

= Somebody That I Used to Know =

" Somebody That I Used to Know " is a song written by Belgian @-@ Australian singer @-@ songwriter Gotye , featuring New Zealand singer / guitarist Kimbra . The song was released in Australia and New Zealand by Eleven Music on 5 January 2012 as the second single from Gotye 's third studio album , Making Mirrors (2011) . It was later released by Universal Music in December 2011 in the United Kingdom , and in January 2012 in the United States and Ireland . " Somebody That I Used To Know " was written and recorded by Gotye at his parents ' house on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and is lyrically related to the experiences he has had with relationships .

" Somebody That I Used to Know " is a mid @-@ tempo , indie pop ballad . It samples Luiz Bonfá 's song " Seville " from his 1967 album Luiz Bonfa Plays Great Songs . The song received a positive reception from critics , who noted the similarities between the song and works by Sting , Peter Gabriel , and American folk band Bon Iver . In Australia , the song won the Triple J Hottest 100 poll at the end of 2011 , as well as ARIA Awards for song of the year and best video , while Kimbra was voted best female artist and Gotye was named best male artist and producer of the year . The song came ninth in the Triple J Hottest 100 of the Past 20 Years , 2013 . In 2013 , the song won two Grammy Awards for Best Pop Duo / Group Performance and Record of the Year .

Commercially , " Somebody That I Used to Know " is Gotye 's most successful and signature song . It has topped charts in the US , UK , and Australia , as well as 23 other national charts , and reached the top 10 in more than 30 countries around the world . The song has sold more than 13 million copies worldwide , becoming one of the best @-@ selling digital singles of all time . It was also placed at the top of a number of year @-@ end charts by Billboard Magazine (including the Hot 100 , Adult Pop Songs , and Alternative Songs) and other record chart companies around the world .

" Somebody That I Used To Know " has been performed several times on major US TV shows such as The Voice , American Idol , and Saturday Night Live . It was covered by Canadian indie rock group Walk off the Earth using a single guitar played simultaneously by all five band members . The hit song 's accompanying music video was directed by Australian artist Natasha Pincus . The video , which has received over 790 million views on YouTube as of June 2016 , premiered on 5 July 2011 . It shows Gotye and Kimbra naked against a white backdrop . While they sing , a pattern of paint gradually covers their skin and the backdrop via stop motion animation .

= = Composition and recording = =

Gotye discussed writing " Somebody That I Used to Know " in an interview with Sound on Sound :

" Writing ' Somebody ' was a gradual and linear process . I started with the Luiz Bonfa sample , then I found the drums , and after that I started working on the lyric and the melody , and added the wobbly guitar @-@ sample melody . After that , I took a break , and a few weeks later I came back to the session and decided on the chorus chord progression , wrote the chorus melody , and combined that with sounds like the Latin loop and some of the percussion and the flute sounds that further filled the space . At that point I hit a brick wall . I was thinking : ' This is pretty good , how can I get to the end really quickly ? ' and I was trying to take lazy decisions to finish the song . I considered repeating the chorus , an instrumental bridge , a change in tempo or key , I even considered finishing the song after the first chorus . But nothing felt like it was strong enough . So the third session was all about writing the female part and changing the perspective . The arrangement of ' Somebody ' is reflective of me moving towards using sounds that provide me with inspiration for a texture or a platform for an idea , and then through sonic manipulation and coming up with original melodies and harmonic ideas to make it my own . I guess the balance of sounds taken from records and samples I created myself is perhaps 50 @-@ 50 . "

" Somebody That I Used to Know " is an indie pop song that is four minutes and five seconds long . Gotye uses a sample of Brazilian jazz guitarist Luiz Bonfá 's 1967 instrumental song " Seville " , with additional instrumentations of beats and a xylophone . It was written and produced by Gotye himself , while in his parents ' barn on the Mornington Peninsula , Victoria . Gotye commented that he wrote

the song " in quite a linear way " , explaining that " I wrote the first verse , the second verse , and I 'd got to the end of the first chorus and for the first time ever I thought , ' There 's no interesting way to add to this guy 's story ' . It felt weak " .

The track was recorded between January and May 2011 with Gotye struggling to find a suitable female vocalist , as a " ' high profile ' female vocalist " cancelled the collaboration at the last minute , and Kimbra " lucked out as the replacement " . He tested his girlfriend , Tash Parker , but " somehow their happiness meant that it didn 't work out " so he followed the recommendation of the song 's mixer and used Kimbra 's vocals . Martin Davies from Click Music considered the song " instantly captivating " , and named Kimbra 's voice " clean and sugar @-@ soaked " , further commenting that it bears an " uncanny resemblance " to singer Katy Perry .

Gotye stated that the song was " definitely drawn from various experiences I 've had in relationships breaking up , and in the parts of the more reflective parts of the song , in the aftermath and the memory of those different relationships and what they were and how they broke up and what 's going on in everyone 's minds . Yeah , so it 's an amalgam of different feelings but not completely made up as such " . In an interview with Rolling Stone (Australia) , he described the song as " a curated reflection of multiple past relationships " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The song received generally positive reviews , winning the Grammy for Record of the Year . Take 40 Australia elaborated on the audience 's reception at the July 2011 Splendour in the Grass festival , " Gotye 's latest song featuring Kimbra ' Somebody That I Used To Know ' had become somewhat of an unofficial anthem for the festival ... every car was cranking it over their speakers all day , every day ... and the question on everyone 's lips was whether or not Kimbra would join him on the track . Fortunately , dreams came true ... he smashed out an incredible set climaxing with a version of the song with Kimbra on co @-@ lead vocals that people couldn 't stop talking about all weekend long " . Allmusic 's Jon O 'Brien felt the track was an " unexpected chart @-@ topper ... [it] is an oddball break @-@ up song whose stuttering rhythms , reggae hooks , and hushed vocals sound like The Police as remixed by the XX " .

Writing for Digital Spy , Lewis Corner rated the song four stars out of five and described it as " a Bon Iver @-@ styled ballad for the music @-@ buying masses " . Martin Davies from Click Music gave the song five stars out of five and stated that the song is " that rare example of a track that hits you squarely between the eyes " .

In November 2011 , music blog This Must Be Pop predicted the song as a post @-@ Christmas UK hit . John Watson , who co @-@ manages Gotye with Danny Rogers , said of the single 's success : " We 've never seen any song make a deeper or more immediate connection with so many people . It 's a really special recording and video " . Talking about the overwhelming reception and the amount of coverage received , Gotye commented that " I don 't really feel like it [the song] belongs to me anymore . " He further explained that " sometimes I feel like I 'm a bit sick of it . My inbox , on any given day , has at least five covers or parodies or remixes of it and there 's only so many times you can listen to the one song . "

= = = Commercial performance = = =

In the week commencing 18 July 2011 , " Somebody That I Used To Know " debuted at number 27 on the ARIA Singles Chart . It was released on 5 July 2011 in Australia and New Zealand by Eleven Music as the second single from his third studio album , Making Mirrors (2011) . Despite an initial lack of airplay on major radio stations , the song reached number 1 in the week ending 15 August , becoming the first single by either artist to do so and their most successful single . Until 2014 , the song was one of the two second @-@ longest @-@ running Australian number @-@ one songs ,

with eight weeks at the top , tied with Savage Garden 's 1997 song " Truly Madly Deeply " , and behind Daddy Cool 's 1971 hit " Eagle Rock " , which stayed there for ten weeks . On August 2011 the song was released in Belgium and the Netherlands . After a few weeks in the charts , it reached number 1 in both countries , topping the Belgian Singles Chart for 12 weeks . Also in August , " Somebody That I Used To Know " debuted at number 4 in New Zealand on the RIANZ Singles Chart , reaching number 1 three weeks later , thus making Gotye the first Australian artist to reach number 1 since Guy Sebastian did so in February 2011 with " Who 's That Girl " . The song debuted on the Irish Singles Chart on 13 January 2012 at number 47 , later reaching number 1 position . In the United Kingdom , " Somebody That I Used To Know " spent five non @-@ consecutive weeks at number 1 .

In the United States , it debuted at number 91 on the Billboard Hot 100 on 14 January 2012 . In its fifteenth week on the chart ? after it was performed by Matt Bomer and Darren Criss on Glee on 10 April ; by Phillip Phillips and Elise Testone on the eleventh season of American Idol before more than 16 million viewers on 11 April ; and by Gotye and Kimbra on Saturday Night Live on 14 April ? the song rose to number 1 , where it stayed for eight consecutive weeks. thus becoming the longest @-@ running number 1 by a solo male artist since Flo Rida 's " Low " led for ten weeks in 2008 . The song had the fourth highest @-@ selling single week ever with 542 @,@ 000 digital downloads sold , and was the first Australian single to top the Hot 100 since Savage Garden 's " I Knew I Loved You " in 2000 . The song also topped the Alternative Songs chart for twelve weeks tying with Fuel 's Hemorrhage (In My Hands) and Linkin Park 's Numb and New Divide , as well as topping the Radio Songs , Digital Songs , On @-@ Demand Songs , Pop Songs , Adult Pop Songs , Adult Contemporary , and Hot Dance Club Songs charts in that country . On 2 May 2012 the song became the first to reach digital sales of at least 400 @,@ 000 for three consecutive weeks , and the following week it became the first to simultaneously top the Alternative Songs , Hot Dance Club Songs , and Dance Mix Show Airplay charts . It also became the number 1 song of 2012 on the Alternative Songs , Adult Pop Songs , and Billboard Hot 100 charts . By 22 February 2013 , the song became the tenth longest @-@ charting song in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 , at 59 weeks on the chart . As of October 2015 , the song has sold 7 @.@ 9 million copies in the US , making it the country 's fourth all @-@ time best @-@ selling digital single .

