Argentina , where he announced his desire to record a third Romance album and mentioned the possibility of working with Manzanero and Juan Gabriel . He also expressed an interest in singing in Italian and Portuguese , although the album 's songs are originally all in Spanish . Two months later Manzanero confirmed that he was working with Miguel on another bolero @-@ inspired ballads album , under the tentative title Tercer Romance (" Third Romance ") . Miguel 's record label confirmed that fourteen tracks would be included on the album under the title Romances .

= = Recording and production = =

Miguel collaborated with Silveti for the arrangement of Romances , while Manzanero was in charge of direction . Recording began on 18 March 1997 , at Ocean Way Recording in Hollywood and at The Hit Factory in New York City . During the recording of Romances , as in Romance , Silveti employed his signature style of arrangements known as the " Silveti Sound " , which Leila Cobo of Billboard describes as " anchored in sweeping melodies , lush string arrangements , acoustic instrumentation , and above all , unabashed romanticism " . Silveti has stated that when he produces an album he does not simply copy his own arrangements , because he feels that would be " ridiculous " , and prefers to be creative within his own style . About the selection of songs for the album , Manzanero stated that " I give [Miguel] the songs , and he chooses what he wants to record . " Participants in the recording sessions included sixty @-@ one musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic .

Miguel covers twelve Latin ballads in Romances , including songs by José Antonio Méndez , Carlos Arturo Briz , Consuelo Velázquez Álvaro Carrillo , Roberto Cantoral , María Grever , Enrique Santos Discépolo , Agustín Lara , and Luiz Bonfá . The latter composer wrote the song " Manhã de Carnaval " (" Morning of Carnival ") in Portuguese , later translated into Spanish by Jesus Maria Arozamena Bersategui as " Canción de Orfeo " (" Orpheus ' Song ") . " De Quererte Así " (" If I

Love You Like This ") is a French song (" De T 'Avoir Aimée ") , originally performed and written by Charles Aznavour , which was translated into Spanish by Alex Marcoriginates . Miguel had covered some of the aforementioned composers ' songs on his previous Romance albums . Miguel covers Manazero 's songs " Voy a Apagar la Luz / Contigo Aprendí " (" I Am Going To Turn Off The Lights / With You I Learned ") and " Amanecer " (" To Be Awake ") . The two original compositions were " Por Debajo de la Mesa " (" Underneath the Table ") by Manzanero and " Contigo (Estar Contigo) " (" To Be With You ") by Bebu Silvetti and Sylvia Riera Ibáñez .

= = Commercial reception = =

= = = Album = = =

The album was released on 12 August 1997 , in the United States and , by the week of 23 August 1997 , it debuted at number two on the Billboard Top Latin Albums chart . A week later it became number one , which it has been for a total of eleven non @-@ consecutive weeks . Romances was even more successful in the Billboard Latin Pop Albums chart , having been number one for 13 weeks . On the Billboard 200 chart it peaked at number fourteen , with sales of over 57 @,@ 000 units within the first week ? a record at that time for a Spanish @-@ language album . It was also Miguel 's highest @-@ peaking album in the Billboard 200 until the release of Cómplices in 2008 , which peaked at number ten . It was the second best @-@ selling Latin album in the United States during 1997 , after Tango by Julio Iglesias . By October 1997 it had sold over a million copies in Mexico and was certified quadruple platinum in the country , as well as across Central America . A year after release it received a platinum certification in the United States by the RIAA . In Argentina it reached number one on the CAPIF albums chart and was the best @-@ selling album of 1997 in the country , with sales of approximately 781 @,@ 000 copies . In Spain the album reached number one on the PROMUSICAE chart and was certified octuple platinum , selling over 800 @,@ 000 copies . In South America the album was certified gold in Brazil , Platinum in Ecuador and Peru , double platinum in Colombia and Paraguay , sextuple platinum in Venezuela , octuple platinum in Chile , and diamond in Argentina . According to the Guinness World Records Romances was the best @-@ selling Spanish @-@ language album of 1997 . A DVD @-@ Audio for the album was released in 2001 . Over 4 @.@ 5 million copies of the album were sold , as of 1999 .

= = = Singles = = =

" Por Debajo de la Mesa " was released as the lead single from the album . The single was released for radio airplay on 15 July 1997 , and reached number one on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart two months later ; it would spend twenty @-@ six weeks on the chart . A music video was made for the song . The second single released , " El Reloj " (" The Clock ") , reached number two on the Hot Latin Songs chart , as did the third single , " Contigo (Estar Contigo) " . " De Quererte Así (De T 'Avoir Aimee) " peaked at number twenty @-@ three on the Hot Latin Songs chart , while " Sabor a Mí " (" Taste From Me ") peaked at number six after its release . " Bésame Mucho " (" Kiss Me More ") reached number one on the Mexican singles chart and was the among top ten best @-@ performing songs of 1998 in Venezuela according to Record Report .

= = Promotion = =

Miguel launched his Romances Tour , consisting of 84 concerts , in Las Vegas , Nevada , on 12 September 1997 . The performances featured Miguel performing dance @-@ pop and bolero arrangements for two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half hours . Adam Sandler of Variety expressed a mixed reaction to the concert in the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles . He noted that Miguel rarely acknowledged his audience or ventured out from center stage . Robert Hilburn of the Los Angeles Times had a more positive reaction , which he described as a " marvelously designed and

wonderfully executed blend of Latin music tradition ". Another Times contributor , Ernesto Lechner , wrote that Miguel 's bolero performance at the Arrowhead Pond arena in California " brought the house down " and stated that the experience at the concert was " pretty close " to Beatlemania . In New York City , Miguel performed five consecutive shows in the Radio City Music Hall . In Mexico City he performed seventeen consecutive concerts in the National Auditorium , where it was the highest @-@ grossing concert by a Latin artist that year . The tour also traveled to South America ; including Chile , and Argentina ; and continued until May 1998 , when Miguel performed throughout Spain . Miguel was the first Latin artist to be inducted to the Pollstar " Top 20 All @-@ Time Grossing Tours " for most tickets sold for consecutive concerts at one venue in 1997 .

= = Critical reception and awards = =

Romances was generally well received by critics , who praised Miguel 's tenor voice and the album 's selection of songs . Terry Jenkins of AllMusic praised the collaborative work of Silvetti and Manzanero and called Romances " a sensuous , enchanting album " . Achy Obejas of the Chicago Tribune called Miguel 's voice the album 's strong point and noted the " presence of electronic instruments and the darker , more somber mood " . On the other hand , she felt that Miguel was beginning " to slip " , citing the tracks " Jurame " and " Por Debajo de la Mesa " as examples . Los Angeles Times editor Ernesto Lechner gave the album one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half out of four stars and claimed that Romances " sinks under its own weight , delivering mostly bloated versions of timeless material " . Fellow Los Angeles Times contributor Ed Morales disagreed with his review and wrote that " Lechner needs to go into his music room , turn down the lights , snuggle up with his significant other and really listen to ' Romances . ' I give his review * and ' Romances ' * * * * " . Anne Valdespino of the Los Angeles Daily News praised the selection of songs and Miguel 's performance , calling the performer a " class act " .

At the 40th Grammy Awards , Miguel received the award for Best Latin Pop Performance . Miguel also received a Billboard Latin Music Award for " Male Pop Album of the Year " and a World Music Award for " Best Selling Latin Artist " . Miguel received a Premio Amigo and Premio Onda for " Best Latin Singer of the Year " in Spain , and the album was nominated for a Premio Amigo for " Best Latin Album " . Armando Manzanero received a Broadcast Music Incorporated award for his work on " Por Debajo de la Mesa " .

= = Legacy = =

Warner Music released a three @-@ disc compilation album titled Todos Los Romances (" All The Romances ") in 1998 , which contains all the tracks from Miguel 's Romance albums . The album peaked at number twelve in the Billboard Top Latin Albums chart and at number six in the Billboard Latin Pop Albums chart . It was certified gold in Argentina . Romances was followed by one more bolero album , Mis Romances (2001) which was produced by Miguel .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

The following credits are from AllMusic and from the Romances liner notes :

= = = Performance credits = = =

= = = Technical credits = = =

= = Charts and certifications = =