

= Just a Fool =

" Just a Fool " is a duet recorded by American singer songwriters Christina Aguilera and Blake Shelton for Aguilera 's seventh studio album , Lotus ( 2012 ) . It was written by Steve Robson , Claude Kelly and Wayne Hector and was produced by Robson . " Just a Fool " was sent to contemporary hit and hot adult contemporary radio stations in the United States by RCA Records as the second and final single from the album on December 4 , 2012 . The song is a country pop ballad which discusses the pain of a break @-@ up . It is also Aguilera 's first country song .

Following its release , " Just a Fool " received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who complimented the track 's sound . Commercially , the single peaked at number 71 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and number 37 on the Canadian Hot 100 . As of April 2015 , the single has sold 802 @,@ 000 digital copies in the United States according to Nielsen SoundScan . To promote Lotus and the song , Aguilera and Shelton performed " Just a Fool " on the third season of American television singing contest The Voice on November 19 , 2012 , and on The Ellen DeGeneres Show on December 7 , 2012 .

= = Background and release = =

Following the release of her sixth studio album , Bionic ( 2010 ) , which failed to generate impact on charts worldwide , 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 Northern Sky Music by Sam Miller , " Just a Fool " was written by Steve Robson , Claude Kelly and Wayne Hector , with production handled by Steve Robson . Aguilera 's vocals were recorded at The Red Lips Room in Beverly Hills , California , while Shelton 's vocals were recorded at Luminous Sound in Dallas , Texas . The duo 's vocals were recorded by Oscar Ramirez , and Aguilera produced them with Kelly . Robson also carried out programming and keyboards , arranging , and guitars . Following the release of Lotus , " Just a Fool " managed to debut on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , prompting RCA Records to release the song as a single . On December 4 , 2012 , the label sent the track to contemporary hit and hot adult contemporary radio stations in the United States as the second and final single from the album . On February 18 , 2013 , the single was released to adult contemporary radio in the US .

= = Development = =

Blake Shelton and Christina Aguilera both served as coaches on the NBC 's American reality talent show The Voice and became good friends during production . During an interview , Aguilera said , " He 's my big brother , I 'm the closest to him of all the guys . Blake is just a rockstar ; he 's great . He 's so playful , so fun and down to earth . He 's got a lot of heart " . The whole idea for the duet between Christina and Blake came into being when Christina started a performance with a snippet

of his song " Hillbilly Bone " . Blake tweeted he was speechless , and Christina tweeted back , " Now we need to team up for a country duet Blake ! ! I 'm down ! ! " . In an interview with Rolling Stone , Aguilera commented about teaming up with her colleagues ,

" I 'm one that likes to collaborate . I love feeding off the creative energy , and it only makes me better . I 'm on a continual path both personally and professionally . All @-@ around , it 's my goal to better myself as a person and an artist , and the show is one of those contributing factors and the guys are great friends at this point . It 's fun collaborating with them at this point " .

Aguilera also revealed that Shelton " busted his [ butt ] " to " make the time " to record the song with her . On October 16 , 2012 , it was announced that the duet was called " Just a Fool " and the track would be included on Aguilera 's album Lotus ( 2012 ) . According to Steve Robson ? the main writer of the song ? at first , " Just a Fool " was initially pitched to Pink , but later Adam Lambert recorded a version of the track . Finally , Aguilera and Shelton recorded " Just a Fool " after the song was scrapped from Lambert 's album Trespassing ( 2012 ) " at the last minute " .

= = Composition = =

" Just a Fool " was written by Steve Robson , Claude Kelly and Wayne Hector , with production done by Robson . The song is a country pop ballad with elements of pop rock . The track is also Aguilera 's first country song . It lasts for a duration of 4 : 13 ( four minutes and 13 seconds ) . " Just a Fool " was composed in the key of G major , with a moderate slow tempo of 56 beats per minute . Many instruments were featured on the track , including keyboards , guitars and strings . It starts with a simple guitar riff and a toe @-@ tapping mid @-@ tempo drum beat . Chris Youne of 4Music described the song as a " pop @-@ meets @-@ rock @-@ meets @-@ country " song . Lyrically , " Just a Fool " talks about the pain of a break @-@ up . Aguilera takes the first verse singing about sitting alone in a bar late at night , " Another shot of whisky please bartender , keep it coming till I don 't remember " . At the second verse , Blake sings in his raspy country tones and the two unite for the chorus . Robert Cospey of Digital Spy described the chorus of the track as a " sing @-@ songy " one .

= = Critical reception = =

" Just a Fool " received mostly positive reviews from music critics . In a track @-@ by @-@ track review , Robert Copsey of Digital Spy wrote that the song " looks obligatory on paper but fortunately isn 't so bad in reality [ ... ] Truth be told , we suspect there 's a good reason why this has been saved for the back @-@ end of the album " . Chris Younie of 4Music praised the song , writing that " It 's mature , sophisticated and unlike anything else we 've heard on the album . If you want variety , you got it " . Andrew Hammp for Billboard was also positive toward the track , commenting that the song has an " epic " chorus that only increases in volume as the song progresses . In an extremely positive review , Glenn Gamboa of Newsday wrote that Aguilera and Shelton " empty their broken hearts in a magnificently sung breakup song " . She also praised " Just a Fool " as Aguilera 's career signature which should " stand next to ' Beautiful ' " . Mike Wass of Idolator called " Just a Fool " is a " gorgeous " country ballad , while Jon Caramanica of The New York Times described it as a " surprisingly warm duet " and Molly Lambert of Grantland named it " a monster @-@ ballad " .

Sarah Godfrey of The Washington Post called it a " straightforward country @-@ pop piece " , while Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic named it " a slow , bluesy closer " . Christina Garibaldi of MTV News praised Shelton 's " smooth " and country vocals on the " heartbreaking " ballad , which fits nicely with Aguilera 's " booming " ones . Melinda Newman of HitFix analyzed that Aguilera 's voices on " Just a Fool " sounded like former longtime producer Linda Perry as she sings " yeah , yeah , yeah " , but Shelton 's sounds " rose to the occasion " and plays the " perfect partner " . Michael Galluci of PopCrush praised Aguilera 's " great " " throaty rasp " on the track . Jim Farber of New York Daily News provided a mixed review , writing that " [ Shelton ] sings with measured resolve while [ Aguilera ] nearly suffocates him . It 's certainly a powerful approach , but it comes at the cost of communicating genuine soul " . Negatively , Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine called it "

an out @-@ of @-@ place country @-@ pop duet with Blake Shelton , who feels like a cheap cash @-@ in " , while Annie Zaleskie for The A.V. Club criticized its " schmaltzy " sound .

= = Chart performance = =

The single debuted at number 92 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart during the week of November 18 , 2012 . During the following week , it climbed to number 71 , which became its peak position on the chart . On the Adult Pop Songs chart , " Just a Fool " debuted at number 40 during the week of December 29 , 2012 and peaked at number 28 . On February 25 , 2013 , the single debuted at number 27 on the Adult Contemporary and peaked at number 23 shortly after . The song stayed a total of 12 weeks on the chart . As of April 2015 , " Just a Fool " has sold over 802 @,@ 000 copies in United States becoming Aguilera 's tenth best selling digital single there , according to Nielsen SoundScan .

In Canada , the single peaked at number 37 on the country 's singles chart and remained there for 20 weeks . On the 49th week of 2012 , " Just a Fool " debuted and peaked at number 45 in Slovakia .

= = Live performances and cover version = =

On November 19 , 2012 , Aguilera and Shelton performed " Just a Fool " for the first time on the third season of The Voice , an American television singing competition on which she is serviced as a coach . Wearing " sharp in dark " , " semi @-@ casual " outfits , the couple sang the first verse at opposite sides of the stage , and then came together onstage and shared the second one . During the performance , Aguilera kept belting to a minimum . The duo ended their singing with a hug . Caila Ball from Idolator wrote , " Clumsy cross @-@ promotions and hyperbole aside , it was a night of stellar performances , kicked off by Coaches Christina and Blake making the world debut of ' Just a Fool ' " . She continued to praise the performance , commenting , " It was a refreshingly stripped down performance from Legendtina ? who uncharacteristically took the stage in jeans . Blake , on the other hand , looked a little awkward up there without a guitar and a stool " .

On December 7 , 2012 , Aguilera and Shelton performed " Just a Fool " again on The Ellen DeGeneres Show . Sam Lansky from Idolator praised the performance , writing that the performance featured " typically dramatic " vocals and a lot of " spectacular runs " , which helped the duo sound great . During the semi @-@ finals of the twelfth season of American television singing contest American Idol , contestant Paul Jolley chose " Just a Fool " as the song to sing on the show . On May 7 , 2013 , Filipino singer Charice Pempengco also made a cover of the song on the show Kris TV with her girlfriend Alyssa Quijano .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Northern Sky Music .

Vocals recorded at The Red Lips Room , Beverly Hills , California ( Aguilera 's vocals ) ; Luminous Sound , Dallas , Texas ( Shelton 's vocals ) .

Personnel

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

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =