

= Blank Page =

" Blank Page " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Christina Aguilera , taken from her seventh studio album , Lotus (2012) . It was written by Aguilera , Chris Braide and Sia Furler , with production done by Braide . Aguilera had worked with Furler on her previous two albums Bionic and Burlesque , both released in 2010 . Following the release of Lotus , Aguilera revealed that Furler is one of her favorite people to work with and that she is very inspiring .

" Blank Page " is a minimalist piano @-@ driven ballad which received frequent comparisons to Aguilera 's 2002 single " Beautiful " . It garnered strong critical acclaim from music critics , who praised its simplistic arrangement as well as Aguilera 's raw and strong vocal performance on the song . Following the release of Lotus , it peaked at number 53 on the South Korea international singles chart . Aguilera performed the song live for the first time at the 39th People 's Choice Awards , where she was awarded with the People 's Voice Award .

= = Background and recording = =

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 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 . " Aguilera continued to say 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 " . " Blank Page " was written by Aguilera , Sia Furler and Chris Braide , the latter of whom also produced the song . Aguilera 's vocals were recorded by Oscar Ramirez at The Red Lips Room in Beverly Hills in California . Braide provided the programming , string arrangement , piano and keyboards .

= = Development = =

Lotus is the third album in which Aguilera and Furler have collaborated on material together for . They first worked together on Aguilera 's sixth studio album , Bionic (2010) , on the songs " You Lost Me " and " I Am " , along with Samuel Dixon . " You Lost Me " was released as the final single from Bionic , and peaked at number one on the US Hot Dance Club Songs chart and number 28 on the Adult Contemporary . Later that year , they reunited to create a song to be included on the Burlesque soundtrack , which is called " Bound to You " . It was nominated in the category of Award for Best Original Song at the 68th Golden Globe Awards in January 2011 . In an interview with VEVO , Aguilera explained the collaborative process between Furler and herself , and why she likes to work with her : Sia and I always done amazing collaborations , she worked with me on the movie soundtrack ' Burlesque , ' which we got a Golden Globe nomination for , we also did a lot of work on my ' Bionic ' record , that was so sentimental , intimate and vulnerable feeling , and that 's what I love about working with her " . Aguilera was interviewed by Billboard when she attended the Billboard Film & TV Music Conference . She revealed that she views " Blank Page " as a more " vulnerable " version of her 2002 song , " Beautiful " . When she was asked by the interviewer who

her favorite people were to collaborate with , she responded by solely mentioning Furler and explained what led to her to enjoy working with her :

Sia is one of them . She comes in , singer @-@ songwriter , she just writes the most beautiful amazing ballads . Now she is making a name for herself on a more broad commercial scale with a lot of more dance @-@ driven stuff , and she is just an incredible singer . She came in and she just writes such serious songs , I was like ' Oh she is gunna [sic] be such a serious person , and I 'm nervous to meet her , and I just want her to get me and understand that I 'm not a cheesy pop star ' . She comes in and she was all nervous , and she is the most bubbliest person in the world , but once she starts singing and getting into her thing , you 're just sucked into this world of ' wow ' and it 's inspiring to be around people with such creative energy . I love that , that 's the best experience .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Blank Page " is a simplistic piano arranged ballad , which lasts for a duration of 4 : 04 (four minutes and four seconds) . Lyrically , the song is about how Aguilera wishes to " wipe the slate clean " with a former lover and " reconcile an old romance " . She knows that she has wronged him , but is asking to be given a second chance . Andrew Hampp for Billboard noted that this sentiment is revealed by Aguilera in the lyrics " If I could do undo that I hurt you / I would do anything for us to make it through " . The song begins with the chords of a piano as Aguilera sings " I know there 's hurt / I know there 's pain / But people change / Lord , knows I 've been no saint / In my own way / Regret choices I 've made / How I do I say I 'm sorry ? / How do I say I 'm sorry ? . " On the chorus , the lyrics are hopeful that she can right any wrongs she may have committed : " Draw me a smile , and save me tonight / I 'll be your blank page waiting for you to bring me to life / Paint me a heart , let me be your art / I am a blank page waiting for life to start / Let our hearts start and beat as one together / Let our hearts start and beat as one forever " . The arrangement of the minimalist piano composition is " fiery " yet " spare " . Aside from garnering innumerable comparisons to Aguilera 's own song " Beautiful " , the composition of " Blank Page " was subject to critique by Jim Farber writing for New York Daily News . He criticised the song for replicating the structure and lyrical content of " Someone Like You " , a song performed by English singer @-@ songwriter Adele :

