

= Lotus (Christina Aguilera album) =

Lotus is the seventh studio album by American recording artist Christina Aguilera , released on November 9 , 2012 by RCA Records . Its music incorporates pop styles with elements of dance @-@ pop , rock in the form of upbeat songs and piano @-@ driven ballads . Aguilera described the album as a " rebirth " , drawing inspiration from events in her life , her appearance on The Voice , and her divorce . The album was recorded at Aguilera 's home studio . As executive producer , she collaborated with a wide range of producers , including new partners Alex da Kid , Max Martin , Lucas Secon and Tracklacers .

Upon its release , Lotus received generally mixed reviews from music critics , who were ambivalent towards its lyrics and found its music conventional . It debuted at number seven on the US Billboard 200 , with first @-@ week sales of 73 @,@ 408 units . Internationally , the album charted moderately , but obtained higher positions in Canada and Russia where the album reached the top 10 . Two singles were released from the album in North America . The first single " Your Body " charted within the top 40 of most countries . The second one , " Just a Fool " , was a duet with fellow The Voice coach Blake Shelton and peaked at number 71 on the Billboard Hot 100 . Though not released as a single , " Let There Be Love " topped the US Hot Dance Club Songs chart at number 1 . In August 2013 , along with a letter to her fans , Aguilera released a music video for the song .

= = Background = =

After the release of Aguilera 's sixth studio album , Bionic (2010) , which failed to generate her usual sales , she divorced from her husband Jordan Bratman , starred in a film called Burlesque , and recorded its accompanying soundtrack . The singer then became a coach on NBC 's singing contest show The Voice and appeared as a guest vocalist 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 she wanted to record her seventh album , stating that she wanted high @-@ quality and personal songs to record . She stated 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 went on to say that " I 'm embracing many different things , but it 's all feel @-@ good , super @-@ expressive [and] super @-@ vulnerable . " She further expressed that the album would be about " self @-@ expression and freedom " because of the personal struggles she had overcome during the last couple of years .

On The Tonight Show with Jay Leno in 2012 , Aguilera revealed that the album was taking a while to record 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 " . In an interview with Rolling Stone , Aguilera said that the album was a " very multi @-@ layered , very heartfelt record " reflecting different sides of her personality . On Lotus , Aguilera worked with new producers , notably Alex da Kid and Max Martin . Alex da Kid , who first teamed with Aguilera in the song " Castle Walls " from T.I. ' s No Mercy (2010) , commented about Aguilera 's approach in recording Lotus , " She definitely had a strong opinion , but she 'll go with the best idea in the room . That 's really rare for someone that 's had so much success . " Speaking about working with Max Martin , Aguilera said , " Max is legendary in the business . He 's known about me but we haven 't crossed paths . [...] It 's taken us a decade in the same business and watching each other from a distance , so for us to now come together and respect each other 's work ethic and how we like to be heard and making a marriage out of it , I think ' Your Body ' is the best culmination of that . "

Aguilera announced via Twitter on September 12 , 2012 that the album would be titled Lotus . The album artwork was shot by fashion photographer Enrique Badulescu . Aguilera unveiled the cover on October 5 , where she is shown nude with her long , blonde hair covering her nipples , while her vulva is shaded by a white light ; she extends her arms emerging from a lotus flower . It received a generally positive response from critics ; Tiffany Lee from Yahoo ! Music complimented Aguilera 's figure , while Sam Lansky from Idolator drew comparisons to the cover of her fourth studio album ,

Stripped (2002) . Lotus was released on November 13 , 2012 by RCA Records , but was leaked online on November 5 .

= = Composition = =

Lotus incorporates pop styles with elements of dance @-@ pop , rock in the form of upbeat songs and piano @-@ driven ballads . It opens with the track " Lotus Intro " , which was inspired by Aguilera 's passion for " chill @-@ out " electronica . The song has a " hypnotic " yet " dark , serious " tone that develops and matures as it progresses , depicting Aguilera 's rebirth , similar to the life cycle of a lotus flower . " Army of Me " is a dance @-@ pop and euro @-@ dance empowerment anthem , with a pounding drum beat and rock guitars . Aguilera described the song as an update version of her 2003 hit " Fighter " , describing it as a " Fighter 2 @.@ 0 " . The up @-@ tempo track " Red Hot Kinda Love " combines a variety of genres , including dance and disco , " subtle " tones of Latin , hip hop , and pop . " Make the World Move " , featuring Cee Lo Green , is a track which incorporates dance , R & B and soul genres .

The next track and first single from Lotus is " Your Body " . It incorporates electropop and R & B genres and has a trace of dubstep in the middle eight . Lyrically , it discusses anonymous sex with a random man . " Let There Be Love " features dance @-@ pop , electronic dance music and pop genres with elements from electronica and trance . The power ballad " Sing for Me " tells how Aguilera was born to sing . " Blank Page " is a piano @-@ driven ballad about apologies , regrets , closure , and making peace . " Cease Fire " is a rock @-@ tinged track that features electronic and dubstep infusion . Lyrically , it is a plea to her partner to stop the fighting for the greater good of their relationship . " Around the World " has a ragga influence and refers to Aguilera 's 2001 hit " Lady Marmalade " as she whispers " Voulez @-@ vous coucher avec moi , ce soir ? " . The pop track " Circles " is an anti @-@ haters song and is influenced by the alternative rock genre . " Best of Me " is a power ballad about a failed relationship and how to not let others knock you down . " Just a Fool " , the last track of Lotus and its second single , is a duet with Blake Shelton . The song is a country pop ballad about the pain of a break @-@ up .

= = Promotion = =

= = = Singles = = =

To promote Lotus , two singles were released from the album . " Your Body " was released on September 17 , 2012 as Lotus 's lead single . The song received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who praised Aguilera 's vocals and the collaboration with Max Martin . It debuted and peaked at number 34 on the Billboard Hot 100 on September 27 , 2012 , becoming the highest @-@ debut single during that week . Internationally , " Your Body " was a moderate success , peaking within the top 40 of most countries . The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Melina Matsoukas ; it portrays Aguilera as a killer dressed in pink , one who delights in wooing physically fit men to their demise . Sam Lansky from Idolator provided a favorable review of the clip and described it as one of Aguilera 's best videos . The second and final single from Lotus , the duet " Just a Fool " with Blake Shelton , was released on December 4 , 2012 . It debuted at number 92 on the Billboard Hot 100 on November 17 , 2012 and peaked at number 71 in its second week charting . As of September 2014 , the single has sold over 74 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies in United States .

= = = Live performances = = =

Besides releasing singles to promote the album , Aguilera also performed several tracks from Lotus on a number of shows . On November 2 , 2012 , she performed " Your Body " on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon , alongside Jimmy Fallon and The Roots . Aguilera and Cee Lo Green performed " Make the World Move " together on the third season of The Voice on November 13 , 2012 . The

singer performed a medley of three songs , " Lotus Intro " , " Army of Me " and " Let There Be Love " at the 40th American Music Awards on November 18 , 2012 , held at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles , California . On November 19 , 2012 , Aguilera performed " Just a Fool " with Blake Shelton on The Voice . The following day , she performed " Let There Be Love " on The Voice with her team contestants , Sylvia Yacoub and Dez Duron . On The Ellen DeGeneres Show , the singer performed " Just a Fool " again with Shelton on December 7 , 2012 . Aguilera also performed " Blank Page " at the 39th People 's Choice Awards on January 9 , 2013 .

= = Critical reception = =

Lotus received generally mixed reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 56 , based on 12 reviews . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe called it " a good start in the effort to refocus attention on Aguilera 's skills " , but observed " several tracks that sound mindlessly repetitive as sedentary listening experiences " . Q called it " generic " and felt that " nothing really stands out " . Annie Zaleski of The A.V. Club felt that the album " often plays it safe " and accused Aguilera of " dumbing down her voice or lyrics for the sake of lightweight tunes or prevailing trends . " Melissa Maerz of Entertainment Weekly found the album 's " self @-@ empowerment anthems ... as contradictory as they are unoriginal " and criticized its production for " digitally smother [ing] " Aguilera 's vocals and " draining all the emotion " . Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani asserted that because it is " Aguilera 's shortest album since her debut , it boasts less filler , but also fewer obvious standouts . " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times felt that the album 's conventional direction is " its biggest crime , more than its musical unadventurousness or its emphasis on bland self @-@ help lyrics or its reluctance to lean on [...] Aguilera 's voice , the thing that makes her special " . Jon Dolan of Rolling Stone dismissed it as a " vitriol @-@ tsunami of a record " .

In a positive review , AllMusic editor Stephen Thomas Erlewine wrote that Aguilera " feels comfortable in this familiar , slightly freshened territory " . Simon Price of The Independent felt that the album 's " best moments are its electro @-@ pop numbers " . Kitty Empire of The Observer characterized its subject matter as " wiffle of the highest order " , but wrote that " one of the pleasures of Aguilera is that she can use polysyllables , even when talking the rot that fills women 's mags " . Although she criticized the album 's " upbeat pop anthems " , Melody Lau of Exclaim ! found Aguilera to be " reinvigorated " and felt that she " shines most when she 's direct , honest and vulnerable " . Celina Murphy of Hot Press felt that Lotus 's " safer " direction and Aguilera 's " default mode " makes the album an improvement from Bionic . At the end of 2012 , Lotus was ranked at number 17 on the list " 20 Best Pop Albums of 2012 " by Spin . In contrast , Entertainment Weekly named it the worst album of 2012 .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , Lotus debuted at number seven on the Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 73 @,@ 408 units . This was considerably lower than Aguilera 's previous album , Bionic (2010) , which opened at number three with sales of 110 @,@ 000 units , thereby becoming Aguilera 's English @-@ language studio album with the lowest first week sales . The following week it fell to number seventeen with sales of 52 @,@ 558 copies . In Canada , Lotus peaked at number 7 on the Canadian Albums Chart and was certified gold by Music Canada for shipments of 40 @,@ 000 copies there on January 10 . The album debuted and peaked at 28 on the UK Albums Chart with sales of 9 @,@ 422 , becoming her lowest @-@ charting album there . Internationally , Lotus underperformed , only reaching the top 20 and top 30 in most countries . As of August 2014 , the album had sold over 290 @,@ 000 units in the United States , as reported by Nielsen SoundScan . It has additionally sold over 687 @,@ 000 tracks there .

= = Track listing = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Lotus .

Notes

^ [a] signifies a vocal producer

^ [b] signifies a co @-@ producer

Sampling credits

" Red Hot Kinda Love " contains samples from " The Whole World Ain 't Nothing But a Party " , as performed by Mark Radice and " 54 @-@ 46 Was My Number " , as performed by Toots and the Maytals .

" Make the World Move " contains a portion of the composition " Let 's Find Out " , written by Armando Trovajoli .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

Vocals ? Christina Aguilera

Background vocals ? Christina Aguilera , Candice Pillay , Max Martin , Aimée Proal , Stacie Orrico , Shellback

Featured artists ? Cee Lo Green , Blake Shelton

Producers ? Alex da Kid , Chris Braide , Busbee , Mike Del Rio , Jayson DeZuzio , Dem Jointz , Jason Gilbert , Jamie Hartman , Aeon " Step " Manahan , Max Martin , Steve Robson , Lucas Secon , Shellback , Supa Dups , Tracklacers

Vocal producers ? Christina Aguilera , Claude Kelly , Candice Pillay

Executive producer ? Christina Aguilera

Keyboards ? Chris Braide , Steve Daly , Jon Keep , Max Martin , Steve Robson , Shellback

Strings ? Alisha Bauer , Marisa Kuney , Songa Lee , Rodney Wirtz

String arrangements ? Chris Braide , Jamie Hartman , Steve Robson , Pete Whitfield

Bass ? J Browz , Tyler Chester , Steve Daly , John Garrison

Synthesizers ? Steve Daly , Jon Keep

Programming ? Chris Braide , Aeon " Step " Manahan , Steve Robson , Lucas Secon , Shellback

Engineers ? John Hanes , Pete Hofmann , Sam Holland , Josh Mosser , Sam Miller , Oscar Ramirez , Lucas Secon , Shellback , Justin Stanley ,

Vocal engineers ? Scott Hendricks , Sam Holland , Graham Marsh (producer) , Oscar Ramirez

Assistant engineer ? Phil Seaford

A & Rs ? Christina Aguilera , Keith Naftaly

Photography ? Enrique Badulescu

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =

= = Release history = =