

= Reverberation (album) =

Reverberation is the sixth studio album by the English rock band Echo & the Bunnymen . The album was released amidst a line @-@ up change for the group , due to the departure of vocalist Ian McCulloch and the death of drummer Pete de Freitas . The remaining members , guitarist Will Sergeant and bassist Les Pattinson , were joined by ex @-@ St. Vitus Dance singer Noel Burke , keyboard player Jake Brockman and drummer Damon Reece . The album was produced by former engineer for The Beatles Geoff Emerick at Ridge Farm Studio in Surrey , England , and had a more pronounced psychedelic sound than the group 's previous releases .

Following the album 's December 1990 release , critical reviews were not favourable ; critics noted Burke to be a poor replacement for McCulloch , who they believed was an indispensable aspect of the band . After Reverberation failed to chart , the band were dropped by WEA Records and , after two independently released singles , disbanded in 1993 .

= = Background and recording = =

During August and September 1987 , Echo & the Bunnymen co @-@ headlined a tour of the United States with popular electronic group New Order . Despite the tour passing without incident , the performances were deemed to be of poor quality . Although American audiences were apparently satisfied by the shows , when the group returned to the United Kingdom for an autumn tour the British music press and audiences were not as equally enthusiastic . Shortly thereafter the band announced plans to record a self @-@ produced album of " savage rock " when there was more free time . The group toured the UK and the US again in early 1988 . These concerts were more positively received than their tour the previous year , with guitarist Will Sergeant being singled out for praise ? BBC Radio 1 disc jockey John Peel said , " Will Sergeant was superb , moving in a trice from squalls of angry sound to playing with such care and subtlety that there were whispered asides from his guitar that I would have sworn only he and I had heard . " In March 1988 , the band released a cover version of The Doors ' song " People Are Strange " . However , this failed to impress critics ; music paper Melody Maker called it a " rancid effort " and Q said the band had " thrown in the towel " .

Following a Japanese tour in April 1988 , Echo & the Bunnymen 's lead singer , Ian McCulloch , announced that the band were going to split up . Following the announcement , McCulloch returned to the United Kingdom to visit his father who had just suffered two heart attacks but was too late as he died shortly before arriving . After five months of speculation as to whether the split up was genuine , McCulloch met with the other members of the band in September 1988 and , despite the group 's attempts to change his mind , told them he was leaving the band . McCulloch later said in a 1997 interview , " The last days of The Bunnymen consisted of a bunch of people who were more interested in changing oil in their cars than rock ' n ' roll . That pissed me off . I was doing every sodding interview , writing sodding every song . " Having been persuaded by Rob Dickins at WEA that the band could still be a success in the United States , Sergeant told McCulloch that he and the other two band members , bassist Les Pattinson and drummer Pete de Freitas , planned to continue . After a failed attempt to record with The B @-@ 52 's singers Kate Pierson and Cindy Wilson , the band advertised for a full @-@ time replacement .

While McCulloch was recording his debut solo album , Candleland (1989) , Echo & the Bunnymen promoted long @-@ time touring keyboard player Jake Brockman to a full @-@ time band member position . In April 1989 , after listening to an album by the defunct band St. Vitus Dance which had been recommended by Geoff Davies of Probe Records in Liverpool , Sergeant felt that the band 's singer Noel Burke would work well within the context of the band 's sound . After a meeting with the band and being reassured that they did not want a McCulloch clone , Burke agreed to join . However , tragedy struck when on 14 June 1989 de Freitas died in a motorcycle accident on his way to the band 's first rehearsal . The band recruited Damon Reece , a friend of Brockman , as drummer in de Freitas 's place and began rehearsals . The new line @-@ up played their first string of performances in mid @-@ March 1990 with a mixture of old and new material . McCulloch

allegedly described this incarnation of the band as " Echo & the Bogusmen " but later attributed the comment to the former The Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr . Sergeant later said that keeping the name was " down to wanting to take a bitter swipe at [McCulloch] " .

The new line @-@ up entered Ridge Farm Studio in Surrey , England in mid @-@ May 1990 to record the new album with producer Geoff Emerick , who had previously been the engineer for several albums by The Beatles . While recording the album Emerick would sit on the stairs outside the studio so that he could " listen to the mix properly " . Emerick employed the use of instruments such as sitars and tabla as well as backwards guitar loops . The album contained many of Sergeant 's favoured psychedelic influences .

= = Release , reception and aftermath = =

" Enlighten Me " , released in October 1990 , was the only single to be released from Reverberation . The single fared badly on the UK Singles Chart only reaching number ninety @-@ six , although it reached number eight on the Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart in the United States . The album 's release followed in December 1990 , and Echo & the Bunnymen immediately went on a seventeen @-@ date tour that focused on the United Kingdom and Ireland . The tour received good reviews , with Melody Maker describing the band as " an object lesson in how to survive and prosper " . However , the reviews of the album were not as good . Awarding the album two and a half stars out of five , Tim DiGravina , who reviewed the album for Allmusic , said , " Echo & the Bunnymen doesn 't exist without the distinctive voice of Ian McCulloch " . Although he added that the album would have been a " great debut " had the band decided to record under a different name . Bob Mack , reviewing the album for Entertainment Weekly was more forceful in putting the album down . He described the sound of the album as " hopelessly in thrall to the brand of pale pseudo @-@ psychedelia [the band] helped popularise during the past decade " . He went on to describe Burke and most of the songs as " nondescript " . He finished his review by saying " this is a turkey best left to be gobbled up by the band 's relatives , close friends , and diehard fans " .

Failing to make the UK Albums Chart , Reverberation was the poorest performing Echo & the Bunnymen album at that time . Echo & the Bunnymen were dropped by WEA Records in early 1991 . After touring East Asia , the band launched their own label , Euphoric Records , in October 1991 with the release of their self @-@ produced single " Prove Me Wrong " . The release of another single , " Inside Me , Inside You " , followed in March 1992 . With neither of the singles released on Euphoric reaching the UK Singles Chart , the band undertook an extensive tour of the United States before finally disbanding in early 1993 .

= = Track listing = =

All tracks written by Noel Burke , Will Sergeant , Les Pattinson , Jake Brockman & Damon Reece .

" Gone , Gone , Gone " ? 4 : 13

" Enlighten Me " ? 5 : 01

" Cut & Dried " ? 3 : 47

" King of Your Castle " ? 4 : 36

" Devilment " ? 4 : 44

" Thick Skinned World " ? 4 : 18

" Freaks Dwell " ? 3 : 51

" Senseless " ? 4 : 55

" Flaming Red " ? 5 : 33

" False Goodbyes " ? 5 : 40

= = Personnel = =

Noel Burke ? vocals , guitar , piano

Will Sergeant ? guitar , loops , autoharp

Les Pattinson ? bass
Jake Brockman ? mellotron , farfisa
Damon Reece ? drums , percussion
Shanker Ganguly ? harmonium
Punita Gupta ? sitar
John Leach ? dulcimer
John Mayer ? tambura
Adam Peters ? cello , piano
Esmail Sheikh ? dholak
Gurdev Singh ? tar shahanai
Geoff Emerick ? producer
Will Gosling ? engineer
Adrian Moore ? assistant engineer
Paul Apted ? assistant engineer