

= Made in the Dark =

Made in the Dark is the third studio album by English indie rock band Hot Chip . The album , comprising 13 songs , was released on 4 February 2008 on the EMI label . It peaked at number four on the UK Album Chart , number 25 on the Australian album charts , and entered at number 109 on the U.S. Billboard 200 . Several singles have been released from the album , including " Shake a Fist " , " Ready for the Floor " , which reached number six on the UK Singles Chart , and " One Pure Thought " .

A defining feature of the album is the strong presence of romantic ballads . The ballad " Made in the Dark " was described as " sublime " by one critic , although not all the ballads received universal praise . Alexis Taylor , the main contributor to the lyrics , stated that he was proud of the album lyrically and felt that feelings of love and happiness , partly the result of his recent marriage , had contributed to the album 's romantic tone .

Critics stated that songs such as " Ready for the Floor " and " Bendable Poseable " were reminiscent of their previous release , The Warning . The style of the album was not considered as big a leap forward as the changes evident between Coming on Strong (2004) to The Warning (2006) . It was said that Hot Chip had honed their music by using quirks of their musical style to make more accomplished music , however , some critics felt that the album lacked focus , containing too many varied elements ; it was described as " loveable but flawed " .

= = Production = =

Hot Chip often record their music in a bedroom . However , the band took a different approach in recording Made in the Dark to make it sound " not quite so homemade " . Recording took place in a variety of locations , including in @-@ studio and live venues , to make " different acoustic spaces to be obvious to the listener " . Lead vocalist Alexis Taylor said there was tension between the band 's members , as the band did not want to continue creating music in the same way , but also did not want to " throw away a songwriting and production partnership that has worked before . " Taylor and vocalist Joe Goddard worked on some of the songs together . Several songs were overdubbed with parts of the rest of the band playing .

In regards to editing , Taylor said that Hot Chip have " never really been too good at bothering to get rid of little imperfections in the music " ; he felt they added personality and said that " it 's good not to be too dogmatic about it if that 's what suits the song " . Hot Chip used a variety of vocal structures , including layered vocals , where two takes of the same vocals were added together , changed by idiosyncrasies from the way it had been sung , and the doubling of a single performance , shifted out of beat .

Drummer Felix Martin said Made in the Dark was a " true group effort " . The process began with Taylor and Goddard creating lyrics , then Goddard would produce parts of tracks , which Alexis would then add " lyrical content and melodies and so on that he 's thought of while he 's on the bus or in the bath or wherever he happened to be " . The other three members of Hot Chip , Owen Clarke , Al Doyle , and Felix Martin would then " have some influence on the way the songs are put together . "

Some equipment used to create the album remained the same as previous albums ? Goddard used Steinberg Cubase SX3 on his laptop and Doyle and Martin worked on songs using Apple Logic in their studio . To create the chorus for " Ready for the Floor " , Goddard used plug @-@ ins from Arturia , such as Moog Modular . He used two sound channels to control noise and melody , and placed the noise channel in Cubase and had it follow the melody , to make it " punchier " . With " Bendable Poseable " , Goddard recorded live percussion parts with a Shure Beta 57A mic going directly into Cubase and " fashioned them into a jittery , three @-@ minute loop " . This was emailed to Taylor , who then recorded the main vocals for the song . To create the beat in " Shake a Fist " Martin used the Elektron Machinedrum .

Hot Chip enjoy being a live band and have said it is " something [they 've] always tried to do " . As the group contains " a lot of different types of musicianship " , the band " have to be spontaneous

whenever [they] can . " Doyle , the guitarist , stated that Hot Chip change the original recordings when playing their music live . At the London @-@ based studio called the Strongroom , " One Pure Thought " , " Hold On " and " Shake a Fist " were recorded live , instead of on multitrack , and were subsequently pieced together . This was the first occasion that Hot Chip had recorded music in a studio environment .

Taylor described Made in the Dark as " a real mix of different things " and said that Hot Chip was " learning how to be a different kind of band " while making the album :

Everyone around us would write songs whilst touring , then go into a studio and record [songs] at the end of a year 's touring . We were the opposite . We would make the songs in a short time and then would have to learn how to play them live .

= = = Album title = = =

Several titles were considered during production , including " Shot Down in Flames " and " IV " . The former was rejected because Martin thought it sounded like a title The Beta Band would use . Taylor supported the name " IV " because he liked " giving people the wrong impression all the time " , and defended his opinion , saying " if [people] give us any time , they would see that we 're very serious about comedy ... and serious things as well " . The album was called " Made in the Dark " because it was a title the band agreed on . Taylor considered the eponymous track to be one of his favourite songs , and thought it was nice to name the album after a thoughtful song , in contrast to Coming on Strong and The Warning , which he described as being " big , slightly jokey , macho phrases " .

= = = Artwork = = =

Darren Wall (Wallzo) and Owen Clarke designed the artwork after several graphical experiments . After the initial experimentation , Wall wanted to create a cover that was " more brooding and conservative " and formed a list of ideas that the band had responded positively to . The list included dual colour illustrations , circles , and verdigris ? the green coating formed on copper during oxygenation . Wall amalgamated the ideas to create the image used on the album 's cover , which was named " The Artifact " . The image was embossed on metallic copper card to give a " tactile feel " that would imply the album was " an object rather than illustration @-@ based design . "

= = Musical style = =

In an interview with Pitchfork Media in October 2007 , Taylor said there would be an equal proportion of electronic elements to live material , as the band doesn 't " do things by adding one thing and taking something else away " . The album contained maximalist and minimalist songs ; several tracks on the album were influenced by rock and heavy metal music , and the track " Wrestlers " started taking a new direction because the band was " wrestling with the idea of making an R. Kelly kind of slick R and B number " and ultimately " [sounded] more like Randy Newman 's " Short People " . He said , " if the press release says it 's faster and rockier it doesn 't account for the fact that there are more ballads on this record than any other record . " Taylor said that feelings of happiness and love influenced the album 's romantic feel .

Goddard considered varying styles and influences a key factor in the band 's music . He explained to The Sun that creating music could be difficult because a member could introduce a different influence . Goddard and Doyle said that clashes and restlessness during recording led to " unpleasant " periods of silence , but ultimately thought the clashes created " something more interesting because you have these different voices and not one person dictating " .

Martin told The Georgia Straight that the group are " afflicted with something akin to musical attention @-@ deficit disorder " and said that the group " get bored quite easily [...] with [their] own records at times " . He elaborated by saying that the group aren 't " really interested in reproducing the same sound " because they don 't find it exciting .

Taylor stated Hot Chip " didn 't set out to make something with one mood " and that he thought the band 's style of " jump [ing] all over the place stylistically " made sense as a record . In an interview with The Georgia Straight , Martin expressed that Hot Chip didn 't want to create a " ' classic ' record that would have a particular sound " as they wanted to make music that was " quite experimental and out @-@ there " . Made in the Dark was intended to represent the " whole live sound of the band " and they are " a band as much as originally having been a duo " .

= = = Influences = = =

The album is influenced by music Goddard and Taylor listened to during their childhood and adolescence , such as Prince 's Sign o ' the Times and The Beatles ' White Album . Taylor explained why Hot Chip 's albums " go from one mood to another so readily " , by saying " Eclectic music has been our first musical background " and that he and Goddard had different musical interests when they were younger . Made in the Dark is influenced by contemporary artists such as Black Dice and Will Oldham . Taylor appreciated Oldham for his minimalism of " just acoustic guitar and harmonium and voice for the whole record " and wanted Hot Chip to emulate him .

= = Lyrics = =

Taylor stated in an interview with The Sun that he was " so proud of [the album] lyrically " and thought the song " Made in the Dark " contained the best lyrics he had ever written . Taylor explained that it was " very easy " for him to focus on the " more serious lyrics , like a love song very dear to [his] heart " but stated that " Wrestlers " was " equally as important and feels like a very different style of music than we have ever got down on record before . " He discussed " Wrestlers " in the band 's interview with The Sun , explaining that the song is " musically and lyrically quite direct " because " it doesn 't have thousands of layers " , in contrast to the song " Bendable Poseable " . The concept of the song " Wrestlers " , originates from a text message from James Murphy of LCD Soundsystem . After Doyle toured with Murphy , Murphy sent a text message that said , " Sorry you can 't have Al back , I 'll wrestle you for him . And I 'll beat you because I 'm bigger and stronger than you . " Goddard explained that " the words in that song are about wrestling " , and the band " have no doubt " that Murphy would defeat them in a wrestling fight .

