

= Black Cherry (Goldfrapp album) =

Black Cherry is the second studio album by English electronic music duo Goldfrapp , released in the United Kingdom on 28 April 2003 by Mute Records to generally positive reviews . Many critics complimented its blend of retro and modern electropop music , which was a departure from the ambient sound of their début album . Black Cherry was a top twenty album in Goldfrapp 's native United Kingdom , and its second single " Strict Machine " was a top twenty single . It earned the band a nomination for Best British Dance Act at the 2004 BRIT Awards . The album was supported by the 2003 ? 04 Black Cherry Tour .

The album represented a change in Goldfrapp 's musical style , featuring glam rock and synthpop music ; inspirations were Spanish disco group Baccara and Swedish techno artist Håkan Lidbo . In August 2005 , the album was certified platinum in the UK , and had sold nearly 500 @, @ 000 copies worldwide as of May 2005 .

= = Recording and production = =

The duo wrote three songs while touring in support of their début album Felt Mountain but decided to take their work in a different direction with more rhythmic music . Goldfrapp chose to record in a studio in a Bohemian area of Bath , England because they needed somewhere to put their equipment and start working . The band began working on the album in January 2002 with a list of songs they wanted to try to record , such as a disco song with only string instruments . The studio 's walls were covered in neon lights and Alison Goldfrapp used them to write down her song ideas . They recorded early demos and worked on pre @-@ production using a Yamaha 02R digital mixing console . Goldfrapp held jam sessions with Mark Linkous and Adrian Utley and , after they built momentum writing the album , decided not to move to another studio .

The album cover is a collage made by Mat Maitland of photographs taken by Polly Borland featuring Alison Goldfrapp with two wolves . Artwork in the liner notes also has a wolf motif , including women with wolf heads . Goldfrapp explained that the wolves are a representation of might and mysticism and that she was " interested in the idea of metamorphosis and humans wanting to be like animals and animals wanting to be like humans . "

= = Composition = =

After touring in support of Felt Mountain , Alison Goldfrapp stated that she felt performing slow torch songs " really claustrophobic " . During their jam sessions , improvisation became a major part of the group 's approach to recording Black Cherry . The album focuses more heavily on dance music and glam rock @-@ inspired synthesisers than its predecessor , and is influenced by Spanish disco group Baccara and Swedish techno artist Håkan Lidbo . Goldfrapp commented that the album differs from Felt Mountain because the band " wanted to put more kind of ' oomph ' in it . " She stated that the lyrics are " a lot more direct and ? less ambiguous . " The songs on Black Cherry are more forthright in describing sexuality than those on Felt Mountain .

= = Critical reception = =

Black Cherry received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalised rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 72 , based on 22 reviews , which indicates " generally [favourable] reviews " . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian called it " a laudable , challenging and immensely enjoyable album . " However , Michael Idov referred to Goldfrapp as " ambulance chasers " in his review for Pitchfork Media , criticising the band 's switch to electro music , while describing Black Cherry as " a soundtrack to excruciatingly banal seduction " . Rolling Stone 's Pat Blashill disagreed , arguing that " [t] ons of bands imitate the sounds of the early Eighties , but Goldfrapp use New Wave as a way to evoke a long history of shiny Euro @-@ lounge music . " In a review for Blender magazine ,

Dorian Lynskey wrote that on Black Cherry , " Goldfrapp sound right at home . " Heather Phares of Allmusic commended Goldfrapp for their " artistic risk @-@ taking " , but noted that the album " sounds unbalanced , swinging between delicate , deceptively icy ballads and heavier , dance @-@ inspired numbers without finding much of a happy medium between them . " Andy Hermann of PopMatters viewed Black Cherry as " a weird , edgy album , the work of two doggedly maverick talents chasing their muses wherever they take them " . Wes May of About.com called it a " rare electronica album of warmth and depth " and wrote that it was " the ultimate chillout pleasure " .

PopMatters included the album on its list of the Top 50 Albums of 2003 , ranking it at number forty @-@ six . It was listed at number twenty @-@ three on Drowned in Sound 's list of the Top 75 Albums of 2003 . Black Cherry earned Goldfrapp a nomination for Best British Dance Act at the 2004 BRIT Awards , but they lost to Basement Jaxx .

= = Chart performance = =

Black Cherry debuted on the UK Albums Chart on 10 May 2003 at number nineteen . The album remained on the chart for twenty @-@ six weeks and had sold 256 @,@ 703 copies as of August 2005 . Later that month , on 26 August 2005 , Black Cherry was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry , denoting shipments in excess of 300 @,@ 000 copies within the UK . The album reached the top thirty in Germany , Ireland , Norway and Portugal , and the top fifty in Belgium , France and Switzerland . Black Cherry became Goldfrapp 's first album to chart in the United States , reaching number four on the Top Electronic Albums chart and number twenty @-@ seven on the Top Independent Albums chart . The album has sold 52 @,@ 000 copies in the US as of August 2006 .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from Black Cherry album liner notes .

Alison Goldfrapp ? vocals , producer , synthesiser , engineer , arranger (all tracks) ; mixing (2 , 3 , 5 , 9 , 10) ; art direction , design

Will Gregory ? producer , synthesiser , engineer , arranger (all tracks) ; mixing (2 , 3 , 5 , 9 , 10)

David Bascombe ? mixing (6 , 8)

Nick Batt ? co @-@ producer , synthesiser , engineer , additional programming

Big Active ? art direction , design

Polly Borland ? photography

Andy Davis ? guitar (10)

Bruno Ellingham ? Pro Tools

Tom Elmhirst ? mixing

Nick Ingman ? string conductor , string orchestration

Charlie Jones ? bass (8)

Mark Linkous ? Casio (2)

Mike Marsh ? mastering

Rowan Oliver ? drums , percussion (2) ; additional drum programming (3 , 4 , 6 , 7)

Steve Orchard ? string engineer , string submixing

Damon Reece ? drums (8)

Adrian Utley ? bass , guitar (2)

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =