

= Ready (Trey Songz album) =

Ready is the third studio album by American R & B recording artist Trey Songz . It was released on August 31 , 2009 , by Troy Taylor 's record label Songbook , distributed by Atlantic Records . The album serves as the sequel to Trey Day (2007) . Production for the album took place during from 2008 to 2009 , which contributed by Songz 's longtime collaborator and his mentor Troy Taylor , along with Bryan @-@ Michael Cox , StarGate and Los da Mystro , among others .

The album received generally positive reviews from critics , which positively compared Ready to the work of R. Kelly , but also was criticized for this album 's inconsistency . The album debuted at number 3 on the US Billboard 200 , selling 131 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . The album was a certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , becoming Songz 's first certified album . 4 years later , Ready was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) .

All five singles have achieved chart success , including the top ten Billboard Hot 100 hit " Say Aah " , and the top five Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs hits " Neighbors Know My Name " and " I Invented Sex " , the latter of which topped the chart . Songz promoted Ready in a number of live appearances , including co @-@ heading the 106 & Live tour , sponsored by 106 & Park , and serving as a support act on Jay @-@ Z 's The Blueprint 3 Tour . Ready earned Songz a Grammy Award nomination for Best Contemporary R & B Album at the 52nd Grammy Awards ; but lost to Beyoncé Knowles ' I Am ... Sasha Fierce .

= = Background and production = =

When Songz began recording for Ready ; the purpose of the album was to crossover and increase his exposure on radio . The album 's lead single , " I Need a Girl " was released to connect to mainstream radio . Songz said that " [it] was a very radio @-@ geared record which would do great and play on radio heavily during whatever time . It wasn 't a record I expected to last forever , or one I was even excited about singing , but it was a record I knew would do well . " Speaking of the following singles , Songz thought that " I Invented Sex " would be a " career @-@ defining record , and I knew ' Say Aah ' would be a monster club record . "

Speaking on his collaborations with the producers , Songz said that on Ready , " we 're breaking down every song , every hook , every chorus , every bridge , and we 're making sure every song is the best song it could be . This album isn 't just going to be a compilation of songs , but a classic body of work . " The album only contained three guest features with Drake , Gucci Mane and Soulja Boy Tell ' Em . Songz wanted to keep the amount of features very limited , and stated that " anybody else I add is going to be very special " . American rapper Fabolous was added as a guest feature on the track , titled " Say Aah " .

Songz said that compared to his previous albums , " this album is very adult , very easygoing and very sexy [...] My first album was very adult @-@ like , but in a different , more soulful , sample @-@ driven kind of way , and my second one was more contemporary and trendy . " To reflect his transition into adulthood and the changes in his music , Songz changed his appearance by cutting off his trademark braids . Songz also began dressing in more sophisticated attire , trading in sneakers and T @-@ shirts for vests , tailored pants , and " tasteful " shoes . On the appearance change , Songz 's mentor , producer , and the head of Songbook Entertainment , Troy Taylor said , " Trey 's from the streets , he 's a hood kid . He wasn 't glamorous and (didn 't have) the finer things in life growing up , [...] He didn 't want to lose his street @-@ ism , [...] As he grew into it I think he began to realize , ' Wait a minute , this ain 't that bad after all , ' and then he got the ladies ' opinions . "

After Ready 's success , Songz explained that the album was a result of his growth and new @-@ found maturity . Commenting about the success of his singles , Songz stated that " they 're very strong records and they 're not just radio records . They 're records that embody the person I am as well as the artist I am . I think they 're more definitive of who I am than any other album I 've had . I 've grown as an artist . I 've been doing this for awhile [sic] now . As I 've matured , I 've learned

how to exude that of which I want to be felt . I 've learned what my fans want from me and things of that nature . "

= = Composition = =

The album contains influences of R & B , hip @-@ hop and pop , with a bit of soul , as much of the work has been compared to vintage R. Kelly . Concerning the album 's lyrical content , Ken Capobianco of the Boston Globe said , " While many male modern R & B vocalists are moving to a more mature vibe , Trey Songz keeps the horndog @-@ with @-@ a @-@ heart tradition alive with his third album . " Sean Fennessey of The Village Voice said , that Ready , featured Songz 's " re @-@ imagining the notion of flow ? if not melody ? just as his hero Kelly did 15 years ago . " Andrew Rennie of Now Magazine said the production had a 1980s soundtrack vibe . According to Mark Edward Nero of About.com , " I Need A Girl " contains familiar qualities of Songz 's breakout hit " Can 't Help but Wait " , also produced by Stargate . The song is lyrically about finding and pleasing the right woman . The song has also been described to be a mix of Usher and Justin Timberlake

Melanie Bertoli of Billboard said that " Neighbors Know My Name " " employs a knocking bassline and drip @-@ drop effect to provide the ideal erotic backdrop for Songz 's dirty talk . " " Black Roses " is " set to quasi @-@ electronica production , buoyed by a soulful vocal arrangement . " Tyler Lewis of PopMatters said " Be Where You Are " was reminiscent of Jordan Knight 's " Give It to You " , and called it Songz 's purest pop song to date . " Yo Side of the Bed " , containing soul influences , has been called R & B @-@ pop rock similar to some of Beyoncé 's work on I Am ... Sasha Fierce and Brandy on Human . " LOL : -) " is lyrically about sexting , while featuring a " ringtone @-@ ready " chorus , and heavy percussion .

= = Promotion = =

Promoting the album , a major online campaign was launched , his blog site , SeeFurtherThanIAm.com , on which Songz streams live chats and behind @-@ the @-@ scenes videos . He also released a track on his Twitter every Monday , some of which was from his mixtape Anticipation , which preceded the album 's release . Songz embarked on a promo tour on July 25 , 2009 , with stops in Chicago , Miami , Atlanta , Dallas and the Carolinas , where he attended radio events and listening sessions . He also toured the House of Blues in September , as well as a college tour that fall . In addition to co @-@ headlining the 106 & Live ! tour with Mario , also featuring Day26 and Sean Garrett , which toured from September 29 , 2009 to October 31 , 2009 , Songz served as a supporting act in 2010 for Jay @-@ Z 's The Blueprint 3 Tour , along with Young Jeezy .

In addition to the online and touring promotion , Songz made an appearance with his mother and younger @-@ half brother , Forrest , to perform at AMBER Ready Back @-@ to @-@ School Safety Weekend at ABC Studios in Times Square on August 16 , 2009 . He appeared on BET 's 106 & Park on August 31 , 2009 , September 1 , 2009 and September 2 , 2009 , performing a medley of " Successful " , " I Need a Girl " and " LOL : -) " on the latter date . He performed " I Need a Girl " on September 9 , 2009 , on The Wendy Williams Show .

= = Singles = =

The album 's lead single , " I Need a Girl " was released via digital download on April 13 , 2009 , with " Brand New " as its B @-@ side . " I Need a Girl " received positive to mixed reviews , with some critics comparing it to " Can 't Help But Wait " and others noting it as generic . The song peaked at 59 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and number 6 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs .

Songz appeared as a featured artist on Drake 's single , " Successful " ; the song peaked at number 17 on the Billboard Hot 100 , and was a success on other charts , while reaching at numbers 3 and 2 on the US Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop and Top Rap Songs charts , respectively . Although it was not released as a dual single for Songz and Drake , Songz included this track for Ready , and then

sans with the other featured guest by Lil Wayne , and the addition of another by himself .

" LOL : -) " featuring Gucci Mane and Soulja Boy Tell ' Em , was released to airplay as the album 's second single on August 24 , 2009 . The song received generally positive reviews , while peaking at number 51 on the US Billboard Hot 100 .

" I Invented Sex " featuring Drake , was released to airplay as the album 's third single on October 13 , 2009 . The song reached at number 42 on the US Billboard Hot 100 , and it became Songz 's first number one hit on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The remix to " I Invented Sex " featuring fellow R & B singers Keri Hilson and Usher , was released .

The album 's fourth single , " Say Aah " featuring Fabolous , was released on January 12 , 2010 . The song became the most successful song of Songz 's career , by reaching at number 9 on the US Billboard Hot 100 . Additionally it was his first song to impact pop radio , appearing on the Pop Songs chart , and his first to chart internationally , charting on the Canadian Hot 100 .

" Neighbors Know My Name " ; the album 's fifth and final single was released on February 16 , 2010 , and it received generally positive reviews , while reaching at number 43 on the US Billboard Hot 100 , and number 4 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , giving Songz his third consecutive top five single and fifth top ten single from Ready .

= = = Other songs = = =

Although it did not released as a single , the music video for " Yo Side of the Bed " , in which Keri Hilson portrayed Songz 's love interest , was filmed and released .

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial performance = = =

The album debuted at number 3 on the Billboard 200 , with first @-@ week sales of 131 @, @ 000 copies in the United States . Ready was the second @-@ highest debut of the week , only behind Whitney Houston 's comeback album , I Look To You (2009) . The album currently remains on the top half of the Billboard 200 and Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums charts . On February 16 , 2010 , the album was certified gold in sales , by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , following shipments in excess of 500 @, @ 000 copies in the United States . It is Songz 's first RIAA @-@ certified album . As of June 11 , 2014 , Ready was officially certified platinum by the RIAA .

= = = Critical response = = =

Ready received mostly positive reviews from professional critics , which received an aggregate score of 67 out of 100 . The score , indicating " generally favorable reviews " was based on six reviews from website Metacritic . It received many comparisons to the work of R & B artist R. Kelly , while several critics noted it as inconsistent . David Jeffries of Allmusic said that " Even at a whopping 17 like @-@ minded tracks , all @-@ night lovers wouldn 't be caught dead complaining about how overly long it all is " , commenting that Ready " is as entertaining and frivolous as a one @-@ night stand should be . " Ken Capobianco of The Boston Globe said that Songz had developed as a vocalist stating his voice was more " elastic " and he used his falsetto " judiciously . " Capobianco commended tracks like " Be Where You Are , " and " Love Lost " , commenting that " tracks like that show that he is indeed ready for the next step . " Andrew Rennie of Now said , " slight deviations from R & B ? s classic formula allow Trey Songz wiggle room to play with his multi @-@ octave voice . This offering sets him apart from other acts and may secure his spot in the canon of bedroom crooners . " Glenn Gamboa of Newsday said that after making his name for singing hooks on rap songs , that he " shows his smooth R & B vocals can hold the spotlight all on their own . " Rolling Stone gave the album 3 ½ out of 5 stars and wrote that Songz " takes cues from R. Kelly , slyly mocking the self @-@ parodying excesses of boudoir R & B while supplying the

utilitarian goods : the sumptuous vocal harmonies and sultry beats upon which long nights beneath ceiling mirrors depend " . A writer for USA Today said the album reflects his broad appeal , and that Songz 's proves " he 's comfortable as a rogue or romantic . Even though the review pointed out that " he occasionally falls back on booty @-@ call clichés , " it did point out that " his song craft shines on the edgy " Black Roses " and regretful " Love Lost . " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times said , " ' Ready ' is one of the year ? s most promising R & B albums , and a curious one at that " , commenting , " the results are bawdy but never lecherous ; sometimes all his enthusiastic bedroom talk has an air of childlike goofiness to it , as if he were thrilled to get away with boasting so freely . " Sean Fennessy of The Village Voice called the album " one of the year 's best ... "

Despite viewing it imperfect and noting Songz had not mastered the balancing act " between being a horny boy and ladies ' man " , Mark Edward Nero of About.com said it was the best album of Songz 's career , commenting , " Trey takes a big step toward establishing himself as an A @-@ list singer . " Nero also commended consistent vocals as a plus , and complimented the eclecticity of the songs , saying no tracks are unlistenable . Tyler Lewis of PopMatters said that Songz continued his tradition of inconsistent albums , commenting that the album is best is when it departs from the R. Kelly template . Lewis recommended that the album needed to be trimmed down and included with some from his mixtape Anticipation for what could have been , " the black pop record of the year . " In his consumer guide for MSN Music , critic Robert Christgau gave to the album a dud () rating , indicating " a bad record whose details rarely merit further thought . At the upper level it may merely be overrated , disappointing , or dull . Down below it may be contemptible " . Ajitpaul Mangat of Tiny Mix Tapes called the album often " generic " and " monotonous " noting how Songz 's work on freestyles and work ethic proves how the album could be better . Mangat did overall compliment the album , " While Ready is far from a perfect album , it seems Trey is learning how to inspirit his original works with the charm and inventiveness found in his freestyles and covers . " The album earned Songz a Grammy Award nomination for Best Contemporary R & B Album in 2010 .

= = Track listing = =

(*) designates a co @-@ producer .

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Ready adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =