

= Here I Stand ( Usher album ) =

Here I Stand is the fifth studio album by American singer Usher , released on May 13 , 2008 by LaFace Records . Inspired by love for his new wife ? Tameka Foster ? and son , Usher recorded many ballads for the album . Prior to the album 's recording , Usher split with his mother , Jonnetta Patton , as manager and hired Benny Medina . Usher 's estranged father died months before the release of Here I Stand ; this also influenced themes of the album . It was originally to be titled " Measure of a Man " , but Usher named it Here I Stand to mark " a new chapter in [ his ] life " .

Usher promoted Here I Stand by performing on several television shows including Total Request Live , 106 & Park and Good Morning America . Among other concert appearances , he embarked on a One Night Stand : Ladies Only Tour , performing fifteen shows in November 2008 . Six singles were released from Here I Stand : " Love in This Club " , " Love in This Club Part II " , " Moving Mountains " , " What 's Your Name " , " Here I Stand " and " Trading Places " . " Love in This Club " , which features rapper Young Jeezy , topped the Billboard Hot 100 and New Zealand Singles Chart .

Here I Stand received generally positive reviews from music critics , who viewed it as a sign of growth and maturity from Usher , although others were unimpressed by the change in style from his 2004 album Confessions . It debuted atop the Billboard 200 , and sold 433 @,@ 000 copies in the US in its first week of release , and has since sold 1 @.@ 3 million copies in that country . The album also reached number one on the Canadian Albums Chart , UK Albums Chart and Australian Albums Chart , and has sold five million units worldwide .

Although it had sold two million copies by August 2008 , Here I Stand was seen as a commercial failure relative to Confessions , which had sold nineteen million copies . Tyler Lewis of PopMatters put the album 's limited success down to Usher 's and Foster 's marriage ; he believed that Usher 's fans disliked Foster .

= = Background = =

In 2004 , Usher 's fourth studio album , Confessions was released , becoming the most @-@ shipped album in the United States . Before the album 's release , he broke up with his girlfriend Chilli . In December 2005 , he became romantically involved with stylist Tameka Foster ; the two wed on August 3 , 2007 , although Usher 's mother and manager , Jonnetta Patton , did not attend . Foster gave birth to Usher Raymond V later that year . In May 2007 , Usher split with Patton as his manager . This prompted " gossip " that Usher had " fired " her because of his growing relationship with Foster . He denied the claims , saying , " I love my mother ... I decided not to fire , not get rid of , but to give [ my mother ] the ultimate compliment ? to retire her to be a full @-@ time grandmother . " He continued by stating that the split was a mutual decision . It was speculated that Patton 's dismissal was due to his engagement with Foster ; Usher dismissed these claims on Total Request Live ( TRL ) in May 2008 . In what MTV News ' Shawn Adler called an " angry tirade " , Usher stated , " My wife had nothing to do with me firing my mother ? nothing like that , that 's trash . I hear y 'all talking crazy out there . She 's a beautiful black woman . Stop . Stop talking . And I love her . Stop it . " The outbreak was compared to Mariah Carey 's unannounced 2001 appearance on TRL , when she handed out popsicles to the show 's audience and performed a " striptease " , while some fans noted Usher 's speech as evidence that Foster was being controlling of Usher . Usher hired Benny Medina as his new manager ; Medina said of Usher , " The thing that excited me most is the intense commitment to his art , his incredible professionalism and the fact that I feel as though he 's just hitting a stride . "

