

= Music of the Sun =

Music of the Sun is the debut studio album by Barbadian singer Rihanna . It was released by Def Jam Recordings on August 30 , 2005 . Prior to signing with Def Jam , Rihanna was discovered by record producer Evan Rogers in Barbados , who helped Rihanna record demo tapes to send out to several record labels . Jay @-@ Z , the former chief executive officer (CEO) and president of Def Jam , was given Rihanna 's demo by Jay Brown , his A & R at Def Jam , and invited her to audition for the label after hearing what turned out to be her first single , " Pon de Replay " . She auditioned for Jay @-@ Z and L.A. Reid , the former CEO and president of record label group The Island Def Jam Music Group , and was signed on the spot to prevent her from signing with another record label .

After Rihanna was signed by Jay @-@ Z , she continued to work with Rogers and his production partner Carl Sturken , as well as other music producers such as , Poke & Tone , D. " Supa Dups " Chin @-@ quee , and StarGate . Music of the Sun features vocals from Canadian rapper Kardinal Offishall , music group J @-@ Status , and Jamaican singer Vybz Kartel . Its music incorporates Caribbean music such as dancehall and reggae , as well as dance @-@ pop and R & B ballads .

Music of the Sun received generally mixed reviews from music critics , who complimented its dancehall and Caribbean @-@ inspired songs , while others criticized some of the production . The album debuted at number 10 on the United States Billboard 200 and number six on the Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart . The album peaked in the top @-@ 40 of album charts in Germany , New Zealand , Switzerland and the United Kingdom . It produced two singles : " Pon de Replay " and " If It 's Lovin ' that You Want " , the former of which peaked at number two on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and number one on the US Dance Club Songs chart . Music of the Sun was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of over 500 @,@ 000 copies .

= = Background = =

Before signing to Def Jam Recordings , Rihanna was discovered in her home country Barbados by American record producer Evan Rogers . The two met in December 2003 through mutual friends of Rihanna 's and Rogers ' wife , while the couple was on vacation in Barbados , because of how Rihanna 's friend had told Rogers ' wife how the aspiring singer was always singing and performing . After meeting for the first time , Rogers ' asked Rihanna to come to his hotel room , where she performed renditions of Destiny 's Child 's " Emotion " and Mariah Carey 's " Hero " . Rihanna 's renditions impressed Rogers , who then took her to New York , where she was accompanied by her mother to record some demo tapes which could be sent to record labels . She recorded the demo over the next year intermittently , due to Rihanna only being able to record during school holidays .

At the age of 16 , Rihanna was signed to Rogers ' and Carl Sturken 's production company , Syndicated Rhythm Productions , who assigned her a lawyer and manager , before the completed demo tape were distributed to various record labels around the world in late 2004 . The first to respond to the demo tape was Jay @-@ Z , who had recently been appointed as president and CEO of Def Jam Recordings . Rihanna auditioned for him and music mogul L.A. Reid , in his office . Looking back on the audition and meeting Jay @-@ Z , Rihanna explained in an interview how she felt before walking into the room , saying : " That 's when I really got nervous I was like : ' Oh God , he 's right there , I can 't look , I can 't look , I can 't look ! ' I remember being extremely quiet . I was very shy . I was cold the entire time . I had butterflies . I 'm sitting across from Jay @-@ Z. Like , Jay @-@ Zee . I was star @-@ struck . " During the audition , Rihanna performed Whitney Houston 's cover of " For the Love of You " , as well as " Pon de Replay " and " The Last Time " , which were written and produced by Rogers and Sturken and would be included on her debut album Music of the Sun .

Jay @-@ Z was initially skeptical about signing Rihanna after he felt " Pon de Replay " was too big for her , saying " when a song is that big , it 's hard [for a new artist] to come back from . I don 't sign songs , I sign artists " . The audition resulted in Rihanna signing a six @-@ album record deal

with Def Jam Recordings in February 2005 , on the same day of the audition , with Jay Z saying " There 's only two ways out . Out the door after you sign this deal . Or through this window ... " , meaning that he was not going to let her leave without signing a record deal . After signing to Def Jam Recordings , Rihanna cancelled other meetings with record labels and relocated from Barbados to New York to live with Rogers ' and his wife . Rihanna explained the concept behind the title of the album to Kidzworld , saying that the sun is representative of the her native Caribbean culture as well as herself and that the album consists of music from her heritage .

= = Recording and composition = =

Rihanna worked with various producers for Music of the Sun and continued to work with Rogers and Sturken , who had previously written and produced " Pon de Replay " and " The Last Time " for Rihanna 's demo tape . Although Rihanna stated that when she first heard " Pon de Replay " , she did not want to record it , expressing that she felt the song was " sing @-@ songy " , but grew to like the song at the end of the recording process . In an interview with Kidzworld , Rihanna explained how the pair helped her develop her song @-@ writing abilities , saying Rogers and Sturken , who had worked with recording artists including Britney Spears , Christina Aguilera and Kelly Clarkson .

