

= Versus (EP) =

Versus is the first extended play by American singer Usher . It was released on July 20 , 2010 on LaFace Records and Jive Records in conjunction with the deluxe edition of his sixth studio album Raymond v. Raymond . Several producers contributed to the production of the EP , including Polow da Don , Jim Jonsin , Rico Love , Drumma Boy , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , and Max Martin . Versus is marked as " the last chapter of Raymond v. Raymond " , and follows the theme of Usher exploring around the subjects of being newly single and a father .

Preceding the EP 's release was the lead single " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " , which achieved international success . The song peaked at number four on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 , and peaked inside the top @-@ ten in several other countries singles charts . " Hot Tottie " and " Lay You Down " were released as the second and third singles , respectively , with the former becoming a US top @-@ thirty hit . To promote the album , Usher appeared in several award and television shows , including Good Morning America , The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Jimmy Kimmel Live ! .

Versus debuted at number four on the US Billboard 200 chart , selling 46 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . It became Usher 's sixth top @-@ ten album in the United States , and has since , sold 302 @,@ 000 copies in the country . Despite some criticism towards its pop @-@ oriented material , the EP received generally positive reviews from most music critics . It earned Usher several nominations , including a Billboard Music Award , an International Dance Music Award and a NRJ Music Award .

= = Background = =

In 2009 , in an interview with People Magazine , Usher , whose private life has been highly documented after filing for divorce from wife Tameka Foster , told that his sixth studio album will be , " racy , risky and edgy , and sometimes about personal experiences . " In March , 2010 , he released the album under the title Raymond v. Raymond . Upon its release , Raymond v. Raymond received generally mixed reviews from music critics , who were ambivalent towards its songwriting and themes . However , the album was a commercial success and peaked at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart , with sales of 329 @,@ 000 for its first week ; it became Usher 's third consecutive US number one album .

On July 8 , 2010 , Versus was announced as a follow @-@ up to Raymond v. Raymond , and is Usher 's first extended play . Described during a press release as " the last chapter of Raymond v. Raymond " , he stated that the EP will explore the subjects of being newly single and a father . It would include Raymond v. Raymond single " There Goes My Baby " , as well as 8 new tracks . Several producers from the latter album contributed to the production of the EP , including Polow da Don , Jim Jonsin , Rico Love , Drumma Boy , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , Tha Cornaboyz and Max Martin . Versus ' track listing and album cover was revealed on July 21 , 2010 .

= = Composition = =

The EP incorporates the genres R & B , pop , dance @-@ pop and hip @-@ hop . Its lead single , " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " is a Europop track , with electronic and dance @-@ pop influence . About.com 's Mark Nero summed up its lyrics , to simply be " going clubbing on a Friday night " . " Hot Tottie " is an R & B song that incorporates hip @-@ hop , which is over strobing , electronic beats with Usher 's vocals auto @-@ tuned in parts ; the song contains a verse from rapper Jay @-@ Z , whose appearance was lauded by critics . " There Goes My Baby " is a down @-@ tempo R & B ballad , with elements of neo soul ; the song primarily uses Usher 's falsetto range . Both " Lay You Down " and " Lingerie " contain influences from pop artists , with the former channelling Prince whilst the latter , Michael Jackson . In an interview with music video website Vevo , Usher explained that " Lay You Down " is a " classic R & B baby maker " .

= = Singles = =

" DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " , featuring Pitbull , produced by Max Martin is the first single off the EP . It was released to iTunes on July 13 , 2010 and officially sent to radio on July 20 , 2010 . The song received generally positive reviews from critics , who complemented its production but were ambivalent towards its lack of originality ; the song was largely compared to " OMG " due to its club nature . Since its release , it has gained international success , peaking in the top three in Canada , Japan , Australia , France , and Hungary and in the top ten in several other countries . The song became Usher 's sixteenth Billboard Hot 100 top @-@ ten hit , peaking at number @-@ four on the chart , and number two on the US Pop Songs Chart . As of February 2011 , the song has sold over 3 million digital units , making it the second single to exceed the sales figure for both Usher and featured artist Pitbull .

" Hot Tottie " , featuring Jay @-@ Z , produced by Polow Da Don and written by Usher , Shawn Carter , and Ester Dean , is the second single . It was released for urban radio on August 9 , 2010 . Ciara was originally reported to be on the song , but did not appear on the final track . The song received very positive reviews from critics , who praised rapper Jay @-@ Z 's verse and Usher 's vocals . It peaked at number nine on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , and number 21 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart . Internationally , " Hot Tottie " peaked at number sixty @-@ two on the Canadian Hot 100 . Although it was not released officially as a single in the UK , the song reached number 104 on the UK Singles Chart and number twenty @-@ seven on the UK R & B Chart due to sales after the release of Versus only . " Lay You Down " , produced by Rico Love and Dwayne Nesmith , is the third single and was sent to urban radio on September 28 , 2010 . It maintained a peak of number fifty @-@ six on the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , due to only being released to radio . Sara Anderson of AOL wrote that the song opens " with improvisational , high @-@ pitched ' ooohs ' and base @-@ driven synth beats [...] . "

= = Release and promotion = =

The EP was released on August 24 , 2010 in the United States . The set was preceded by the lead single " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " for mainstream audiences , and " Hot Tottie " for urban audiences . Versus ' tracks are included on the deluxe edition of Raymond v. Raymond ; the album was released in the United States conjointly with Versus , and released in the United Kingdom on September 20 , 2010 . The international version of Versus was not released as an EP , but instead as a full album in select countries . It includes the original tracks from the EP , as well as singles from Raymond v. Raymond , including " More " , " OMG " , " Lil Freak " , " Hey Daddy (Daddy 's Home) " and " Papers " .

Usher performed the lead single " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " in several shows , the first being Good Morning America ; he performed it alongside " OMG " . He performed both songs again during the 2010 MTV Music Video Awards . Jayson Rodriguez of MTV lauded the performance , writing that " Usher plays to win , and after his stirring performance it 's clear that the crown still rests securely on his head " . A few days later , Usher performed the song ? whilst also interviewed ? on The Ellen DeGeneres Show . On September 17 , 2010 , he performed the song alongside " There Goes My Baby " on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! . Usher performed " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " in the season five finale of America 's Got Talent , and in the seventh season of The X Factor . Usher performed " Hot Tottie " on an untelevised portion of his appearance on The Early Show on September 3 , 2010 , and performed it on his OMG Tour , alongside " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " .

= = = Tour = = =

In the summer of 2010 , Usher competed in a dance battle against fellow R & B artist Chris Brown at the Reggae Sumfest . The battle sparked an Internet rumor of the two possibly going on tour . This was further pushed by producer Jermaine Dupri alluding that the two artist may be unaware of this upcoming tour . The singers later took to Twitter to ask who the fans would like to see them perform with . On September 8 , 2010 , the singer announced his touring trek (and revealed it was solo) for North America . Due to demand , many additional stops in Europe and Australasia were

added . It is Usher 's first arena tour since his 2004 effort , The Truth Tour . The then announced OMG Tour commenced on November 10 , 2010 and concluded on June 1 , 2011 with Usher performing in a total of 92 shows . In its conclusion , the tour placed seventh on Billboard 's annual " Top 25 Tours " , earning nearly \$ 75 million .

= = Critical reception = =

Versus received generally positive 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 65 , based on 6 reviews . Mikael Wood of Entertainment Weekly gave it an " A ? " and said that " ' Love ' Em All ' describes an egalitarian sexual appetite , while ' Lingerie ' offers prime faux @-@ Prince boudoir funk . The Max Martin @-@ produced ' DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love ' shows ' OMG ' didn 't satisfy Usher 's dance @-@ pop Jones , but he 's hardly gone soft : ' Hot Tottie , ' with Jay @-@ Z , is nasty in all the right ways . " Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe complimented its " compact running time " and stated " Instead of ho @-@ hum filler , ' Versus ' offers the strongest arrows in Usher ? s quiver " . About.com 's Mark Edward Nero gave the EP three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half out of five stars and wrote that Usher has " regained his mojo " , while recommending it to fans of his music : " nine songs - seven of them new - clocking in at 38 minutes is a good deal for this solid package of music . " Steve Jones of USA Today gave Versus three out of four stars and called it " an abbreviated batch of fresh songs that can stand alone or as part of a deluxe original " . Billboard 's Gail Mitchell commended the album 's guest artists and wrote that it " alternately bumps and throbs as a reinvigorated Usher further paves his comeback path "

Jeff Weiss of the Los Angeles Times gave the EP two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half out of four stars and found " Hot Tottie " to be " intoxicating as its namesake " , but disapproved of some of the generic points and pop efforts . The Washington Post 's Sean Fennessey criticized its pop @-@ oriented tracks , stating " Usher works best in emotional hailstorms , not candy rain " , and viewed that it " finds him in Peter Pan mode , digging for remnants of a younger self that never existed " . Andy Kellman of Allmusic gave it two out of five stars and said that it " mostly resembles a batch of leftovers from his weakest album , even though it functioned as a momentum maintainer " . Kellman dismissed its productions as " innocuous Euro @-@ pop " and " merely passable contemporary R & B " . In a one @-@ star review , Slant Magazine 's Erich Henderson panned Versus as a " wretched collection of failed club @-@ sex jams " .

= = = Accolades = = =

The EP 's lead single " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " earned Usher several award nominations , including a Billboard Music Award , an International Dance Music Award and a NRJ Music Award . " There Goes My Baby " also earned Usher nominations , for a Billboard Music Award and a Soul Train Music Award ; the song won its nomination at the 53rd Grammy Awards in 2011 , for Best Male R & B Vocal Performance . As an act , Usher received numerous accolades , such as being ranked as the third most successful Billboard Hot 100 artist of 2010 , and the top R & B / Hip Hop Artist of that year . He was ranked as the sixth top overall artist of 2010 , from the success of both Raymond v. Raymond and Versus .

= = Commercial performance = =

The EP debuted at number four on the US Billboard 200 chart , with first @-@ week sales of 46 @, @ 000 copies , becoming Usher 's sixth top @-@ ten album . In its second week of release it sold 22 @, @ 450 copies , and dropped to number thirteen on the Billboard 200 . It then sold over 17 @, @ 000 copies in its third week of release , and fell two positions to number fifteen . In its fourth week of release the album dropped one position , and sold 18 @, @ 000 copies surpassing 100 @, @ 000 sales in total . In its fifth week of release , the EP sold 13 @, @ 000 copies , and fell to number twenty @-@ five on the charts . To date , Versus has sold 302 @, @ 000 copies in the

United States . The EP obtained moderate to high charting success outside of the US ; it debuted and peaked at number twelve in Canada . In Belgium (Flanders) the EP peaked at number twenty @-@ seven , and remained on the chart for the longest compared to other countries it charted in , staying for twenty @-@ eight weeks . Versus achieved similar success in France , Netherlands and Germany , peaking in the top @-@ 40 .

= = Track listing = =

Sample credits

" Get in My Car " samples Leon Russell and Marc Benno 's song " Mr. Henri the Clown " .

" Lil Freak " samples Stevie Wonder 's 1973 " Living for the City " .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for Versus adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =