

= Down Town =

for the Greek magazine see Down Town (magazine)

" Down Town " was the a 1987 release by The Justified Ancients of Mu Mu (better known as The KLF) . The song is gospel music driven by house music rhythms , incorporating a sample of Petula Clark 's 1964 single " Downtown " .

= = Origins = =

In 1987 , Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty formed The Justified Ancients of Mu Mu (The JAMs) , and busily released provocatively sample @-@ heavy electronic music with beatbox rhythms and Drummond 's socially aware raps . Their debut single " All You Need Is Love " and album 1987 (What the Fuck Is Going On ?) were both investigated by the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society , who ordered The JAMs to recall and destroy all unsold copies of 1987 . A new single , " Whitney Joins The JAMs " , followed , along with a satirically edited version of the album , 1987 (The JAMs 45 Edits) , and the debut release from spinoff project Disco 2000 , " I Gotta CD " . By the time of the release of " Whitney Joins The JAMs " , the duo 's independent record label had been renamed KLF Communications , and in the coming year The Justified Ancients of Mu Mu would mutate into The KLF . In the meantime , " Down Town " was The JAMs ' and KLF Communications ' final release of 1987 , a 7 " and 12 " single release of 30 November . It did not enter the UK Singles Chart , but made inroads into the UK independent chart .

In an interview with NME , Drummond and Cauty maintained that the record was originally intended to be sample @-@ free , but , quoting the Book of Proverbs 26 : 11 , Drummond admitted that " as a dog returneth to his vomit so a fool returneth to his folly " . In addition to Petula Clark 's " Downtown " , " Down Town " used elements of the distinctive bassline to Harold Faltermeyer 's 1984 # 1 single " Axel F " . Indeed , the labels of the record claimed that : " All sounds on this recording have been captured by The KLF . In the name of Mu , we hereby liberate these sounds from all copyright restrictions , without prejudice " . Although The JAMs sought permission from Tony Hatch , who wrote Clark 's " Downtown " , Drummond admitted in KLF Communications newsletter : " We were surprised to read in the papers that Pet Clarke [sic] had given her permission for us to sample her classic ' Downtown ' on our record of the same name . When we attempted to contact her , at her Swiss home , to do just this thing , we didn 't get further than her refusing to accept our transfer charge . "

The inclusion of Petula Clark 's " Downtown " was claimed by Drummond to be a striking coincidence :

One day I was in the studio and I just started humming the chorus of ' Downtown ' over the intro . I thought ' That 's funny I wonder what key it 's in ? ' I dug out the record that night and found that it was in the same key . I took it into the studio the next day and found out that it was absolutely the same number of beats per minute (bpm) ? 118 . Most pop songs are between 80 and 160 bpm so that 's 80 times 12 , so it was a one in 960 chance that it would be the right bpm and the right key , so we couldn 't resist it .

" Down Town " was not included on either of The JAMs ' albums , instead featuring on their 1988 compilation and remix album , Shag Times , along with an instrumental remix credited to The KLF .

= = Composition = =

" Down Town " is , like most of Drummond and Cauty 's work of 1987 , a social critique of Great Britain realised as house music . Its central theme is social exclusion , poverty and homelessness , in which snatches of Clark 's " Downtown " ? an awestruck ode to hedonistic city nightlife ? are juxtaposed with raps by Drummond , wailing sirens and original choral gospel vocals full of Christmas optimism , provided by the London Community Gospel Choir . These disparate elements are held together by a beatbox rhythm , a bassline borrowed from " Axel F " , and an accompaniment of piano and Hammond organ .

During one verse , Drummond raps : " Downtown , down and out , dying in the dead of night , with your Special Brew and your special view of a world that could be right " . Joined by the gospel choir 's refrain of " Glory ! " , Drummond continues " [Glory !] What glory ? [Glory !] In a wine bar world ? [Glory !] in a tenement block ? [Glory !] OK , let 's hear it ! " . In each chorus , the gospel choir sing of Jesus ' birth . This juxtaposition of Christmas with urban homeless alcoholism was revisited by Drummond and Cauty 's later arts project , the K Foundation , whose final act to date involved distributing thousands of cans of strong lager to London 's homeless on Christmas Eve in 1995 .

= = Reviews = =

" Down Town " was , after " All You Need Is Love " , the second of The JAMs ' three 1987 singles to become NME " single of the week " . The British music paper called it " One massive hell @-@ hating holler of a song " , and concluded : " [The JAMs] may not be the hippest , sanest or sweetest band to stalk the Earth this year but they 're certainly the most imaginative ... [T] hey 've fired a musical trail so shocking they couldn 't have kept you more on your toes if they 'd stuffed a handgrenade up your ass and sent you out to tap dance in a pair of stilettos " .

The following week , NME journalist James Brown interviewed June Montana and Cressida Cauty (Jimmy Cauty 's wife) , vocalists for Disco 2000 , a KLF Communications side @-@ project produced by Drummond and Cauty . Brown noted the accomplished dance music production of recent KLF Communications releases :

When I broadcasted [" Down Town "] throughout the NME offices last week everyone present from punk , to yuppie , to club basher , to Alexander O 'Neal fan gathered round to ask what it was . The same reactions had greeted " Whitney Joins The JAMs " but none of the writers had gone off and ordered a copy immediately . Likewise the accessibility of [Disco 2000 's] " I Gotta CD " can 't go ignored . And although [The JAMs] only produced it , the surprising dance @-@ awareness .. has come as a surprise to both the KLF and myself . If they were prepared to destroy their abstract political ideas the KLF could quite rapidly become something akin to Kingboy , Rockman , and Waterman .

However , Record Mirror did not approve of The JAMs ' comparatively sample @-@ free offering , calling " Down Town " " a creature tamed " and wondering " without outlaw credentials what 's left ? "

= = Formats and track listings = =

7 " single (UK)

" Down Town (118 BPM) " (edit) - 4 : 01

" Down Town " (voxless) - 5 : 55

12 " single (UK)

" Down Town (118 BPM) " - 7 : 23

" Down Town " (voxless) - 5 : 55

12 " single (UK) (one @-@ sided white label , 500 pressed)

" Down Town " (voxless) - 5 : 55