Only two of the disc 's 11 tracks attempt a genuine expression of vulnerability . Just one , ' Blank Page , ' finds her looking inside and taking some blame . It 's a pretty song , if one that blatantly rides Adele 's coattails . Not only does ' Page ' employ the same piano / voice arrangement as that star 's ' Someone Like You , ' Aguilera apes the precise length of Adele 's notes .

= = Critical reception = =

" Blank Page " garnered strong critical acclaim from music critics , many of whom praised the its simplicity . Writing on behalf of 4Music , Chris Younie wrote that although " Blank Page " is followed by " Sing for Me " , another ballad , the former is " utterly brilliant " and is " ten times better " than the latter . The continued to describe " Blank Page " as being " elegant and confessional " . He praised her raw vocal performance and thought that should it be released as a single , it would have no problem matching the success of " Beautiful " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic complimented the simplicity of the song , writing that Aguilera " seizes the spotlight " and is accompanied by a " spare " piano arrangement . PopCrush critic Michael Gallucci described the song as a " showstopper " and compared it to " Beautiful " due to its minimalist structure . He further that it is a " classic Aguilera performance " as she employs vocal acrobatics . Writing for Billboard , Andrew Hampp thought that " Blank Page " is more likely to reach a wider audience rather than the songs Aguilera wrote with Furler on Bionic (" You Lost Me " and " I Am " , which he described as " underrated ") , because of how both of their celebrity profiles have been raised since Bionic 's release in 2010 . Mesfin Fekadu for The Huffington Post concurred with Hampp in the respect that she also thought that " Blank Page " was reminiscent of the songs co @-@ written by Furler on Bionic , which she also described " that album 's highlight " .

Jon Caramanica of The New York Times thought that " Blank Page " , along with " Sing for Me " ,

depicted " flashes of the old Aguilera " and that her " voice veers volcanic " on the songs as she raise the key as the songs progress . Annie Zaleski of The A.V. Club praised ' Blank Page ' and ' Sing for Me ' , writing that " they are minimal piano ballads on which Aguilera discusses working through regret and reclaiming her sense of self , respectively . The spare music lets her still @-@ powerful voice dominate , and her impassioned delivery conveys how meaningful these songs are to her . " Sarah Godfrey of Washington Post commented that the song " is about hackneyed metaphors and big notes ? just the sort of combination that will appeal to fans of Aguilera 's signature song ' Beautiful ' " . Idolator critic Mike Wass complimented Aguilera 's ability to " tone it down " on the song , but he was surprised at the level of simplicity considering Furler 's " alternative leanings " . He did , however , describe it as the album 's most straightforward ballad and as a song which could have been written in 1972 , with its " with its yearning lyrics and sparse production " .

= = Live performance = =

Aguilera performed " Blank Page " for the first time live at the 39th People 's Choice Awards on January 9 , 2013 . She was surrounded by white candles , and she wore a white blaze with black leggings . According to reports published by Us Weekly , Aguilera was very emotional prior to her performance , and that the audience was in tears during her rehearsals of the song . Lauren Moraski of CBS News called it a " heart @-@ wrenching performance . " Amy Sciarretto for PopCrush wrote that it was a " simple and unfettered " performance that allowed her to " show off " her vocals . She continued to write that although she occasionally sounded strained , she sounded better than most singers on their good day . After her performance , she was presented with the People 's Voice Award , where she also gave an acceptance speech .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Vocals recorded at The Red Lips Room , Beverly Hills , CA ; Human Feel , Los Angeles , CA .

Personnel

Songwriting ? Christina Aguilera , Chris Braide , Sia Furler

Production ? Chris Braide

Vocal recording ? Oscar Ramirez

Programming , string arrangement , piano and keyboards ? Chris Braide

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

= = Charts = =

Following the release of Lotus , " Blank Page " debuted on the South Korea International Singles Chart at number 53 during the week of November 11 to 17 , 2012 , with digital download sales of 4 @ , @ 299 .