The song " Ready for the Floor " contains an allusion to the 1989 film , Batman , with the line , " You 're my number one guy " . In an interview with The Fader magazine , Taylor said the reference was a result of thinking about the Batman film , which has many things that Taylor is fond of , such as the Prince soundtrack . He commented that sometimes those items " seep into what we 're writing about " and said that he likes to reference " in an oblique way " . He conjectured that he had included the line to say something to " everyone in the band , particularly to Joe [Goddard] , ' You 're my number one guy , why is there any problems between any of us ? ' " .

" Shake a Fist " was written by Taylor after Goddard took a legal herbal substance during the Glastonbury Festival which produced feelings akin to teleportation . Goddard said , " it was a brilliant time " and told Alexis to write down words to go with his experience . The song features a voice sample from Todd Rundgren .

" Out at the Pictures " is an oblique homage to inexpensive British pub chain Wetherspoons , who are thanked in the album inlay .

= = Featured collaborators = =

In March 2008 , Hot Chip re @-@ recorded several songs from Made in the Dark , with one of their " all @-@ time heroes " , Robert Wyatt . Doyle said the band had wanted it to happen " for ages " and that people would see it as a surprise collaboration . Taylor said , " I crave confusion and quite like people to be surprised . I try to do that in the words and music and try to be what people don 't think we are . Robert is someone we have liked for much longer than people realise . We feel closer to people in a different field , age or era . " The album features Emma Smith , who had previously

joined with Hot Chip to play violin and saxophone on their first two albums .

= = = Kylie Minogue = = =

In October 2007 , MTV reported that Hot Chip was planning to give " Ready for the Floor " to Kylie Minogue . Other reports incorrectly suggested that Hot Chip had written Made in the Dark 's second single , " Ready for the Floor " specifically for Minogue . Taylor explained that it was a misunderstanding ; " It started because someone asked me if we would ever write for Kylie . I said that we 'd been asked to write for her but we 'd never got round to it . And I said if we had to give her one of our songs , " Ready for the Floor " would probably be the most suitable . From that , I got misquoted . We didn 't write " Ready for the Floor " for Kylie , didn 't send it to her and she never heard it . "

After the first rumour circulated , Joe Goddard created a reverse rumour , saying that Minogue had written a track for Hot Chip . He told NME , " Kylie wrote a song for us , She sent it through our management to us ? it was totally bizarre . It was the beginnings of a track ? I think she wrote it and just thought , ' This would be perfect for Hot Chip ' , or possibly for a collaboration . It 's a crazy song . It 's industrial and clanging and even has farmyard animal noises on it . It 's the kind of music you 'd never normally associate with Kylie . When I 'm allowed to send it around it 's going to change a few people 's ideas about her . Maybe it 's one for our next album , after Made in the Dark . " Taylor later admitted that it was a joke created to fool people because the band were tired of people phoning them up to ask why Minogue had apparently rejected a song she did not hear . Goddard said , " We 've been telling lots of lies and rumours about it because we found it quite funny . "

In January 2010 , Goddard stated that " at the beginning there was some contact . As I recall , we were going to do a session with one of her writers " but both Hot Chip and Minogue were too busy at the time . He added " there was a grain of truth in the beginning , but then it all snowballed into some big silly thing " . When asked , in 2010 , about giving a song to Minogue , he stated that it would be " amazing " .

= = Release and reception = =

Made in the Dark charted for 23 weeks in over 10 different charts , entering the UK Album Chart at number four , the Billboard Top Heatseekers chart at number one and the Billboard Top Electronic Albums chart at number two . The album , according to Nielsen SoundScan data reported by Billboard , has sold 47 @, @ 000 copies and has been certified Gold for UK sales .

" Shake a Fist " , the first single to be released from the album , was released on 12 " vinyl single at the beginning of October 2007 but did not chart . The second single released , " Ready for the Floor " , charted for 24 weeks in five different charts , peaking at number six on the UK Singles Top 75 .

= = = Promotion = = =

In January 2008 , in order to promote Made in the Dark , Hot Chip " locked [themselves] away " to practice in anticipation of an American tour , where material from their new album would be played . The band are not accustomed to such an intensive rehearsal regime , as they " usually just rehearse for two days and then go on tour " .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The critical reception to the album was generally favourable . Based on 40 reviews , review aggregate website Metacritic reported a rating of 78 out of 100 . There were mixed comments about the ballads ; two reviewers noted a disparity between the energy of the ballads to different songs . Drowned in Sound commented that , " ballads remain a strong suit , particularly the easy grace of the title track , but more often than not sit awkwardly next to the more toothsome numbers and feel under @-@ produced by comparison " with similar comments from AllMusic who said , " Made in the