Music of the Sun is a Caribbean @-@ influenced , urban dance @-@ pop album . Its dance @-@ pop songs are complemented by contentional R & B ballads . The lead single " Pon de Replay " was written by Rogers , Sturken and Vada Nobles , and was produced by the first two . " Pon de Replay " is a simple dance @-@ pop song with dancehall beats and reggae vocal cadence . Lyrically , the song is about asking the DJ to play the protagonist 's favorite song , as well as the fulfillment of dancing in a club . " The Last Time " , written and produced by Rogers and Sturken is an acoustic guitar driven ballad , while " Now That I Know " is a stripped down string driven song . In addition to working with Rogers and Sturken for the majority of the album , Rihanna worked with production teams Poke & Tone of Trackmasters and StarGate . The former wrote and produced the second single released from the album , " If It 's Lovin ' that You Want " , which Rihanna described as a " fun song " . An R & B song , " If It 's Lovin ' that You Want " is a song about a girl telling a boy that he should make her his girl , because she has what the boy wants . A remix of the song entitled " If It 's Lovin ' That You Want ? Part 2 " , which features rap vocals by Cory Gunz , was included as a bonus track on Rihanna 's sophomore album , A Girl like Me (2006) . Alongside Rogers and Sturken , StarGate co @-@ wrote and co @-@ produced " Let Me " , which appears as the ninth song on the album . Music of the Sun contains a remake of Jamaican singer Dawn Penn 's " You Don 't Love Me (No , No , No) " , and features dancehall recording artist Vybz Kartel .

= = Critical reception = =

Music of the Sun received generally mixed reviews from music critics . Kelefa Sanneh of The New York Times viewed that the album 's combination of dancehall and pop resulted in " [Pon de Replay being] one [of] the summer 's biggest and most seductive club tracks " , but felt that Rihanna sounds " stranded " without a beat to sing along to . Barry Walters of Rolling Stone found it lacking in replay value , ingenuity , and rhythm of the single with " generic vocal hiccups and frills " of US R & B inflecting upon her " Caribbean charm " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine called the album a " glut of teen R & B chanteuses " and described the lead single " Pon de Replay " as " a dancehall @-@ pop mixture that owes plenty of its sweat and shimmy to Beyoncé Knowles ' " Baby Boy " . Evan Serpick of Entertainment Weekly wrote that Rihanna 's " vibrant vocals lift tracks like ' That La La La ' and ' Let Me , ' but this bland dancehall / R & B debut is filled with chintzy production and maudlin arrangements that block out the Music of the Sun . " Robert Christgau of The Village Voice rated the album a " dud " , indicating " a bad record whose details rarely merit further thought . "

In a positive review , Jason Birchmeier of AllMusic commented that the album presents Rihanna as " winsome rather than [a] wannabe , " as well as how she managed to set herself apart from other urban dance @-@ pop artists such as Ashanti , Beyoncé , and Ciara . Birchmeier further stated that " Music of the Sun descends into faceless slow jams after a while , overall consistency not being

among its attributes , but thankfully it picks up the pace toward the end the result is one of the more engaging urban dance @-@ pop albums of the year . " Chantal Jenoure of The Jamaica Observer complimented the dancehall and hip hop composition on several of the songs , including " Pon de Replay " , " Rush " , " Let Me " , " Music of the Sun " and " That La La La " , writing that they make the listener feel " happy " and " carefree " .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , Music of the Sun sold 69 @,@ 000 and debuted at number 10 on the Billboard 200 album chart in the chart issue dated September 17 , 2005 . The album spent a total of 35 weeks on the chart . Music of the Sun debuted on the US Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart at number six in the same chart issue , and spent a total of 44 weeks on the chart . After five months of release , the album was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on January 1 , 2006 , denoting shipments of over 500 @,@ 000 copies . As of November 2013 , the album had sold 609 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . In Canada , Music of the Sun debuted and peaked at number seven on the Canadian Albums Chart in the chart issue September 17 , 2005 , but dropped out of the top ten the following week . After four months of release , the album was certified platinum by Music Canada for shipments of over 100 @,@ 000 copies .

Outside of the United States and Canada , Music of the Sun failed to achieve a comparable level of chart success . In the United Kingdom , the album debuted and peaked at number 35 on the UK Albums Chart in the chart issue October 10 , 2005 . In its second week charting , Music of the Sun fell by three positions to number 38 , and dropped out of the Official UK Top 40 the following week . On May 12 , 2006 , the album was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) denoting shipments of over 100 @,@ 000 copies . Elsewhere in Europe , the album debuted on the Swiss Albums Chart at number 46 in the chart issue September 11 , 2005 , and peaked at number 38 four weeks later . In Austria , Music of the Sun debuted on the Austrian Albums Chart at number 61 in the chart issue September 18 , 2005 , and peaked at number 45 the following week . The album debuted and peaked at number 93 on the French Albums Chart in the chart issue September 24 , 2005 . In The Netherlands , Music of the Sun debuted and peaked at number 98 on the Dutch Albums Chart in the chart issue April 29 , 2006 , and spent one week on the chart . In New Zealand , the album debuted on the New Zealand Albums Chart at number 40 in the chart issue September 26 , 2005 . Between September 29 and October 10 , 2005 , Music of the Sun dropped out of the top @-@ 40 albums chart , but made a re @-@ entry at number 40 on October 10 , 2005 . In its fourth week charting , the album peaked at number 26 .

= = Singles = =

" Pon de Replay " was released as the album 's lead single on May 24 , 2005 . The song peaked at number one on the New Zealand Singles Chart and number two on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and UK Singles Chart . An accompanying music video was directed by Little X and features Rihanna in a club environment . " If It 's Lovin ' that You Want " was released as the second and final single from Music of the Sun on December 2 , 2005 . The song failed to replicate the chart success which " Pon de Replay " experienced , peaking at number 36 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and inside the top forty of multiple other charts . An accompanying music video was directed by Marcus Raboy and features Rihanna in a beach setting .

= = Track listings = =

Notes

^ a denotes a co @-@ producer

^ b denotes a vocal producer

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Music of the Sun are adapted from AllMusic .

== Musicians ==

== Production ==

Johnny Nice- Mixed by

== Charts ==

== Certifications ==

== Release history ==