In January 2008 , Usher 's father , Usher Raymond III , died . Both men regretted not spending more time in each other 's lives . " Prayer for You " , the seventh track on Here I Stand , is an interlude dedicated to Usher 's son , reflective on his relationship with his own father ; " No matter what happened , my father always prayed for me . The only difference is , I 'm gonna be there to be the father that my dad wished he was to me . " The first album name that artists and repertoire representative Mark Pitts conceived was " Measure of a Man " , but that title had already been used

by Clay Aiken for his debut album , so Usher called it Here I Stand . Pitts said , " It was perfect because becoming a man is about going through pain , sorrow , and happiness . Usher 's done that ! From the love songs to the party joints , it 's exactly the story he wanted to tell . " Usher noted Here I Stand as beginning " a new chapter in my life " ; the album 's liner notes contain a verse from 1 Corinthians 13 : " When I was a child , I spoke as a child , I understood as a child , I thought as a child : but when I became a man , I put away childish things . " Here I Stand marked Usher 's growth from boyhood to manhood . In March 2007 , it was announced that work on the album had begun . Usher outlined the album 's concept : " A lot of what I plan to offer with this album is kinda standing in this spot ... The king 's back . I ain 't gonna say ' back , ' I never left . "

The Rich Harrison @-@ produced track , titled " Dat Girl Right There " , was leaked on November 11 , 2007 . The song charted on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs at number 74 , due to high airplay . Featuring Ludacris ? with whom Usher collaborated on " Yeah ! " in 2004 ? the song was originally thought to be the lead single from Here I Stand ; however it was not included on the record . Other potential tracks cited before the album 's release were " All the Time " ( produced by T @-@ Pain ) and " The Realdest " ( produced by Jermaine Dupri ) , although neither was included on the album . Here I Stand contains eighteen tracks ; James " JLaack " Lackey , Polow da Don , Tricky Stewart , Jazze Pha , The @-@ Dream , Los da Mystro , will.i.am , Dupri , Manuel Seal , LRoc , Dre & Vidal , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox , Stargate , Ne @-@ Yo , Danja , Soundz and J. R. Rotem all produced tunes on the album . On the iTunes Store deluxe edition , " Revolver " was included , which was produced by Alexander " Prettyboifresh " Parhm .

= = Composition = =

An R & B album , Josh Eells of Blender summed up much of the production of Here I Stand as " cocktail @-@ lounge crunk , full of splashy cymbals , jazzy electric guitar and tinkly pianos " . Many of its themes were inspired by Foster and Raymond V , resulting in a great number of ballads . Here I Stand opens with an " Intro " ( titled " Forever Young " on some copies ) , while the lead single " Love in This Club " follows , on which Young Jeezy appears . The mid @-@ tempo song features a shuddering synth beat and speaks of a lusting desire in a nightclub . " This Ain 't Sex " is a disco @-@ influenced song that " speaks of sex as a privileged act between two consenting adults " . " Trading Places " uses guitar instrumentation to host role reversal in both sexual and non @-@ sexual situations in a relationship . " Moving Mountains " is a ballad that draws on synth beats to relate a love struggle to an impossible task , such as moving mountains . The album 's sixth track is " What 's Your Name " , an electro song which features new wave @-@ influenced synths produced by will.i.am , who also contributes vocals to the song . The " Prayer for You " interlude follows , an ode to Usher 's son in which Raymond V cries . Usher prays for his son to be " better than me " . " Something Special " is a pop ballad that begins acoustically , and was inspired by Robin Thicke and John Mayer because of its honesty . Usher discussed the song : " It 's about the feeling when you 're in real love . It could be about my son or my wife . "

According to Usher " Love You Gently " , a piano @-@ based classic rhythm and blues ballad , is " the one [ track ] you throw on with your significant other when it 's time to get to it . This is why my son 's here . It 's a baby @-@ maker . " Jay @-@ Z appears on the horn @-@ founded " Best Thing " , which is about transition to manhood . Usher outlines lifestyle changes since his wife 's arrival and turns away from his days as " a hustler and a player " in " Before I Met You " , which makes use of guitar and heavy drums . He is suspected of infidelity and compared to his girlfriend 's cheating ex @-@ partner on " His Mistakes " . The thirteenth track on Here I Stand is " Appetite " , which utilizes flutes and has Usher tempted to cheat on his wife . " What 's a Man to Do " opens with a Native Indian call , while " Lifetime " contains influences of 1990s R & B . " Love in This Club Part II " features vocals from Beyoncé Knowles and Lil Wayne and samples The Stylistics ' " You Are Everything " ( 1971 ) ; its lyrical content is similar to that of Part I , and Wayne 's voice is modified through the use of a vocoder . The album 's soul and pop jazz @-@ derived title track , " Here I Stand " , drew comparisons to Stevie Wonder . With a theme of commitment , it was played at Usher 's and Foster 's wedding . Here I Stand closes with " Will Work for Love " , although it was placed as

a hidden track on some copies ; Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine called it " cute " .

= = Release = =

In November 2007 , Usher hoped to release his fifth album , titled Here I Stand , but " issues in his personal life " delayed the album . According to reports , Usher has to spend more time with his then @-@ pregnant wife . The expected November release date was booked to coincide with that of Usher 's fragrance line . Released on May 13 , 2008 . The continually changing release dates became frustrating for Usher ; Dupri said to Billboard , " The last couple [ of ] times I 've been around [ Usher ] , you could tell he 's got the bug to hurry up and put this record out . He wants to get back out here and give the people that . He 's got that itch . " Here I Stand was first released by LaFace Records in Mexico and several European countries on May 13 , 2008 ; releases in other countries followed .

= = Promotion = =

In 2008 , Usher promoted Here I Stand by appearing at Radio 1 's Big Weekend , where he performed " This Ain 't Sex " , " Moving Mountains " , " What 's Your Name " , " Here I Stand " and " Love in This Club " , as well as singles from his previous albums . On the day of the album 's release , Usher appeared on television shows TRL and 106 & Park , and performed on Good Morning America on May 30 , 2008 . Usher performed " Love in This Club " on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and Jimmy Kimmel Live ! , as of June 2008 . Usher sang " Love in This Club " with Young Jeezy on The Hills ' third season finale ( May 12 , 2008 ) , and again , by himself , at the sixth season finale of Dancing with the Stars ( May 20 , 2008 ) . At the BET Awards , hosted on June 23 , 2008 , were opened by Usher performing the single . " Love in This Club " and " This Ain 't Sex " were sung by Usher on Saturday Night Live ( May 17 , 2008 ) . Usher performed a one @-@ off showcase concert for 1 @, @ 500 fans at indigO2 , London on May 22 , 2008 , for which the tickets were allocated by ballot . On September 4 , 2008 , Usher performed " Here I Stand " , " Trading Places " and " What 's Your Name " at the 2008 's National Football League Kickoff game at Columbus Circle , New York City . Natasha Bedingfield and Keith Urban also sang before the game , which saw the Washington Redskins play the New York Giants .

= = Singles = =

Five singles were released from Here I Stand . " Love in This Club " was leaked in early 2008 by its producer , Polow da Don , prior to its release on February 22 , 2008 . The song topped the US Billboard Hot 100 , the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs and the New Zealand Singles Chart , while reaching the top ten of numerous other record charts . It was certified platinum in the United States and New Zealand . A sequel was created , titled " Love in This Club Part II " with Beyoncé & Lil Wayne , and was sent to radio as the album 's second single on April 28 , 2008 . While it did not have the commercial success of the original , it emerged on the Hot 100 , the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , the Canadian Hot 100 , and the ARIA Singles Chart , and received a gold certification from the RIAA .

" Moving Mountains " was released on May 23 , 2008 . It appeared on multiple singles charts outside the top twenty . However , it peaked at number six on the New Zealand Singles Chart , and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand on March 29 , 2009 . The fourth single to be released from Here I Stand was " What 's Your Name " ; it impacted radio on August 18 , 2008 . " What 's Your Name " charted on the Canadian Hot 100 and the ARIA Singles Chart , where it peaked at numbers eighty @-@ four and ninety @-@ one , respectively . " Here I Stand " was released to urban adult contemporary radio on August 18 , 2008 , managing to peak at number 18 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The album 's final single , " Trading Places " , was released on October 17 , 2008 and reached number forty @-@ five on the Hot 100 and number four on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs .

### == Tour ==

Usher toured fourteen cities in North America , coining the trip One Night Stand : Ladies Only Tour . Mainly targeting women , the tour commenced on November 2 , 2008 and concluded on November 25 , 2008 . The tour 's female @-@ focused concept was inspired by other male recording artists who " did things special like this for their female fans " , such as Teddy Pendergrass , Marvin Gaye and Prince . Enjoying the challenge of a female @-@ only tour , Usher said , " There [ are ] only a few artists that can pull that off , I feel like I 've had such a connection with my audience . This album , I felt like , was definitely the type of one that was more intimate . So what better way to get up close and personal than to make it all women ? " Usher performed the tour with a Dsquared2 wardrobe . At each show , one fan was brought onstage " for an even more intimate experience with the singer " . This took place during " Superstar " ; a female fan was served champagne and strawberries by Usher while sitting on his lap as he sang to her . Among Usher 's own songs , the setlist also included portions of Stevie Wonder 's " Rocket Love " , Gaye 's " I Want You " and Prince 's " Do Me , Baby " . At the Detroit show he also gave T @-@ Baby 's " It 's So Cold in the D " . Usher was supported by a five @-@ piece band , three backing vocalists and four backup dancers .

### == Setlist ==

" Forever Young "  
" Love in this Club "  
" Follow Me "  
" U Remind Me "  
" This Ain 't Sex "  
" That 's What It 's Made For "  
" U Got It Bad "  
" Trading Places "  
" Do Me , Baby " / " Adore "  
" Seduction "  
" Nice & Slow "  
" Dot Com "  
" Rocket Love "  
" Superstar "  
" Bad Girl "  
" You Make Me Wanna ... "  
" I Don 't Know "  
" I Want You "  
" Confessions Part II "  
" Medley " ( " My Boo " / " Back in the Day " / " Think of You " / " I Need a Girl " / " Can U Get Wit It " / " Lovers & Friends " )  
" That 's What It 's Made For "  
" Yeah ! "  
" Here I Stand "  
Encore : " Caught Up "  
Source :

### == Dates and venues ==

### == Reception ==

Sun Media 's Jason MacNeil rated the Toronto show three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of

five , praising Usher 's connection with the female audience . Lee Hildebrand of the San Francisco Chronicle commended Usher 's live vocal ability . Parimal M. Rohit from Buzzine stated in his positive review of the Los Angeles show that " everyone will be talking about the entertaining concert " .

= = Critical reception = =

Here I Stand received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a weighted mean rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received a score of 65 out of 100 , based on fifteen reviews . Mark Edward Nero of About.com gave the album four out of five stars , and wrote that Usher 's marriage had a positive effect on his music . He called Here I Stand " as good - if not better " than Confessions . IGN critic Chad Grischow wrote that " Growing up may have taken toll on Usher 's personal life , but it has not altered the man 's ability to create refreshing music " ; Grischow rated the album 8 @.@ 1 out of 10 . USA Today praised the maturity of Usher 's lyrics on Here I Stand , while The A.V. Club 's Joshua Alston commended the album 's ballads . Although she disliked the album 's length and lyrics , Entertainment Weekly 's Leah Greenblatt wrote that " a good portion of [ Here I ] Stand 's tunes deserve a place in the dance @-@ floor pantheon " , and awarded it a B + grade . Andy Kellman from Allmusic scored the record three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five and stated that " the album leaves no doubt that the R & B male crown ... should not change hands " , referring to Usher 's King of R & B honorific nickname . Richard Cromelin of the Los Angeles Times did not appreciate the numerous ballads on the release , but compared it to Usher 's previous work and declared , " it 's a more accomplished version of Confessions , the hooks more effortless , the singing even better , the songwriting more consistent . " Jim DeRogatis from the Chicago Sun @-@ Times viewed it as proof that Usher has claimed the ' King of R & B ' title from R. Kelly .

However , Dan Gennoe of Yahoo ! Music felt that the album lacked inspiration , and wrote , " nothing sticks , there 's no guts , no depth and no matter how much he protests to the contrary , nothing to believe " . Rolling Stone 's Melissa Maerz perceived that Usher had put little effort into the record and stated that " now that he 's got the American Dream , he sounds like he 's stopped trying . " Blender 's Josh Eells was let down by the large number of ballads and lack of sexual content . Clover Hope of The Village Voice described it as " pure grown @-@ man bidness " and " a little too sitting @-@ on @-@ the @-@ dock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ bay for Chris Breezy ? trained earbuds " . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine scored Here I Stand two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five , and considered the music " almost always just one notch above mediocrity . " The Observer 's Steve Yates panned the album as " gloop [ Usher ] wades through " . In his consumer guide for MSN Music , critic Robert Christgau cited the songs " Trading Places " and " Best Thing " as " choice cuts " , indicating " good song [ s ] on an album that isn 't worth your time or money " . Jon Pareles of The New York Times wrote that " tension , not bliss , creates the album 's best songs " , referring to " Moving Mountains " , " His Mistakes " , " Appetite " and " What 's a Man To Do " . At the 51st Grammy Awards , the album 's title track was nominated for the Best Male R & B Vocal Performance award , but lost to Ne @-@ Yo 's " Miss Independent " from his 2008 album , Year of the Gentleman .

= = Commercial performance = =

Here I Stand had unweighted first @-@ day sales of 146 @,@ 000 in the US , and in its first three days of release sold an unweighted 267 @,@ 000 units . The album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart . Selling 433 @,@ 000 copies domestically in its first week of release , it was the second highest selling US debut of the year at the time , behind Mariah Carey 's E = MC2 . In its second week of release , it sold 145 @,@ 000 copies and dropped to number three on the Billboard 200 . As at May 2012 it had sold 1 @,@ 308 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , and it has received a platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . Here I Stand also debuted atop the Canadian Albums Chart , and spent eight weeks on the chart .

On the UK Albums Chart , Here I Stand debuted at number one on the chart of June 7 , 2008 , selling 56 @,@ 897 copies . It was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) , and lasted seventeen weeks in the chart before dropping out . The album peaked at number two on the Irish Albums Chart , remaining for fifteen weeks in the chart and was awarded a gold certification from the Irish Recorded Music Association ( IRMA ) . In mainland Europe , the album was received well ; it appeared at number three on the European Top 100 Albums , and reached the top ten in the Belgian Ultratop charts of both Flanders and Wallonia , as well as in the album charts of France , Germany , the Netherlands and Switzerland . In Oceania , Here I Stand attained a number @-@ one position on the Australian Albums Chart and reached number five on the New Zealand Albums Chart . It received a gold certification from the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) , denoting shipments of 35 @,@ 000 copies in the country . Worldwide sales of the album stand at over five million .

= = Impact = =

Usher 's publicist , Patti Webster , resigned on August 1 , 2008 . Usher rehired Patton as his manager on August 6 , 2008 and " dissolved his management arrangement with Benny Medina " . At the time of the split from Medina , Here I Stand had sold two million copies worldwide compared to Confessions ' nineteen million copies ; some speculated that the disunion was because of the poorer album sales . Medina said that he and the singer " parted ways amicably " , and deflected comments that he was responsible for the lower album sales . He pointed out that Here I Stand and " Love in This Club " reached number one on the US charts , and that the music industry had changed since the release of Confessions . Due to the lower sales , Here I Stand was seen as a commercial failure . According to Tyler Lewis from PopMatters its failure was spurred by Usher 's marriage to Foster : " his fanbase hated his wife " .

Usher filed for divorce from Foster in June 2009 , stating that their marriage was " irretrievably broken " . " Papers " , the first single from Usher 's next album Raymond v. Raymond ( 2010 ) , discussed the divorce process , although it was recorded before the couple split .

= = Track listing = =

#### Notes

" Love in This Club Part II " contains a portion of the composition " You Are Everything " , written by Thomas Bell and Linda Creed .

^ [ a ] signifies a co @-@ producer .

^ [ b ] signifies a vocal producer .

^ [ c ] signifies an additional producer .

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Here I Stand adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =