

= We 're New Here =

We 're New Here is a remix album by American recording artist Gil Scott @-@ Heron and English music producer Jamie xx , released on February 21 , 2011 , by Young Turks and XL Recordings . A longtime fan of Scott @-@ Heron , Jamie xx was approached by XL label head Richard Russell to remix Scott @-@ Heron 's 2010 studio album I 'm New Here . He worked on the album while touring with his band The xx in 2010 and occasionally communicated with Scott @-@ Heron through letters for his approval to rework certain material .

Incorporating dubstep and UK garage styles , Jamie xx applied electronic music techniques in his production to remix Scott @-@ Heron 's vocals from the original album over his own instrumentals . Although it is structured similarly , We 're New Here eschews the original album 's stark style and lo @-@ fi production for bass @-@ driven , musically varied production and sonical illumination of Scott @-@ Heron 's vocals . It has been noted by music writers for recontextualizing Scott @-@ Heron 's narratives in Jamie xx 's own musical influences and tastes .

Although it did not chart in the United States , the album debuted at number 33 on the UK Albums Chart , on which it spent two weeks . It was promoted with a multi @-@ format release , including a limited edition box set , and the release of two singles , " NY Is Killing Me " and " I 'll Take Care of U " . We 're New Here received universal acclaim from critics upon its release .

= = Background = =

Following a period of personal and legal troubles with drug addiction , Gil Scott @-@ Heron recorded and released his first album of original material in sixteen years , I 'm New Here (2010) , with the assistance of XL Recordings @-@ label head Richard Russell . Produced by Russell , the album served as a departure from Scott @-@ Heron 's earlier work , both musically and thematically , eschewing its soul , jazz , and funk styles and social commentary for more personal , reflective lyrics with ruminations on love , loss , and identity , set to contemporary electronic music . It was well received by fans and music critics , who viewed it as a comeback for Scott @-@ Heron .

Russell , a fan of English indie pop band The xx , proposed the idea of remixing I 'm New Here to the band 's percussionist and producer Jamie xx . Russell 's production on I 'm New Here was heavily influenced by the xx 's self @-@ titled debut album , which showcased Jamie xx 's bassy , beat @-@ oriented and minimalist production . After its success , Jamie xx had occupied himself with solo production work , remixing other artists , and DJing in clubs in the United Kingdom and Europe . He was a longtime fan of Scott @-@ Heron 's music , which had been introduced to him by his parents as a youth . Russell later said of his decision to enlist him , " We didn 't want lots of remixes by different people . That can be confusing . Gil was open to Jamie re @-@ interpreting the whole album " . According to Jamie xx , he himself had no point of reference in remixing another artist 's album , and later said of taking on the project , " It was a bit nerve @-@ wracking because this is the first time I 've ever done an album on my own . But I was really just eager to get at and I knew exactly what I wanted to do " .

= = Production = =

Although Scott @-@ Heron received top @-@ billing for the release , Jamie xx worked solely on the remix project . For We 're New Here , he remixed 13 of the original album 's 15 songs , including its " interlude " cuts , mixing Scott @-@ Heron 's vocal tracks from the original recording sessions over his own beats and instrumentals , rather than the original music . Many of the remixes were created by Jamie xx on his laptop , while on tour with The xx . In a March 2010 interview , he said that the label " gave me the parts and let me do whatever I want , so I 've been doing it on my laptop on tour . [I 'm] only using [Gil 's] vocals , I 'm not using any of the original music from it , which is very freeing " . On his intentions for the album 's music , he explained in an interview for The Irish Times , " I wanted it to sound like everything I had been listening to in London . I wanted it to sound like something you ? d hear on pirate radio . You hear so many different genres , and it ? s all so

convoluted and mixed @-@ up , but it makes sense when you turn on the station " .

In addition to vocal tracks from I 'm New Here , Jamie xx mixed vocals from Scott @-@ Heron 's 1970s work . In an interview for Pitchfork Media , he explained his incorporation of these vocals and its meaning to the work as a whole , stating :

Although he was permitted by XL to remix I 'm New Here , Jamie xx wrote longhand letters to Scott @-@ Heron for his approval to rework the other vocal material : " Originally , I sent him the album and there were a couple of tracks he wasn 't sure about . I had to write to him ? he does handwritten letters , not e @-@ mail ? and explain why I wanted to use some of his older vocal tracks on the album ... So after I wrote him the letter , he said I was free to do whatever because he knew what I was doing " . Scott @-@ Heron was credited as a producer for the album , along with Russell and Malcolm Cecil , a producer and engineer on Scott @-@ Heron 's past work . The original vocals had been produced and engineered at Clinton Studios and Looking Glass Studios in New York . We 're New Here was mixed at London 's XL Studio , where additional recording also took place .

= = Composition = =

Similar to I 'm New Here , We 're New Here features 13 songs that include four interludes and is rhythmically stressed in sound . However , it contrasts the original album 's stark style and lo @-@ fi production with bass @-@ driven , musically varied production and sonical illumination of Scott @-@ Heron 's vocals . We 're New Here is considered a post @-@ dubstep work . In remixing the album , Jamie xx incorporated dubstep tones , dance @-@ influenced tempos , pitch @-@ shifted and sped @-@ up samples , wobble , sub @-@ bass , and drum ' n ' bass beats into the music . We 're New Here also contains elements of trance , house , techno , hip hop breakbeats , and electro music . Dan Hancox of The National noted in its sound " a melange of creaking bass hums , cascading UK garage drums and washes of electronic noise " .

According to Thom Jurek of Allmusic , " Richard Russell 's production on I 'm New Here kept Scott @-@ Heron 's voice front and center ; [Jamie xx] displaces it often , all but covering it with effects , beats , and pitched vocals in styles that cross the electronic music gamut " . Tim Noakes of Dazed & Confused describes the album as " [his] love letter to sample culture and the history of the UK electronic underground . Against [Jamie xx] ' s booming backdrop of sub bass breakdowns , obscure samples and two @-@ step rhythms , Scott @-@ Heron 's scarred poetic missives take on a more sinister edge " . Ian Maleney of Slate comments on the album 's music , " The beats and bass are classic dub [...] and the use of stretched and pitched vocal samples cement the albums place in the ever @-@ developing dubstep cannon " . Music critic Max Feldman notes " smothering " bass lines and " robust " beats , and writes that the album performs a " balancing act between the avant @-@ garde end of the dubstep fallout " and " dance @-@ ability " .

The title track incorporates a sped @-@ up sample of Gloria Gaynor 's " Casanova Brown " , with an emphasis on the line " I was lonely and naïve " from the sample . " Running " has Scott @-@ Heron 's spoken word vocals scattered and repeated . " Ur Soul and Mine " samples the vocals from Rui da Silva 's house classic " Touch Me " , distorting the vocals in the song 's verse , but retaining its refrain . The densely produced " Home " features clattering snares , a heavily reverbed keyboard sample , a drum loop , and a vocal sample of Scott @-@ Heron singing the line " home is where the hatred is ... " , taken from the song of the same name from his 1971 album Pieces of a Man . BBC Online 's Ele Beattie said that Jamie xx 's sampling " tunes the listener in and out of his musical predecessors . He rewires a personal musical canon into something utterly contemporary " . Robert Christgau characterizes Scott @-@ Heron 's original narratives as those of " a drug fiend of considerable perversity and tremendous intelligence who 's gonna be dead soon " , and comments that Jamie xx " hears in [Scott @-@ Heron 's] last testament an irreversible disintegration that he translates into heavily sampled minimalist electro marked indelibly by Scott @-@ Heron 's weariness , arrogance , and wit . "

= = Release and promotion = =

We 're New Here was released by Young Turks and XL Recordings on February 21 , 2011 , in the United Kingdom , and on February 22 , 2011 , in the United States . It was released on multiple formats , including CD , vinyl LP , vinyl box set , and digital download . Its limited edition box set release was made available via the album 's official website and included the LP on pink heavyweight vinyl , an LP of instrumentals on green heavyweight vinyl , CDs of both the standard and instrumental album , and two photographic prints . Prior to its release , We 're New Here had been made available for streaming via The Guardian website on February 14 .

The album 's first single , " NY Is Killing Me " , was released digitally on November 30 , 2010 , and on January 10 , 2011 , as a limited edition one @-@ sided 12 @-@ inch single . Sean Michaels of The Guardian wrote of the song , " Ghostly samples rise around Scott @-@ Heron 's vocals , combining the poet 's inner @-@ city canvas with [Jamie xx] ' s dubstep roots . It 's as good as anything the DJ has produced " . The second single " I 'll Take Care of U " was released on January 6 , 2011 . It features euphoric , house @-@ inspired piano hooks and echoing guitar riffs . A music video for the single was directed by photographer Jamie @-@ James Medina and AG Rojas , and it was released on March 4 , 2011 . Set in New York City , the video 's plot follows a female boxer as she takes care of her child and trains for a fight .

