

= Romance (Luis Miguel album) =

Romance is the eighth studio album by Mexican singer Luis Miguel . It was released by WEA Latina on 19 November 1991 . Although the production was originally intended as another collaboration with Juan Carlos Calderón , that plan was scrapped when Calderón was unable to compose songs for the album . Facing a new @-@ material deadline in his recording contract , at his manager 's suggestion Miguel chose bolero music for his next project . Mexican singer @-@ songwriter Armando Manzanero was hired by WEA Latina to co @-@ produce the album with Miguel . Recording began in August 1991 at Ocean Way Recording in Hollywood , California , with Bebu Silveti the arranger .

On the album Miguel covers twelve boleros , originally recorded from 1944 to 1986 . The first two singles , " Inolvidable " and " No Sé Tú " , reached number one on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart in the United States and spent six months atop the Mexican charts . " Mucho Corazón " and " Cómo " were in the top five of the Hot Latin Songs chart , and " Usted " and " La Barca " received airplay throughout Latin America . Miguel promoted the record with a tour of the United States and Latin America . The album was generally well received by music critics , who praised Miguel 's singing and the record 's production . The singer received several accolades , including a Grammy nomination for Best Latin Pop Album .

Romance was a commercial success , selling over seven million copies worldwide . In the United States , it spent 32 weeks at number one on the Billboard Latin Pop Albums chart , and was the first Spanish @-@ language album by a non @-@ crossover Latin artist to be certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) ; it was also certified gold in Brazil and Taiwan , firsts for a Spanish @-@ speaking artist . Romance is the third @-@ bestselling album of all time in Mexico , and the bestselling record in Argentina by a non @-@ native artist . The album was noted by critics as reviving interest in bolero music . Its success encouraged Miguel to release three more bolero records : Segundo Romance (1994) , Romances (1997) and Mis Romances (2001) .

= = Background and recording = =

Since Miguel signed with WEA Latina in 1986 , his albums Soy Como Quiero Ser (1987) , Busca una Mujer (1988) , and 20 Años (1990) have sold over three million copies cumulatively in Mexico . His early recordings consisted of soft rock and pop ballad tunes , which led to Miguel becoming a teen idol . On 14 January 1991 , WEA Latina announced a new album with longtime producer and composer Juan Carlos Calderón , who produced the three previous records by Miguel . Wanting to replicate the success of 20 Años , Calderón would compose pop songs and ballads and find tracks for Miguel to cover in Spanish . Production was scheduled to begin in April , with Italian- and English @-@ language studio albums to follow . The record label was unconvinced by Calderón 's pre @-@ selected songs ; he had to write more compositions , and production halted indefinitely . Ultimately , he was unable to compose songs for the album .

Miguel had a contractual deadline with his label to record new material , and considered recording boleros (slow ballads " endowed with romantic lyrics ") after meeting Mexican singer @-@ songwriter Armando Manzanero during a televised interview . The singer had performed boleros (including compositions recorded by Manzanero) during his 1991 tour . At the suggestion of manager Hugo López , and realizing that he could appeal to an older audience , Miguel chose boleros for his next album and WEA Latina hired Manzanero to take over its production . Manzanero was enthusiastic , hoping that Miguel 's popularity would introduce the genre to young listeners . On 25 October 1991 , the album 's title was announced as a homage to boleros ; it was Miguel 's first as a producer .

Recording began on 24 August 1991 , at Ocean Way Recording in Hollywood , California . Miguel and Manzanero produced the album , with Bebu Silveti arranging the strings with additional contributions from 32 violinists under the direction of American conductor Ezra Kliger . On Romance Miguel covers twelve boleros (with each track being described as love numbers) , which were selected by Manzanero from five hundred songs including his " Te Extraño " and " No Sé Tú " .

Seven of the twelve tracks were recorded by 13 September when production was suspended the following day when Miguel was hospitalized with appendicitis . The album 's planned late @-@ October release was postponed until 19 November and recording resumed two weeks after Miguel was hospitalized .

