

= Heaven Up Here =

Heaven Up Here is the second album by the English post @-@ punk band Echo & the Bunnymen , released on 30 May 1981 . In June 1981 , Heaven Up Here became Echo & the Bunnymen 's first Top 10 release when it reached number 10 on the UK Albums Chart . It was also the band 's first entry into the United States albums charts when it reached number 184 of the Billboard 200 . Heaven Up Here released the singles " A Promise " and " Over the Wall " .

Recorded at Rockfield Studios near Monmouth in Wales , Heaven Up Here was co @-@ produced by Hugh Jones and the band . A generally well received album by fans in the United Kingdom and by critics , Heaven Up Here won the " Best Dressed LP " and " Best Album " awards at the 1981 NME Awards . The album has also been listed at number 471 in Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time .

= = Background and recording = =

After the public and press interest garnered from Echo & the Bunnymen 's debut album , Crocodiles , the band released the Shine So Hard EP which maintained their profile . Work then soon began on their second album , Heaven Up Here . Following musical differences between the band and Crocodiles producers Bill Drummond and David Balfe , Hugh Jones was brought in to produce Heaven Up Here . Jones had previously engineered Crocodiles and co @-@ produced Shine So Hard with Drummond . Jones would later go on to produce the band 's 2005 album Siberia . The band were also given an additional producer credit . The album was recorded at Rockfield Studios near Monmouth in Wales during March 1981 .

In the liner notes to the 2003 remastered version of the album , lead singer Ian McCulloch said that he constantly had the American rock band The Velvet Underground 's song " What Goes On " in the back of his mind . He also stated that the band wanted to record a soul album . In the same liner notes , bassist Les Pattinson said that the band was often lazy and hence had hired rehearsal space at the Ministry in Liverpool . He said this made them work harder and develop " language " in the rhythm . According to guitarist Will Sergeant , McCulloch considers Heaven Up Here to be Sergeant 's album because he was bossy and a control freak during the recording .

= = Music = =

In 1981 , music magazine the NME described the album as darker and more passionate than 1980 's Crocodiles . The Record Mirror also said that the band sang the blues and devoted themselves to existential sadness . They went on to note that the album offered " an anatomy of melancholy , resplendent with the glamour of doom " . Melody Maker disagreed when in 1981 they said " the Bunnymen are continuing to play majestic , uplifting music that will shine through the dark days ahead of us " . In the 2002 book Turquoise Days : The Weird World of Echo & the Bunnymen , author Chris Adams said that in 1995 McCulloch had said , " That spikey edge [ of the album ] still stands up . " In relation to their style of music , in 1980 McCulloch had said , " I always say ' We 're a rock band ' . Because I 'm proud of that . " He added , " I like rock music [ ... ] I prefer being good or great within that basic format [ ... ] I just prefer basic songs . "

In his 2005 book Rip It Up and Start Again : Post Punk 1978 ? 1984 , British music journalist Simon Reynolds described the sound of Heaven Up Here as having been filled out with " guitar overdubs , keyboard glints , vocal multitracking and atmospheric vapours " . Comparing Heaven Up Here with Joy Division 's 1980 album Closer , Reynolds said they are " harrowed by the same things [ ... ] hypocrisy , distrust , betrayal , lost or frozen potential " . However , he said that " Closer shows Ian Curtis fatally mesmerised by his own dread visions , Heaven Up Here ultimately turns its face towards the light " with the tracks " No Dark Things " ? which he describes as renouncing " death @-@ wishful thinking " ? and " All I Want " ? which he describes as " a blasting celebration of desire for desire 's sake " and " pure intransitive exhilaration " .

= = Cover = =

The photograph used on the front and back cover of the album was taken by photographer Brian Griffin . The picture shows the band on a wet beach in the south of Wales ; there are dark clouds in the sky and the sun is low on the horizon causing the band to be silhouetted . The picture was taken on a day off from recording the album . The original album 's cover art was designed by Martyn Atkins . The cover received the " Best Dressed LP " award in the 1981 NME Awards . Reynolds said that the band 's manager Drummond saw them as representing " cold , dampness , darkness " .

