

= Lotus Intro =

" Lotus Intro " is a song recorded by American singer Christina Aguilera for her seventh studio album , Lotus ( 2012 ) . Written by Aguilera , Dwayne Abernathy , Candice Pillay and Alex da Kid , the song is about her rebirth as an artist , and is a representation of the symbolic nature of the Lotus Flower . " Lotus Intro " was created from Aguilera 's passion for " chill @-@ out " electronica music , and incorporates electronic and electronica styles . A sample of M83 's " Midnight City " was originally included in the demo , but was ultimately not cleared .

Upon its release , " Lotus Intro " garnered mixed reviews from music critics ; some complimented its hypnotizing melody , while others stated the song 's name is misleading , as the track is a full @-@ length song , and not a short introduction . Aguilera first performed " Lotus Intro " at the 40th American Music Awards on November 18 , 2012 , as part of a medley with Lotus tracks " Army of Me " and " Let There Be Love " . Upon the release of the album , the song debuted at number 165 on the South Korean international singles chart , selling 1 @, @ 898 copies .

= = Background and recording = =

After the release of Aguilera 's sixth studio album , Bionic ( 2010 ) , which failed to generate sales , she divorced from her husband Jordan Bratman , made her acting debut in a film called Burlesque and recorded its accompanying soundtrack . The singer then became a coach on NBC 's singing contest show The Voice and appeared as a guest vocalist 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 she wanted to record her seventh album , stating that she wanted high quality and " personal " songs to record . 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 continued to say that " I 'm embracing many different things , but it 's all feel @-@ good , super @-@ expressive [ and ] super @-@ vulnerable . " She further expressed 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 on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno in 2012 , Aguilera revealed that the album was taking a while to record 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 " . " Lotus Intro " was inspired by Aguilera 's passion for " chill @-@ out " electronica . Recorded at Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles , California by Josh Mosser , " Lotus Intro " was written by Christina Aguilera , Dwayne Abernathy , Candice Pillay , Alexander Grant , and it was produced by Alex da Kid and Dem Jointz . 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 . Mike Delo Rio contributed additional vocals on the track , and J Browz added additional strings . The original demo of the track included a sample of M83 's " Midnight City " , but it was not approved and therefore not included on the final version .

= = Composition and critical reception = =

" Lotus Intro " is an electronic music song which lasts for a duration of 3 : 17 ; it was inspired by Aguilera 's passion for electronica . It has a " hypnotic " yet " dark , serious " tone which develops and matures as it progresses , depicting Aguilera 's rebirth , similar to the life cycle of a Lotus Flower . The track opens with tribal chant by Aguilera , who sings the line " Rise up lotus , rise / This is the beginning " over a " heavy " hip hop beat . Aguilera sings the lyrics " I look at my reflection and embrace the woman I 've become / The unbreakable lotus in me , I now set free " over electronic " bleeps and beeps " . Some of the opening lyrics , including " Rise up / This is the beginning " and " Leave the past behind " , serve as a mission statement for the rest of the album . Despite claiming to " submerge from hurt , pain , broken pieces " and " leave the past behind / say goodbye to the

scared child inside , " Andrew Hampp for Billboard felt that the singer " still has a few scores to settle . " According to Robert Copsey for Digital Spy , the singer explains how the a Lotus Flower is " the unbreakable flower " in the lyrics " To the sky I rise / Spread my wings and fly " . He further wrote that the listener could be fooled by the title " Lotus Intro " , as it is a full length song and not a short introduction . Sarah Godfrey for The Washington Post was critical of Aguilera 's vocal performance , writing that although the singer 's strength is her voice , she sounds " modulated beyond recognition " .

= = Live performance = =

Aguilera performed " Lotus Intro " for the first time at the 40th American Music Awards on November 18 , 2012 , held at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles , California . As one of the first singers to be announced as a performer at the award ceremony , Aguilera sang " Lotus Intro " as part of a medley with two other tracks from Lotus : " Let There Be Love " and " Army of Me " . During an interview with MTV News , Aguilera revealed what the performance would be like and the creative direction behind it :

It 's very exciting . It 's definitely going to be a reflection of what Lotus means to me . If you take that album cover and give it a little performance twist , I 'll bring that album cover to life , so it 's going to be really fun . I can 't give too much away about the songs , but it 's definitely going to represent the album because the album is very multilayered . It doesn 't represent ' Your Body ' as a single tone . It has its ballads ; and everything comes from a very sincere , deep ? rooted place whether it 's having fun or being vulnerable .

Wearing a " fuller @-@ figure " " cinched in corset " designed by The Blonds , who also design outfits for Lady Gaga . Leah Simpson for the Daily Mail wrote that Aguilera put a " sexy twist on patriotism with a star ? spangled bodysuit and managed to get a few pulses racing in the over @-@ the @-@ top ensemble . " The performance featured dance routines and dancers wearing torture bags over their heads with the words ' Freak ' and ' Queen ' printed on them . Bruna Nessif for E ! Online described the performance as " interesting , " and noted that the theme " to celebrate everyone for who they are " was similar to the moral content presented on Gaga 's album Born This Way ( 2011 ) . As Aguilera finished her set , the singer was joined on stage by Pitbull to perform his song " Feel This Moment " , on which she is a featured artist .

= = 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 , Dwayne Abernathy , Candice Pillay , Alexander Grant

Production ? Alex da Kid , Dem Jointz

Recording ? Josh Mosser

Vocal recording ? Oscar Ramirez

Vocal production ? Christina Aguilera , Candice Pillay

Additional vocals ? Mike Del Rio

Additional strings ? J Browz

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

= = Charts = =

Upon the release of Lotus , " Lotus Intro " debuted on the South Korean international singles chart at number 165 during the week of November 11 to 17 , 2012 , due to digital download sales of 1 @ , @ 898 .