= = Singles and promotion = =

" Inolvidable " was released as Romance 's lead single in November 1991 . It reached number one on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart in the United States the week of 25 January 1992 , topping the chart for five weeks . Its second single , " No Sé Tú " , was released in February 1992 and reached number one on the Hot Latin Songs chart the week of 18 April , topping the chart for seven weeks . The music video for " No Sé Tú " was directed by Pedro Torres and filmed in Miami , it features Miguel and an orchestra performing in front of a building . The video premiered on 16 February on the Mexican variety show Siempre en Domingo . " Inolvidable " and " No Sé Tú " ended 1992 as the third- and second @-@ best @-@ performing Latin songs of the year , respectively , in the United States . In Mexico , the songs topped the charts for a total of six months . The album 's third single , " Contigo en la Distancia " , was released in Mexico in July 1992 ; its music video was also directed by Torres and filmed in Miami . " Mucho Corazón " peaked at number three on the Hot Latin Songs chart , with " Cómo " peaking at number four . " Usted " and " La Barca " received airplay throughout Latin America .

To promote the record , Miguel began his Romance Tour on 22 March 1992 at a sold out 10 @,@ 000 @-@ seat National Auditorium in Mexico City . After performing throughout Latin America and the United States , he concluded the tour in Chile in December . In addition to touring , Miguel performed at the Seville Expo ' 92 in Spain . His set list consisted primarily of songs from his earlier career and boleros from Romance . In October 1992 WEA Latina released América & En Vivo , a live EP featuring a new track (" America , America ") and tour recordings of " Contigo en la Distancia " , " No Sé Tú " and " Inolvidable " . AllMusic gave the EP three stars out of five .

= = Critical reception = =

AllMusic editor Janet Rosen gave Romance three stars out of five , saying that it " features the usual smooth , well @-@ crafted pop ear candy from Luis Miguel , earnestly sung over strings and polite Latin rhythms " . However , she noted that the songs in the album booklet and the lack of liner notes made it difficult for listeners to know what " to make of this presentation " . Rosen concluded , " It doesn 't matter ? the title of the release says it all . " Achy Obejas of the Chicago Tribune gave the record four stars out of four , praising Miguel 's refusal " to get campy , which gives the effort far more integrity than might have been imagined " and calling his take on boleros " vibrant and real . " Mark Holston reviewed the album positively in the magazine Américas , praising Miguel 's vocals , the choice of songs and Silvetti 's arrangements : " Romance is a reminder of the enduring quality of timeless music " .

At the 1992 Billboard Music Awards Miguel was the Top Pop Latin Artist and the Top Hot Latin Tracks Artist , and Romance was the Top Pop Latin Album . In Chile , Romance won the Laurel de Oro Award for best album of the year . The singer was the Best Artist From a Non @-@ English @-@ Speaking Country at the Korean International Music Awards . At the 1993 Grammy Awards , Romance was nominated for Best Latin Pop Album , which was awarded to Jon Secada for his album Otro Día Más Sin Verte . That year Romance was also nominated for Pop Album of the Year at the Lo Nuestro Awards , again losing to Secada for his self @-@ titled album . At the 1993 annual Premios Eres , Miguel won three awards : Best Album , Best Male Singer and Best Show (for his tour) . The record was the Best International Album and Miguel won the Best International Artist of the Year at the 1993 Ronda de Venezuela awards .

= = Commercial performance = =

Romance was released internationally on 19 November 1991 , and sold over 400 @, @ 000 copies in its first 10 days . In Mexico it was certified octuple platinum by the Asociación Mexicana de Productores de Fonogramas y Videogramas (AMPROFON) for shipping two million copies , the country 's all @-@ time third @-@ bestselling album (only Juan Gabriel and José José has sold more copies with Recuerdos , Vol . II and 20 Triunfadoras respectively) . In the United States , Romance debuted at number ten on the Billboard Latin Pop Albums chart for the week of 14 December 1991 , and reached number one four weeks later . The record topped the chart for 32 consecutive weeks when it was displaced by Jon Secada 's eponymous album on the week of 22 August 1992 , ending 1992 and 1993 as the bestselling Latin pop album of the year in the country . It was the first record by a Spanish @-@ speaking artist to be certified gold in Brazil and Taiwan , and the first gold certification by a non @-@ crossover Latin artist in the United States (later certified platinum in the U.S. by the RIAA for shipments of one million copies) . In South America , Romance was certified platinum in Colombia and Venezuela , gold in Paraguay and double platinum in Peru . In Argentina the album was certified 16 x platinum for sales of over one million copies , the bestselling record by a non @-@ Argentine artist . It received a diamond award from the Argentine Chamber of Phonograms and Videograms Producers (CAPIF) , and was certified quadruple platinum in Chile and double platinum in Spain . As of 2013 , Romance had sold over seven million copies worldwide and is Miguel 's bestselling record .