The front cover picture of the original album was kept for the 2003 reissue . However , the design was altered slightly by graphic designer Rachel Gutek of the design company guppyart . The release contained an expanded booklet written by music journalist Max Bell giving the background to the album . The booklet also contains a number of photographs which are credited to Sergeant and Pattinson .

= = Releases = =

The album was originally released as an LP by Korova in the United Kingdom on 30 May 1981 . It was then released in the United States by Sire Records on 24 June 1981 . It was released elsewhere on Korova although with a different catalogue number . Side one of the LP contained five tracks and side two had six . The album was first released on CD on 16 May 1988 .

Along with their first five albums , the album was remastered and reissued on CD in 2003 containing five bonus tracks ? these releases were marketed as 25th anniversary editions . " Broke My Neck ( Long Version ) " , which was recorded at Tistedal Studios in Norway on 7 June 1981 , is the B @-@ side of the 12 @-@ inch single " A Promise " ? an edited version was used as the B @-@ side of the 7 @-@ inch single . The other four bonus tracks were recorded live at the Manley Vale Hotel in Sydney , Australia on 11 November 1981 . The reissued album was produced by music historian Andy Zax and producer Bill Inglot .

The only single from Heaven Up Here released worldwide was " A Promise " on 10 July 1981 . The single stayed on the UK Singles Chart for four weeks and reached number 49 . Later that year , " Over the Wall " was released as a single in Australia only .

= = Reception = =

Heaven Up Here was generally well received by the music press and critics . In a 1982 interview with the band for the NME , rock journalist Barney Hoskins described the album as " one of the most superior articulations of ' rock ' form in living memory . " Later reviews have continued to receive the album well : Allmusic reviewer Aaron Warshaw said that McCulloch " sings with soaring abandon and passion throughout the album " and that Sergeant 's guitar playing was at its " angular finest " . Not all reviews were positive : Robert Christgau , giving the album a C rating , said that he held " no brief against tuneless caterwaul , but tuneless psychedelic caterwaul has always been another matter . " In his 1999 book *From the Shores of Lake Placid and Other Stories* , the band 's manager Bill Drummond said " The album is dull as ditchwater . The songs are unformed , the sound uniformly grey . "

Heaven Up Here sold well in the United Kingdom , staying on the UK Albums Chart for a total of 16 weeks and reaching a peak of number 10 in June 1981 . The album was the first release by Echo & the Bunnymen to make it onto the American charts when it reached number 184 on the Billboard 200 .

In 2003 , the album was ranked number 471 on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time . The NME has ranked the album number 39 in its list of the 50 greatest albums of the ' 80s and number 51 in its list of the greatest albums of all time . The album also received the NME 's 1981 best album award . Reynolds described the award as " essentially an anti @-@ New Pop protest vote by post @-@ punk 's silent majority " .

= = Track listing = =

All tracks written by Will Sergeant , Ian McCulloch , Les Pattinson and Pete de Freitas .

Side one

" Show of Strength " ? 4 : 50

" With a Hip " ? 3 : 16

" Over the Wall " ? 5 : 59

" It Was a Pleasure " ? 3 : 12

" A Promise " ? 4 : 08

Side two

" Heaven Up Here " ? 3 : 45

" The Disease " ? 2 : 28

" All My Colours " ? 4 : 06

" No Dark Things " ? 4 : 27

" Turquoise Days " ? 3 : 51

" All I Want " ? 4 : 09

2003 reissue bonus tracks

" Broke My Neck " ( long version ) ? 7 : 22

" Show of Strength " ( live ) ? 4 : 41

" The Disease " ( live ) ? 1 : 53

" All I Want " ( live ) ? 3 : 09

" Zimbo " ( live ) ? 3 : 52

= = Personnel = =

Will Sergeant ? lead guitar

Ian McCulloch ? vocals , rhythm guitar , piano

Les Pattinson ? bass

Pete de Freitas ? drums

Leslie Penning ? woodwind

Hugh Jones ? producer , engineer

The Bunnymen ? producer

Martyn Atkins ? album design

Brian Griffin ? photography

Andy Zax ? producer ( reissue )

Bill Inglot ? producer ( reissue ) , remastering

Dan Hersch ? remastering

Claes Neeb ? engineering on " Broke My Neck " ( long version )

Rachel Gutek ? album design ( reissue )