

= Army of Me (Christina Aguilera song) =

" Army of Me " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Christina Aguilera for her seventh studio album , Lotus (2012) . It was co @-@ written by Aguilera with Jamie Hartman , David Glass and Phil Bentley , with production done by Tracklacers and Jamie Hartman . Described by Aguilera as part two to her 2002 single " Fighter " , she decided to record the song so that her newer , younger fans would have an empowering song to listen in case they were unfamiliar with her previous work . The song combines dance @-@ pop and euro @-@ dance genres ; its instrumentation incorporates drum beats and rock guitars . " Army of Me " garnered mixed reviews from music critics . Many praised Aguilera 's strong delivery of the song 's message and branded it a potential single , while others criticized it for being too similar to " Fighter " . Upon the release of Lotus , the song debuted on the South Korea international singles chart at number 103 with digital download sales of 2 @,@ 689 . Aguilera has performed the song at the 40th American Music Awards in the United States .

= = 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 " .

Recorded at Henson Recording Studios , Hollywood , California , and Radley Studios , Los Angeles , California , by Justin Stanley , " Army of Me " was co @-@ written by Aguilera with Jamie Hartman , David Glass and Phil Bentley . It was produced by Tracklacers and it was co @-@ produced by Hartman . Aguilera 's vocals were recorded by Oscar Ramirez at The Red Lips Room in Beverly Hills in California . Programming was carried out by Steve Daly and John Keep , while strings were composed by Hartman . In an interview with Andrew Hampp for Billboard , Aguilera explained how her role on The Voice has allowed her to reach a new generational audience who may not be familiar with her past work , including songs such as her 2002 single , " Fighter " . When asked if some of the songs on Lotus feature themes which are similar to that of her 2002 album , Stripped , Aguilera responded by saying that " Army of Me " is what she describes as " Fighter 2 @.@ 0 " .

Absolutely . There 's a song called ' Army of Me , ' which is sort of a ' Fighter 2 @.@ 0 . ' There is a new generation of fans from a younger demographic that might not have been with me all the way but that watch me on the show now . I feel like every generation should be able to enjoy and have their piece of ' Fighter ' within . This time , the way it musically came together it just felt right for this time and this generation . There 's always going to be a fighter in me getting through some obstacle and some hurdle . All these 6 @-@ year @-@ olds who know me from pushing my button and turning around in a big red chair who weren 't around for the actual ' Fighter , ' this is my chance to recharge it , rejuvenate it and do something modernized for them .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Army of Me " is an up @-@ tempo dance @-@ pop and euro @-@ dance song which lasts for a duration of 3 : 26 (three minutes and 26 seconds) . Instrumentation consists of a " pounding " drum beat and " rocky " guitars . Aguilera presents herself as a fighter and tells her ex @-@ boyfriend that she is stronger than he is in the lyrics " So how does it feel to know that I beat you ? / That I can defeat you ? " Although Aguilera is heartbroken by the decision to split up with her ex @-@ boyfriend , she is not a broken person . The lyrics " One of me is wiser / One of me is stronger / One of me 's a fighter / And there 's a thousand faces of me / We 're gonna rise up for every time you broke me / You 're gonna face an army of me " are similar to those performed by Aguilera on " Fighter " , although of " Army of Me " does not sample any of the song . Aguilera sings " Now that I 'm wiser / Now that I 'm stronger / Now that I 'm a fighter / There 's a thousand faces on me " over a " thumping " beat , and belts the line " We 're gonna rise up for every time you broke me " on the chorus . The song was covered by recording artist Anastacia for her compilation album Ultimate Collection .