= = Legacy = =

Romance is considered by music critics to have renewed mainstream interest in bolero music . According to Chicago Tribune editor Monica Eng , " Just as Harry Connick , Jr. re @-@ popularized the sounds of Sinatra and Tony Bennett , Mexican platinum @-@ selling heartthrob Luis Miguel brought back an appreciation for the music of Mexico 's boleristas . " In The Wall Street Journal , Mary Talbot compared renewed interest in boleros to the revival of big band and swing music in the Anglo @-@ American market , previously dominated by rock music (which had seized bolero 's popularity during the 1960s) . Elena Kellner of the Los Angeles Times noted the album 's " introducing old favorites to younger audiences " and Miguel 's popularity with older listeners . In Latin Beat Magazine , Franz Reynold wrote that before Miguel , boleros were considered by young people the " music of the ancients , something to be feared , since it seemed to signal the advent of senility " . Mark Holston wrote in Américas magazine that the record 's " irresistible combination of classic songs , string @-@ laden arrangements , and subtle contemporary influences proved to be the perfect formula to reawaken the bolero 's slumbering passions once again . "

In his book , The Latin Beat : The Rhythms And Roots Of Latin Music From Bossa Nova To Salsa And Beyond , Ed Morales wrote that Miguel 's collaboration with Manzanero " brought light to an overlooked master of [bolero] " and " was a significant update of the genre " . Romance enhanced Silvetti 's reputation as an arranger and producer ; according to Leila Cobo of Billboard , the album " categorically redefined the interpretations of traditional boleros " and " sparked a torrent of work for Silvetti , including records with Vic Damone and Engelbert Humperdinck " . His arrangements became known as the " Silvetti Sound " , which Cobo described as " anchored in sweeping melodies , lush string arrangements , acoustic instrumentation , and above all , unabashed romanticism " . Romance 's success encouraged Linda Ronstadt , José Luis Rodríguez and Plácido Domingo to record modern versions of traditional boleros . According to Miguel 's former manager Mauricio Abaroa , although boleros were still recorded by traditional musicians at the time , " what made Luis Miguel so successful was that it was a young man singing them and that he sang them like modern ballads " . During the Billboard Hot Latin Songs Chart 's 25th anniversary in 2011 , Miguel was number one on the Hot Latin Songs Top Artists chart . Manzanero reflected on their partnership , saying that he " put in the mouths of his generation all of the great romantic songs that had a 30 @-@ year history " . In 2015 , Billboard listed Romance as one of the Essential Latin Albums of Past 50 Years , an editor writes : " What ? s become so formulaic in Latin music these days -- the tribute album by a contemporary artist honoring a genius of another era -- started with Romance " .

The album 's success encouraged Miguel to record three more Romance records . Its follow @-@

up , Segundo Romance , was released in 1994 ; Manzanero , Calderón and Kiko Cibrian co @-@ produced with Miguel , and it won a Grammy Award for Best Latin Pop Performance . In 1997 Romances was released , with Miguel and Manzanero co @-@ producing Silvetti 's arrangements ; it sold over 4 @.@ 5 million copies , winning another Grammy for Best Latin Pop Performance . A year later WEA Latina released Todos Los Romances , a three @-@ disc compilation of the romance @-@ themed records . The fourth record in the series , Mis Romances (produced by Miguel) , was released in 2001 . Although the singer had planned a ten @-@ album series , Mis Romances was critically and commercially unsuccessful . The following year saw the release of Mis Boleros Favoritos , with 13 previously @-@ recorded tracks from the Romance series and a new version of " Hasta Que Vuelvas " . According to AllMusic editor Iván Adaime , the record 's purpose was to " close this era " of the Romance series . In 2012 , Warner Music Latina reissued a commemorative Romance : 20th Anniversary set with a CD , the original LP record and three 45 rpm singles : " Inolvidable " , " No Sé Tú " and " Contigo en la Distancia " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

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

= = = Performance credits = = =

= = = Technical credits = = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =