

= It 's About Time (Christina Milian album) =

It 's About Time is the second studio album by American singer Christina Milian . The album was released by Island Records on June 15 , 2004 in Japan , and July 13 , 2004 in the United States . It 's About Time served as Milian 's debut in the US ; the September 11 attacks occurred two weeks prior to her debut album was scheduled to be released , and Milian opted to record a new album for the US market .

For the production of the album , Milian worked with Bloodshy & Avant , Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins , Cory Rooney , Warrryn Campbell , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox and Poli Paul . Milian received writing credit for seven songs on the album , often basing them on personal experiences . The musical style of It 's About Time is primarily urban pop , compared to the teen pop styling of Milian 's previous album . The style and sound of the album was compared to that of Beyoncé Knowles and Jennifer Lopez by several critics .

The album peaked at number 14 on the US Billboard 200 album chart and number 21 in the United Kingdom , selling a total of 382 @,@ 000 and 63 @,@ 708 copies respectively . The album achieved Silver certification in the UK , and received a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary R & B Album . The album 's lead single , " Dip It Low " , became Milian 's most successful to date ; peaking at number two on the UK Singles Chart and number five on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart ; it eventually went gold . The second single " Whatever U Want " was less successful , peaking on the UK singles chart at number nine . The critical response to It 's About Time was mixed . The club tracks , most notably " Dip It Low " , were praised , however the ballads were said to be disappointing .

= = Background = =

Milian 's self @-@ titled debut album was released worldwide in October 2001 ; however , its domestic release was postponed because of the September 11 attacks , which occurred just two weeks before its release date . Her label opted to release it later that year , in the fourth quarter , but as Milian explained , new artists generally do not release their albums during that time . As a result , the album was again delayed until the first quarter of 2002 . After the international release of her debut album , Milian went back into the recording studio . The singer felt that music trends had changed into rock music , hardcore hip hop and tribute songs , and her music did not fall into those categories . Milian decided to stop recording and toured overseas for a year and a half . When she returned to the US , she decided not to release her previous album domestically , and started working on a new album .

= = Production and composition = =

Milian traveled the world to record the album , working with the popular producers of the time . The album featured production from Bloodshy & Avant , " Darkchild " , Cory Rooney , Warrryn Campbell , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox and Poli Paul . Basing her lyrics on past personal experiences , Milian wrote seven songs on the album . Milian later explained that she wrote what she thought other people would like , rather than writing for herself and what she liked . When promoting the album , Milian said that she was excited about the album because she had matured since her last album , and it was " nice for people to see this change " .

Compared to her " bubble @-@ gum pop " debut album , Milian described the genre of It 's About Time as more R & B. Discussing the change of genre between her lead singles , Milian said that the " first single off my last album , ' AM to PM ' , was more of a kiddie kind of thing , very pop . [Dip It Low] is more R & B , kind of a club / party kind of vibe . " An issue Milian had with the album was that it did not flow . The various pop and urban influences in that album , she found , confused the audience . For her next studio album , Milian said that she wanted a more consistent feel .

For " Dip It Low " ' s music video , Milian danced in a bed of black paint . Milian explained that body art was common in the 1960s : " they would dip in paint and they would roll around on a canvas and

make art on the canvas . So I kind of ' dip ' in the paint and do the same thing . " The song 's lyrics are about putting an effort into the relationship as a female : " if you wanna be a little more sexy , you gotta dip it low " . Several years after the release of It 's About Time , Milian admitted that her new image for " Dip It Low " and the whole album was mainly for shock value . She had to make her way back into the US market , and by choosing a sexier image , she made a name for herself . " Dip It Low " was also meant to show that she was not the same eighteen @-@ year @-@ old girl in the " AM to PM " video . To create her new image , Milian also decided to change her appearance and lightened her hair . Taking inspiration from Janet Jackson who constantly changed her image , Milian thought to herself , " ' When did I like Janet Jackson the most ? ' It was when she had her lightened hair . "

The style and sound of the album was compared to that of Beyoncé , Paula Abdul and Jennifer Lopez by several critics , as well as Britney Spears , Aaliyah and Ashanti . After several comparisons to Beyoncé Knowles in regards to appearance , Milian said " I think she is a lovely artist , very talented but the only reason I changed my color hair is because I was getting bored of my same old look and I wanted to do something different . " Elysa Gardner of USA Today found that with Milian 's " slight , sweet vocals and blithe , breezy pop @-@ soul sensibility " , the genre of the album was more pop than R & B. Andy Kellman of Allmusic described " Dip It Low " as " a clever and ubiquitous slice of high @-@ class raunch " , and compared the album 's sound to both Beyoncé 's " Dangerously in Love " and Jennifer Lopez 's " This Is Me ... Then " . Eric R. Danton of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel said " Dip It Low " had the " plinking of an unusual Far Eastern @-@ sounding stringed instrument " , and " Whatever U Want " " rolls on a bass @-@ and @-@ drum combo " . Danton found the rest of the album to be " simply bland padding , with plodding , canned beats and half @-@ hearted hooks " .

