

= Speed 2 : Cruise Control ( soundtrack ) =

Speed 2 : Cruise Control is the soundtrack album for the 1997 film of the same name . It was released by Virgin Records in May 1997 , nearly a month before the film 's release . Because of the film 's Caribbean setting , the soundtrack features a variety of reggae music from artists including Common Sense , Jimmy Cliff , Maxi Priest and Shaggy . UB40 , Carlinhos Brown and Tamia also have songs on the soundtrack , and appear in the film as entertainers on the cruise ship .

In addition to reggae , the soundtrack features a techno remix of the film score by Tetsuya " TK " Komuro and an R & B song by Tamia ( which is sung by her character in the film ) . Many of the songs were first released on the soundtrack , and five were released as singles . The soundtrack received mixed reviews from critics , although it was praised for featuring reggae music .

= = Music performed in the film = =

Speed 2 : Cruise Control , the action thriller sequel to 1994 's Speed starring Sandra Bullock , Jason Patric and Willem Dafoe , was released in 1997 . The film is set on a cruise ship in the Caribbean ; to complement its setting , the soundtrack primarily features reggae music . Speed 2 director @-@ producer Jan de Bont wanted musicians to appear in the film as the ship 's live entertainment . Four songs heard in Speed 2 were performed by the musicians appearing in the film , three of which were featured on the soundtrack album .

British reggae band UB40 perform " Can 't Help Falling in Love " and " Tell Me Is It True " . The former is a cover of an Elvis Presley song recorded by UB40 for the soundtrack to Sliver ( 1993 ) and released on their album , Promises and Lies ( 1993 ) . " Tell Me Is It True " was first released on the Speed 2 soundtrack album and was later featured on UB40 's studio album , Guns in the Ghetto ( released ten days after the soundtrack album ) . The band was featured in the film after the filmmakers heard a demo of " Tell Me Is It True " , and wrote a cameo appearance for them into the script .

Brazilian singer Carlinhos Brown was also featured in the film , performing " A Namorada " ( from his 1997 album , Alfacamabetizado ) . De Bont chose Brown because he wanted music that was " lively " , and thought Brown 's music was " very physical " and " full of energy " .

While UB40 and Brown appeared in the film as themselves , De Bont also wanted to feature a musician as one of the characters who gets trapped on the ship . He selected Canadian rhythm and blues ( R & B ) singer Tamia because he wanted someone who could sing and act . Tamia did not plan on acting in a film so early in her career , but said the part was " too perfect for [ her ] to resist " . She worked with de Bont and Quincy Jones to choose a song for the film ; they decided on " Make Tonight Beautiful " , written by Diane Warren .

= = Additional music = =

Jamaican musician Shaggy wanted to include his cover of the Erma Franklin song " Piece of My Heart " , but was unable because it was to be used in the soundtrack for an upcoming biographical film about Janis Joplin . He instead used his original song , " My Dream " ; both tracks were later featured on Shaggy 's next album Midnite Lover , released in August 1997 .

American reggae band Common Sense featured their song , " Never Give Up " , from their debut album Psychedelic Surf Groove ( 1996 ) . When they appeared on the soundtrack , they did not have a recording contract with a major record label ; lead singer Jai Vatuk said in June 1997 that the band had begun negotiations with the soundtrack 's label , Virgin Records . ; Virgin re @-@ released Psychedelic Surf Groove later that year , and signed a contract with the band in 1998 .

Jamaican reggae musician Jimmy Cliff contributed to the soundtrack with a re @-@ recording of " You Can Get It If You Really Want " from The Harder They Come ( 1972 ) ; Barbadian reggae singer Rayvon featured his song , " Some People " , before its release on his album Hear Me Cry , released in June 1997 .

British reggae singer Maxi Priest was featured on the soundtrack after recording " It Starts in the

Heart " for the soundtrack to Jungle 2 Jungle ( 1997 ) . For the Speed 2 soundtrack he was asked cover a song in his characteristic style , and recorded a cover of " The Tide Is High " . Priest said his work for Jungle 2 Jungle was " more satisfying " than for Speed 2 because " It Starts in the Heart " was an original song .