" Somebody That I Used To Know " reached number one in more than 23 national charts and charted inside the top ten in more than 30 countries around the world . By the end of 2012 , the song became the best @-@ selling song of that year with 11 @.@ 8 million copies sold , ranking among the best @-@ selling digital singles of all time . As of April 2012 , it is the most downloaded song ever in Belgium , as well as being the third best @-@ selling digital single in Germany with sales between 500 @,@ 000 and 600 @,@ 000 copies , and the most successful song in the history of the Dutch charts . As of January 2013 it has received eleven Platinum certifications in Australia , accounting for shipments exceeding 770 @,@ 000 units . In New Zealand , it was certified four times Platinum . The song was the best @-@ selling single of 2012 in the UK with 1 @,@ 318 @,@ 000 copies sold .

= = = Accolades = = =

On 15 July 2011 , the song finished third in the 2011 Vanda & Young Songwriting Competition , with the winning song , " Cameo Lover " , by Kimbra . Earlier that year , Gotye had first noticed Kimbra when both were short @-@ listed as finalists for the competition . At the ARIA Music Awards of 2011 , " Somebody That I Used To Know " won Single of the Year , Best Pop Release , Best Video (for Natasha Pincus) , Engineer of the Year (for François Tétaz) and Producer of the Year (for Gotye) . Gotye also won Best Male Artist for the song while Kimbra won Best Female Artist for her previous single , " Cameo Lover " . At the APRA Music Awards of 2012 , " Somebody That I Used To Know " won Most Played Australian Work and Song of the Year and Gotye won Songwriter of the Year . It was also nominated at the 2012 Teen Choice Awards for " Choice Rock Song " and " Choice Break @-@ Up Song " . The song was nominated at the 55th Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Best Pop Duo / Group Performance , winning both awards . The Village Voice 's Pazz

& Jop annual critics ' poll ranked " Somebody That I Used to Know " at number eight to find the best music of 2012 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Somebody That I Used to Know " was directed and produced by Australian artist Natasha Pincus . It shows Gotye and Kimbra naked throughout the clip , and as they sing , his skin is gradually painted into the backdrop via stop motion animation . In the director 's cut , it features concealed nudity . The director 's cut was never posted . The painting used in the video 's background , painted by Howard Clark , is based on a 1980s artwork created by Gotye 's father , Frank de Backer , who also designed the cover art for the related album , Making Mirrors . Emma Hack , an Australian artist and skin illustrator based in Adelaide , was hired by Pincus to work on the body paintings for Gotye and Kimbra . Melbourne Scenic Artist Howard Clark painted the backdrop . According to Hack , it took more than 23 hours to paint both Gotye and Kimbra to fit with Howard 's background . Their painting symbolises their combined relationship .

Before its official premiere , the music video was leaked on Take 40 Australia 's website . According to Pincus , " It was stolen out of our system . I guess it 's always wanted to get out there . Within five minutes it was everywhere " . On 30 July 2011 it was officially premiered on YouTube and on the Australian music show Rage . The music video was well received for its artistic style , picking up 200 @ , @ 000 views in its first two weeks , as well as receiving promotion on Twitter by actor Ashton Kutcher and Katy Perry .

" What a video ! " Snow Patrol 's Gary Lightbody enthused to Q. " I have become obsessed with it and not just because I 'm in love with Kimbra . Gotye himself is an engaging character for sure ... his solemnly expressive eyes finish a journey his lyrics only begin . ' Told myself that you were right for me but felt so lonely in your company ' ? simple , pure , and devastating . None more than the title line when it speaks of the end of love with prosaic brutality : ' Now you 're just somebody that I used to know . ' Great video , powerful lyrics , and a stunning voice . Oh , and Kimbra ... my poor heart ... "

As of June 2016 , the video has been viewed over 790 million times on YouTube . The video for " Somebody That I Used to Know " was voted number 1 in the annual Rage Fifty countdown . Andy Samberg and Taran Killam parodied the video in a Saturday Night Live " digital short " that coincided with Gotye 's 14 April 2012 performance on the show . The video was nominated for Video of the Year and Best Editing in a Video at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards . As of January 2015 , Billboard named the video as one of the 20 best of the 2010s (so far) .

= = Cover versions and media appearances = =

" Somebody That I Used To Know " has been covered by several artists including a cappella group Pentatonix who created a viral YouTube video in February 2012 and released the track on their EP , " PTX Volume 1 " on 26 June 2012 In addition Ingrid Michaelson , The Fergies , and Sam Tsui have covered the song . In February 2012 , Rita Ora covered the song at BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge . A cover by Right the Stars featuring Karmina , which was also uploaded to YouTube , was recommended by Miley Cyrus . Dutch DJ Tiësto remixed the song for his album Club Life : Volume Two Miami . Phillip Phillips and Elise Testone covered the song on the eleventh season of American Idol on 11 April 2012 .

In February 2012 , Gotye made his American television debut on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! where he performed the song . The song has since been featured on the TV series 90210 , Gossip Girl , and The Voice of Ireland by Andy Mac Unfraidh . The song was featured in the film Boyhood . On 16 May 2012 , fun. along with Paramore 's front vocalist Hayley Williams covered the song at BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge . On 23 May 2012 , Internet cartoon band Your Favorite Martian did a cover of the song . " Somebody That I Used To Know " was also first played live by Coheed and Cambria on 29 April 2012 , as a frequent feature on their 2012 headlining tour . In May 2012 , American duo Karmin made a cover of the song on Sirius XM Hits .

The song was covered in the Glee episode " Big Brother " and performed by Darren Criss (as Blaine Anderson) and Matt Bomer (as Cooper Anderson) . It sold 152 @, @ 000 digital downloads in its first week of release and debuted on the Digital Songs chart at number 10 and the Hot 100 at number 26 .

Samples of the song were also used in ODESZA 's Without You .

Gotye paid tribute to the overwhelming number of cover versions of the song by personally creating a video remix , released in August 2012 , using segments from hundreds of online covers to create a new , unique version of the track , titled " Somebodies : A YouTube Orchestra " . Gotye states the concept " was directly inspired here by Kutiman 's Thru @-@ You project " , released in March 2009 , which edited numerous YouTube videos to create a new cohesive song . A similar mixing style is seen in the performance of " Since U Been Gone " in the September 2012 film release Pitch Perfect . " Weird Al " Yankovic recorded a cover as part of his polka medley " NOW That 's What I Call Polka ! " for his 2014 album Mandatory Fun .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Wally de Backer ? songwriter , producer , assistant mixer , recording , lead and backing vocals , guitar , xylophone , flutes , percussion , samples

François Tétaz ? mixer , engineer

Lucas Taranto ? bass guitar

Kimbra ? lead and backing vocals

William Bowden ? mastering

Frank de Backer ? artwork (back and inside cover painting , handwriting)

Kat Kallady ? artwork (front cover painting)

Credits adapted from " Somebody That I Used to Know " CD single liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =

Since May 2013 RIAA certifications for digital singles include on @-@ demand audio and / or video song streams in addition to downloads .

= = Release history = =

= = Walk Off The Earth version = =

In January 2012 , Canadian indie rock group Walk Off The Earth uploaded a cover of " Somebody That I Used To Know " to YouTube . Their version uses a single guitar played simultaneously by all five band members . As of April 2012 , the song had sold 187 @, @ 000 units in the United States .

= = = Track listing = = =

CD single

" Somebody That I Used To Know " ? 4 : 08

" Somebody That I Used To Know " (Music video) ? 4 : 25

CD maxi @-@ single

" Somebody That I Used To Know " ? 4 : 08

" Money Tree " ? 3 : 13
" Joan and Bobby " ? 3 : 38
" From Me to You " ? 1 : 48
" Somebody That I Used To Know " (Video) ? 4 : 25

= = Glee Cast version = =

The song was covered in the Glee episode " Big Brother " and performed by Darren Criss (as Blaine Anderson) and Matt Bomer (as Cooper Anderson) . It sold 152 @, @ 000 digital downloads in its first week of release and debuted on the Digital Songs chart at number 10 and the Hot 100 at number 26 .

= = = Charts = = =

= = Mayday Parade version = =

The alternative rock band Mayday Parade released a cover of this song for fifth edition of the compilation album Punk Goes Pop , which features bands of the punk , alternative , and hardcore genres covering hit pop songs . Their cover became the first single from a Punk Goes ... compilation album to chart on a Billboard chart , reaching number 18 on US Rock Songs .

= = = Charts = = =