= = Critical reception = =

The album received mixed reviews among critics . Jim Farber of Entertainment Weekly felt that the songs from It 's About Time " sound like they fell off a Paula Abdul album " . Farber criticized the lyricists for writing " so many cliches " , and said that Milian 's voice " suggests a slightly more forceful version of Janet Jackson 's pant " . Farber gave the album a " D " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine said that while It 's About Time was " certainly not the worst album of the year " , it was " pretty damn crappy " . The reviewer enjoyed " Whatever U Want " , " I 'm Sorry " and " Get Loose " , which he said " contribute some guilty pleasure ear candy " . Eric Danton of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel found the album " suffers from the same problem afflicting most major @-@ label albums dumped on the market by an industry desperate for quick cash ? It 's About Time features one hit single , a couple of lesser tracks and a lot of filler . " Danton felt that the only hit from It 's About Time was " Dip It Low " , while " Whatever U Want " and " L.O.V.E. " were the album 's lesser tracks . Danton praised Milian 's vocal talent , but said that ultimately , " the lackluster material [...] rarely gives her a chance to shine " .

Andy Kellman of Allmusic praised the club tracks , feeling that they " work best and easily outrank the slower songs " . Kellman called " Dip It Low " the biggest highlight of the album , but said that despite the album 's " handful of bright spots " , Milian " will need to be more convincing during the ballads next time out in order to be considered a true force . " Kelefa Sanneh of The New York Times said that although " Dip It Low " was one of the summer 's most popular songs , the album included an even better song , " I Need More " . Sanneh explained that Milian " breathes a serpentine melody over a beat that consists of jagged snippets : some guitar chugging , a few handclaps , a couple of strategically placed beeps and , in the chorus , an unexpected nose @-@ diving bass line . " Contrary to the views of other critics , Barry Walters of Rolling Stone said that although the ballads were " gooey " , " the love songs work better than the dance tracks " . Etta James of People believed that Milian struggled to find her own musical identity on the " fun but formulaic CD " . James praised the " sexy booty bumper " " Dip It Low " for its " reggae @-@ ish bass groove , a hypnotic Middle Eastern refrain " , and called Fabolous ' rap " perfectly chilled " . The reviewer thought " Highway " , the album 's " most erotically charged track " , sounded like a

female answer to R. Kelly 's " Ignition " . While James found the album 's most personal song , " Oh Daddy " , to be the unsuccessful , she said that at least " it gives us a glimpse into the real Christina " .

= = Commercial reception = =

It 's About Time was released in the US on July 13 , 2004 ; it debuted and peaked at number 14 on the Billboard 200 album chart , and sold a total of 382 @, @ 000 copies . Internationally , the album peaked at number 35 on the Swiss Albums Chart , 55 on the German Albums Chart , and 66 on the Dutch Albums Chart . In the UK , the album peaked at number 21 , selling a total of 63 @, @ 708 copies , and achieving Silver certification by the British Phonographic Industry . The album received a Grammy Award nomination for " Best Contemporary R & B Album " in 2005 . To promote her album , Milian performed as an opening act on the Usher and Kanye West tour . The album 's first single , " Dip It Low " , became Milian 's biggest hit to date , reaching number two in the UK and number five in the US . The single was certified Gold by the RIAA for digital sales , and earned a Grammy Award nomination for " Best Rap / Sung Collaboration " . The album 's second and final single , " Whatever U Want " featuring Joe Budden , reached the top ten in the UK .

= = Legal issues = =

In August 2008 , Milian sued the writer and producer of " Dip It Low " , Poli Paul . Milian claimed that Paul " very definitively " assured her that " there were no samples whatsoever in [?] ' Dip It Low ' " . However , in February 2005 , Thomas Turino , Larry Crook and Dan Dickey sued Milian over the song , claiming that it contained a sample from a track they released in 1983 called La Sirena . The lawsuit claimed that Paul heard the album while in a record store , liked the tune and sampled 12 seconds of it for " Dip It Low " . Milian claimed that she had to spend more than \$ 300 @, @ 000 defending herself in the case , which she settled in 2006 , and wanted \$ 300 @, @ 000 plus damages from Paul and his associate , Spencer Cowlings Entertainment . In November 2008 , Paul countersued the Island Def Jam Music Group and its parent company , Universal Music Group . Paul alleged that Island Def Jam was " negligent in its obligation to obtain clearance and proper licensing for any copyrighted material " used on the album . In February 2009 , a superior court judge ruled that Paul 's attorneys had failed to file a sworn declaration in the given period of time , but allowed them to file an amended complaint . Paul 's lawyers amended the countersuit and added Milian as a defendant , saying that she was also negligent and that she should compensate him for money he spent in the copyright action . In June 2009 , Universal Music Group filed a breach @-@ of @-@ contract suit against Milian and Paul . The record label claimed it was forced to pay attorney fees as a result of the litigation between Milian and Paul . The suit also said that Paul owes the company attorneys ' fees from an earlier federal court case involving " Dip It Low " .

= = Track listing = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of It 's About Time .

= = Charts = =