= = Critical reception = =

" Army of Me " garnered mixed reviews from music critics . Andrew Hampp for Billboard and Chris Younie for 4Music both thought that " Army of Me " could have been a potential single , the latter of whom writing " This track must be a future single . " Younie continued to write that the song " captivates and excites right from the very start " , has a " euphoric " energy and is the type of " angry " pop song that Kelly Clarkson " would give her right arm for " . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe described it as a " Gloria Gaynor @-@ meets @-@ Depeche Mode dance of anger . " Mike Wass for Idolator wrote that although " Army of Me " is a " quality " song , it is an album filler . Writing that it sounds as though it would have been a good song to include on her previous studio album , Bionic , Wass thought that Aguilera was " not exaggerating " when she refers to it as " Fighter 2 @.@ 0 " . He concluded his review by saying that although her vocals are sparse , it is a " quirky " addition to Lotus . The A.V. Club 's Annie Zaleski described Aguilera as a " playful " and " sassy techno diva " on " Army of Me " .

Kitty Empire of The Observer also thought that it shares similarities with " Fighter " . She cited the Björk song of the same name as another influence , due to its " emotional territory " Robert Copsey for Digital Spy described the song as " nothing we haven 't heard from her before , but there 's an urgency to it that suggests Christina needed to get it out of her system " , while Matthew Horton of Virgin Media wrote that Aguilera sounds as though she is declaring war . Michael Gallucci for PopCrush was critical of the song , writing that it sounds like a Cher disco song which features Aguilera " overworking " her vocal cords . Melissa Maerz of Entertainment Weekly found the song 's message to be confusing and did not understand who exactly Aguilera is supposed to be rising up against on the song , writing " She hollers ' And we 're gonna rise up ... / For every time you wronged me / Well , you 're gonna face an army , army of me . ' Which begs the question : Rise up against whom ? Is the whole world really out to get her , or is this just an excuse to wear camouflage hot pants ? "

= = Live performance = =

Aguilera performed " Let There Be Love " for the first time at the 40th American Music Awards on November 18 , 2012 , held at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles , California . As one of the first singers to be announced as a performer at the award ceremony on October 19 , 2012 , Aguilera sang " Army of Me " as part of a medley with two other tracks from Lotus : " Lotus Intro " and " Let There Be Love " . During an interview with MTV News , Aguilera revealed what the performance would be like and the creative direction behind it :

It 's very exciting . It 's definitely going to be a reflection of what Lotus means to me . If you take that album cover and give it a little performance twist , I 'll bring that album cover to life , so it 's going to be really fun . I can 't give too much away about the songs , but it 's definitely going to represent the

album because the album is very multilayered . It doesn 't represent ' Your Body ' as a single tone . It has its ballads ; and everything comes from a very sincere , deep ? rooted place whether it 's having fun or being vulnerable .

Wearing a " fuller ? figure " " cinched in corset " designed by The Blonds , who also design outfits for Lady Gaga , Leah Simpson for the Daily Mail wrote that Aguilera put a " sexy twist on patriotism with a star ? spangled bodysuit and managed to get a few pulses racing in the over ? the ? top ensemble . " The performance featured dance routines and dancers wearing " torture bags labelled the words ' Freak ' and ' Queen ' over their heads . " Bruna Nessif for E ! Online described the performance as " interesting , " and noted that the theme " to celebrate everyone for who they are " was similar to the moral content presented on Gaga 's album Born This Way (2011) . As Aguilera finished her set , she was joined on stage by Pitbull to perform his song " Feel This Moment " , on which she is a featured artist .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Henson Recording Studios , Hollywood , California ; Radley Studios , Los Angeles , California .

String , Bass and Piano recorded at Henson Recording Studios , Hollywood , California .

Acoustic Guitars , Synth Piano and Synth Strings recorded at Radley Studios , Los Angeles , California .

Vocals recorded at The Red Lips Room , Beverly Hills , California .

Personnel

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

= = Charts = =

Upon the release of Lotus , " Army of Me " debuted on the South Korean singles chart at number 103 during the week of November 11 to 17 , 2012 , due to digital download sales of 2 @ , @ 689 .

= = Anastacia version = =

American recording artist Anastacia covered the song for her second greatest hits album Ultimate Collection (2015) . The song was released as album 's second single on 23 October 2015 by Sony Music Entertainment .