Dark 's main weakness might be its ballads , but that may just be in comparison to its many energetic moments , which are so addictive that it feels like a forced come @-@ down whenever the band slows things down . " However , The Observer gave a positive evaluation of the ballads ; " Hot Chip have had a happy way with a subliminal power ballad . And Made in the Dark can boast four of the best . " Pitchfork Media rated the album as 7 / 10 with a mixed review , describing it as a " patchy , turbulent record " due to the use of many different individual components and also said that it was a " good record but not a great one " . Martin responded to the criticism made by Pitchfork Media :

I think the fact that we 've managed to be successful , in getting good chart positions in the U.K. and at the same time making a record that is actually quite weird and confusing to even a site like Pitchfork ? the guy doesn 't seem to actually get what we 're trying to do ? it 's kind of cool to me .

Pitchfork Media , despite their initial rating , went on to list the album number 23 on their list of the fifty best albums of 2008 , and would later state that " its bold charms have lent it a fond longevity . " Another element that caused mixed reception was the use of a Todd Rundgren sample in " Shake a Fist " , which musicOMH.com called " delightful " but The Guardian described it as grating. musicOMH.com , whose description of the album was positive , said that tracks " Ready for the Floor " and " Bendable Poseable " had elements reminiscent of previous album The Warning . The Times said that although the execution was " novel " and the song " Made in the Dark " was " exquisite " , that much of Made in the Dark " seems to spring from sticky relationship issues " . Comparisons were also made to Paul McCartney 's McCartney II album with songs like " Wrestlers " , " Bendable Poseable " , " Whistle for Will " and " We 're Looking for a Lot of Love " , which were described as having the " airless proto @-@ electronica " of McCartney II .

In regards to lyrics , Allmusic said the album " boasts some of Hot Chip 's most kinetic music , with rhythms and melodies that are just as hyper @-@ articulate as the word play . " Rolling Stone summarised the album as having " catchy tunes , monster grooves , and lyrics resolving the heartfelt and the smartass " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written by Hot Chip , except where noted .

" Out at the Pictures " ? 4 : 26

" Shake a Fist " (Hot Chip , Todd Rundgren) ? 5 : 11

" Ready for the Floor " ? 3 : 52

" Bendable Poseable " ? 3 : 46

" We 're Looking for a Lot of Love " ? 4 : 43

" Touch Too Much " ? 4 : 05

" Made in the Dark " ? 3 : 00

" One Pure Thought " ? 4 : 53

" Hold On " ? 6 : 20

" Wrestlers " ? 3 : 45

" Don 't Dance " ? 4 : 42

" Whistle for Will " ? 2 : 23

" In the Privacy of Our Love " ? 2 : 52

iTunes bonus tracks

" So Deep " ? 2 : 34

" With Each New Day " ? 2 : 58

iTunes deluxe version bonus tracks

" Touch Too Much " (Fake Blood Remix) ? 5 : 52

" Hold On " (Switch LDN Remix) ? 4 : 01

" Touch Too Much " (Ewan Pearson Remix) ? 9 : 32

" Wrestlers " (Video) ? 3 : 59

West Coast Tour Documentary ? 17 : 25

Japanese bonus tracks

" Bubbles They Bounce " ? 5 : 53
" My Brother Is Watching Me " ? 3 : 49
Special edition bonus DVD
" Shake a Fist " (Live at Melt !)
" And I Was a Boy from School " (Live at Melt !)
" Hold On " (Live at the Electric Ballroom)
" One Pure Thought " (Live at Glastonbury Festival)
" Over and Over " (Live at Glastonbury Festival)

= = Personnel = =

Dan Carey ? mixing
Owen Clarke ? design
Jonathan Digby ? engineer
Ian Dowling ? engineer (assistant)
Matt Edwards ? A & R
Joe Goddard ? mix control
James Shaw ? engineer (assistant)
Darren Simpson ? engineer (assistant)
Alexis Smith ? mixing (assistant)
Emma Smith ? violin , saxophone
Wallzo ? design
Alexis Taylor ? vocals , synthesizer , guitar , percussion , piano
Joe Goddard ? vocals , synthesizer , percussion
Owen Clarke ? guitar , bass
Al Doyle ? guitar , synthesizer , percussion , backing vocals
Felix Martin ? drum machines

= = Chart positions = =

= = = Album = = =

= = = Singles = = =

" ? " denotes releases that did not chart .