We 're New Here debuted at number 33 on the UK Albums Chart in the week ending March 5 , 2011 . It also entered at number four on the UK Indie Chart and at number 18 on the Digital Chart . The album dropped to number 60 on the UK Albums Chart in its second week , and fell off the chart in its third week of release . We 're New Here did not chart in the United States . In Belgium , the album debuted at number 44 and subsequently spent five weeks on the Ultratop 50 Albums chart .

= = Critical reception = =

We 're New Here received widespread acclaim from critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream publications , the album received an average score of 83 , based on 28 reviews . AllMusic 's Thom Jurek called it " a mercurial collaboration ... full of nods to other club styles and eras " , and praised Jamie xx for " successfully (re) presenting Scott @-@ Heron 's music ? integrity intact ? in the present tense to a fickle yet discerning groove @-@ centric culture without kitsch or excess " . Chris Martins from The A.V. Club praised " the everlasting gravity of [Scott @-@ Heron] ? s words and wisdom " , writing that " his pained , bluesy musings are as universally human as they are perennially pertinent ... Scott @-@ Heron talks , sings , hums , and pontificates , sometimes over the beat and sometimes from deep within the snowdrift " . Pitchfork Media critic Sean Fennessey commended Jamie xx for being bold rather than respectful of Scott @-@ Heron 's material with a " finicky , hard @-@ charging production [that] trumps Scott @-@ Heron 's voice , overpowering it with ideas , if not focus " . Ben Ratliff of The New York Times said that the album is an improvement over " the bummed @-@ out original " with " patience and breadth and almost zero pretension " . Max Feldman from PopMatters commented that " Ultimately , We ? re New Here succeeds because it manages to seamlessly reconcile the different traditions from which it draws ? not just Gil Scott Heron ? s uttering utterances , but UK Garage , the fibrous gloss of Seventeen Seconds @-@ era The Cure , and R & B futurism " .

In a mixed review for The Observer , Kitty Empire wrote that Jamie xx " tear [s] up Russell 's soundbed entirely and showcase [s] his own emerging versatility " , but said that while his productions are " consistently excellent , they aren 't really there to augment Scott @-@ Heron 's words " . Andy Gill of The Independent commented that the remixing techniques " only occasionally work in its favour " . Louise Brailey of NME wrote that he " coaxes fresh narratives from the source material " and that it " isn ? t exactly groundbreaking , but it showcases a producer so in love with the music of now that he not only preserves the power of his source material , but makes it more relevant " . In MSN Music , Christgau called the record " a young man 's bad dream about mortality , and of interest as such " , and wrote of the source material 's importance to Jamie xx 's remix , " the snatches of Scott @-@ Heron 's voice , cracked for sure but deeper than night nonetheless , delivers it from callow generalization and foregone conclusion . " August Brown of the Los Angeles

Times felt that " the duo lends each other gravitas and levity on this very curious but ultimately immersive LP " .

At the end of 2011 , , Uncut magazine named We 're New Here the 32nd best album of the year . Christgau ranked it 20th on his list of the year 's best albums for The Barnes & Noble Review .

= = Track listing = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = = Sample credits = = =

" I 'm New Here " contains a sample of the recording " Casanova Brown " as performed by Gloria Gaynor .

" I 've Been Me (Interlude) " contains a sample of " Boxcar Hobo " by Sassafrass .

" Certain Things (Interlude) " contains a sample of the recording " Slaves " as performed by Giuliano Sorgini .

" The Crutch " contains excerpts from " That 's How Heartaches Are Made " as performed by Baby Washington .

" Ur Soul and Mine " contains a sample of " Touch Me " by Rui da Silva .

" Parents (Interlude) " contains a sample of " Hap 'nin ' " , written by Bernard Purdie .

" Jazz (Interlude) " contains a sample of the recording " Sixty @-@ Eight Ways " .

= = Personnel = =

Malcolm Cecil ? engineer , producer , synthesizer programming

Romy Madley Croft ? guitar

Jamie xx ? additional production , design , musician , remixing

Royce Jeffries ? assistant

Phil Lee ? design

Rodaidh McDonald ? engineer , mixing

Ichihō Nishiki ? engineer , mixing

Mandy Parnell ? mastering

Mischa Richter ? photography

Richard Russell ? vocal producer

Gil Scott @-@ Heron ? vocal producer , vocals

Lawson White ? engineer , mixing

= = Charts = =