

= Circles (Christina Aguilera song) =

" Circles " is a song by American recording artist Christina Aguilera , taken from her seventh studio album , Lotus (2012) . It was written by Aguilera , Dwayne Abernathy , Candice Pillay and co @-@ written and produced by Alex da Kid . Musically , the song is an uptempo alternative rock track . Lyrically , it finds Aguilera inviting her haters to " spin around in circles on her middle finger " . The track received favorable reviews from music critics , who praised its raunchy lyrics and its catchiness . Upon the release of Lotus , " Circles " debuted on the South Korean international singles chart at number 160 .

= = Background = =

Following the release of her sixth studio album , Bionic (2010) , Aguilera filed for divorce from her husband Jordan Bratman , starred in her first feature film , Burlesque (2010) and recorded the accompanying soundtrack . She then became a coach on NBC 's singing competition show The Voice and appeared as a featured artist on Maroon 5 's single " Moves Like Jagger " (2011) , which spent four weeks atop the US Billboard Hot 100 chart . Following these events , Aguilera announced that had plans to begin production of her seventh album , stating that she wanted high quality and " personal " songs for the record . Regarding the creative direction , she revealed that the album would be a " culmination of everything I 've experienced up until this point ... I 've been through a lot since the release of my last album , being on (The Voice) , having had a divorce ... This is all sort of a free rebirth for me . " She further said " I 'm embracing many different things , but it 's all feel @-@ good , super @-@ expressive [and] super @-@ vulnerable . " The added that the album would be about " self ? expression and freedom " because of the personal struggles she had overcome during the last couple of years . Speaking about her new material during an interview on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno in 2012 , Aguilera said that the recording process for Lotus was taking a while because " I don 't like to just get songs from producers . I like them to come from a personal place ... I 'm very excited . It 's fun , exciting , introspective , it 's going to be great " .

= = Recording and composition = =

Recorded at Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles , California by Josh Mosser , " Circles " was written by Christina Aguilera , Candice Pillay , Alexander Grant and Dwayne Abernathy , and it was produced by Alex da Kid . Aguilera 's vocals were recorded by Oscar Ramirez at The Red Lips Room in Beverly Hills , California , while Aguilera and Pillay conducted the vocal production . Pillay also contributed additional vocals on the track , and J Browz added additional guitar . " Circles " is an alternative rock song , and runs for a duration of 3 : 25 (three minutes and twenty @-@ five seconds) . The lyrics of the " rawky " chorus , " spin around in circles on my middle middle finger " , has been likened to a " ' 90s riot @-@ grrrl " . Andrew Hampp for Billboard thought as though it sounded like " mini @-@ Aguilera 's " were chanting the words " round and round " and " motherfucker " in childlike voices . " Circles " has a " playground " melodic structure , according to Robert Copsey of Digital Spy . He also thought the best lyrics in the song are " Why you always trying to get up in my mixture ? / I think you 're just bitter " . At the end of the song , Aguilera speaks out loud the word " motherfucker ! " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Circles " garnered mainly positive reviews from music critics . Andrew Hampp of Billboard was very positive , calling it " the biggest surprise on Lotus , and writing , " ' Circles ' is Aguilera at her most unapologetic and all the more delightful for it " . 4Music 's Chris Younie wrote that , " Aguilera is throwing tonnes of attitude and sass our way " . Digital Spy 's Robert Cospey praised its lyrics , labelling it " one of their immediate favourites " . Caomhan Keane from the website entertainment.ie called it " fun and delicious " , while Entertainment Weekly critic Melissa Maerz called it a " sassy

kiss @-@ off " . Story Gilmore of Neon Limelight was very positive , commenting , " As much as we love Xtina for her incredible voice , we also love her for her feisty personality . The tune is a brilliant mix of genres with a rockstar @-@ worthy chorus " . Popjustice writer Same Hine enjoyed the track and said that he liked it " when Christina gets a bit wobbly and the bubblegum melody sounds oddly good with the lyrics " , although it wasn 't " her finest pop moment " . Mike Wass from Idolator wrote that the song " sounds like fluffiest Nine Inch Nails song ever recorded " , also commenting it as " a total trainwreck , but there 's something amusing about Xtina putting her haters in their place " .

Joseph R. Atilano of Inquirer Entertainment praised " Circles " as one of the catchiest songs of the album and compared the track to songs by Rihanna and Nicki Minaj . Kitty Empire of The Observer commented that the " sing @-@ song verse is redolent of Rihanna " . Montreal Gazette editor T 'cha Dunlevy simply described it as " a raunchy flip of the bird to haters " . HitFix writer Melinda Newman called it a " shape @-@ shifting " and compared Aguilera to Gwen Stefani " as she adopts a patois " . Annie Zaleschi of The A.V. Club was mixed , naming it a " bitter ' 90s alt @-@ rock crossed with M.I.A. ' s antagonistic attitude ; it should be an angry kiss @-@ off . Instead , cringe @-@ inducing lyrics sap its ire " . For Michael Gallucci of PopCrush , the song " dips back to the bubblegum pop of Aguilera 's debut for the verses , but pumps a ton of distortion into her voice during the refrains . ' Circles ' doesn 't seem to know what kind of song it wants it to be , so it settles for two not very good ones " .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Westlake Studios , Los Angeles , CA .

Vocals recorded at The Red Lips Room , Beverly Hills , CA .

Personnel

Songwriting ? Christina Aguilera , Candice Pillay , Alexander Grant , Dwayne Abernathy

Production ? Alex da Kid

Vocal production ? Christina Aguilera , Candice Pillay

Recording ? Josh Mosser

Vocal recording ? Oscar Ramirez

Additional background vocals ? Candice Pillay

Additional guitar ? J Browz

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Lotus , RCA Records .

= = Charts = =

Upon the release of Lotus , " Circles " debuted on the South Korean international singles chart at number 160 during the week of November 11 to 17 , 2012 , due to digital download sales of 1 @ , @ 930 .