The soundtrack also includes a reggae cover of The Police 's " Every Breath You Take " by Betty Wright , which was later released on the Police reggae @-@ tribute album Reggatta Mondatta in July 1997 . According to the San Jose Mercury News , Jamaican singer Diana King was scheduled to have a song on the soundtrack but her music was " judged too plodding " for the film .

In addition to " Make Tonight Beautiful " , other non @-@ reggae songs include a modern rock cover of Carole King 's " I Feel the Earth Move " by Leah Andreone and the R & B song " Crazy " by British singer Mark Morrison . The version of " Crazy " selected for the soundtrack was a remix by the song 's producer , Phil Chill , taken from the 12 @-@ inch single released in 1995 .

Composer Mark Mancina , who scored Speed 2 , wrote a techno instrumental based on the score . The track was entitled " Speed TK Re @-@ mix " , and was performed by Japanese musician Tetsuya " TK " Komuro with non @-@ lexical vocals by Lynn Mabry . The instrumental was TK 's debut in the United States , and was originally entitled " Speed 2 Theme " . " Speed TK Re @-@ mix " played during the film 's ending credits , but Mancina hoped it would be featured in the film .

= = Release = =

The Speed 2 : Cruise Control soundtrack , produced by Budd Carr , was released on May 20 , 1997 ( nearly a month before the film 's June 13 release ) by Virgin Records . The TK Party Mix of " Speed TK Re @-@ mix " was included on the Japanese release as a bonus track . Virgin Music Group executive vice president Nancy Berry said that when compiling the album , a decision was made not only to match the music in the film but to " create an album of summer music " and " a reggae compilation that would stand on its own " . Two songs from the film are not featured on the album : " Can 't Help Falling in Love " and " O mio babbino caro " by Victoria de los Angeles . The album charted in Austria in August 1997 , peaking at number 40 .

To promote the soundtrack album , clips of each song were streamed on the film 's official website and five tracks were sent to radio stations . The first single , " Tell Me Is It True " , was released in late April 1997 and was commercially available on June 3 ; it was also the first single from Guns in the Ghetto . " My Dream " was the second single , followed by " Make Tonight Beautiful " in May and " Never Give Up " and " Speed TK Re @-@ mix " in July . De Bont agreed with Virgin that Mancina 's score could not be released until six months after the soundtrack 's release , to avoid competition . The score was not released as an album until 13 years later , when it was released in a June 2010 limited edition by La @-@ La Land Records .

= = Reception = =

Response to the soundtrack was mixed . J. D. Considine of The Baltimore Sun said the film 's Caribbean setting was a " perfect excuse " for the reggae tracks , and the album 's " most surprising moments come with its cover versions " . Jonathan Takiff of the Philadelphia Daily News awarded the album three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half of five stars for its reggae theme , which he described as a " rare [ ... ] display of soundtrack consistency " . Chuck Campbell from the Scripps @-@ Howard News Service gave the album three out of five stars , commending the " continuity " of the reggae tracks but saying that it should have featured artists more popular than UB40 and it lacked the " commercial appeal " of other soundtracks released at the time . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic said that although none of the soundtrack 's songs are " standouts " , it is a " fairly enjoyable collection of pop @-@ reggae Latin @-@ dance " music .

Mansha Daswani of the South China Morning Post was more critical of the soundtrack , calling it " surprisingly bland " and saying that " tracks that should be catchy [ ... ] are surprisingly weak " ; however , she praised TK 's remix and Maxi Priest 's cover of " The Tide Is High " . David Browne of Entertainment Weekly graded the album " D " , criticizing the " waterlogged " selection of artists and

TK 's remix but saying the reggae collection was a " [ g ] ood idea " given the film 's setting . CMJ New Music Monthly said the soundtrack 's cover versions were unnecessary , contributing to " one of the scariest trends in soundtracks over the last few years " . At the 18th Golden Raspberry Awards in 1998 , " My Dream " was nominated for Worst Song but lost to " the entire song score " from The Postman ( 1997 ) . " Speed TK Re @-@ mix " became popular in Japan ; it was used as entrance music for wrestler Kazushi Sakuraba , and was re @-@ released as a single in 2001 by popular demand .

= = Track listing = =