The KLF
The Sound of Mu(sic)
JAMS CD8

WARNING!

THIS IS STILL NOT THE WHITE ROOM

www.thesoundof.mu by Strictly Kev and Mr Trick
The Sound of Mu(sic)

About three years ago a website appeared at the address www.thesoundof.mu with images of various famous sites - Stonehenge, Easter Island, the Pyramids - featuring the KLF's famous 'T speaker' from their 'White Room' era. Embedded in the sparse and cryptic pages was the 'soundtrack' to a supposedly forthcoming DVD documentary called 'The Sound of Mu(sic)'. The site disappeared at some point in 2007 and hasn't been seen or heard of since - until now.

I have to hold my hands up, along with my good friend Mr Trick and say, "It's a fair cop Guv, it was us what dunnit". Sorry to disappoint the few who actually thought it was the KLF (and there were some - and also a couple who were disappointed when they found out it wasn't them) although any hardcore KLF fan knows that they would never do a thing like this. Or would they... That's an endless debate for another day, the reason I'm revealing this little scam (sorry Bill and Jimmy) is that it was cut off in its prime and now is the time to finish it.

But going back to the beginning: when it first appeared KLF fans took a little while to find it, but eventually it climbed up the Google pages. Keen-eyed page refreshers found that the intro image contained random messages that changed each time you clicked on the site. Announcements ranged from "Warning! This is still not the White Room" to "Lord, Now is the Time". The most cryptic was "KLF info sheet #5 is not thought to exist - JAMS CD8". This was a reference to the info and press releases that the KLF issued in their lifespan, No.5 mysteriously never made it and the last CD they released was JAMS CD7 whilst ours was CD8. I was really getting into the minutiae of the band's history here, picking over the smallest crumb to act as a signpost for true fans to make a connection whilst introducing subtle wordplay and imagery that could well have been part of the JAMMs/KLF mythos.
When you entered the site proper you were redirected to a separate window with the legend “The hills are alive...” and an image of the T speaker sharing the hillside at Easter Island. If you laid the cursor over the three dots after ‘alive’ you got a link to another page: this time, jet fighters flying over a giant ‘Justified’ pyramid and “…with the sound...”. Further dot-browsing turned up another link to a final page - the T speaker amid the kind of hilly meadow Julie Andrews would have frolicked in and the line, “...of Mu(sic)” along with a tracklist.

This was embedded with all sorts of teasers that would tickle any red-blooded KLF fancier; references to ‘Mu Mu County’ and ‘The Black Room’ - unfinished but existing KLF material - as well as ‘K Cera Cera’, their anti-war anthem. Punning abounded as well with ‘What Time Is Lord?’ (geddit?) and ‘3am, Echo Beach’ - Jimmy had recently remixed the Martha & The Muffins classic. Below all this was the line, “Scenes from the forthcoming documentary ‘The Sound of Mu(sic)’”. In the middle of the lower speaker was a pulsing red woofer cone which, when clicked, took the user to a 30-minute mp3 download of the ‘soundtrack’, an ambient collage similar to KLF classics like ‘Chill Out’ and ‘Waiting (for) The Rites of Mu’.

0 - 1.35 THE SOUND OF MU(sic)
1.35 - 10.44 MU MU COUNTY
10.44 - 15.02 NORTHERN LIGHTS
15.02 - 18.47 WHAT TIME IS LORD?
18.47 - 21.07 INTO THE BLACK ROOM
21.07 - 24.03 THE HILLS ARE ALIVE
24.03 - 25.30 3am, ECHO BEACH
25.30 - 27.51 K CERA CERA (war is never over)
27.51 - end THE SOUND OF SI(lence)
Among fans all over the world, this provided much forum debate, everywhere from mash up message boards to dedicated KLF sites, even one from Israel. Some swore it was by a group of German fans, others claimed it was just ‘Chill Out’ remixed with a few new bits. Some tried to trace the source of the site and deduced that it was from the States (it wasn’t) and one got excited when he found it was registered under the name ‘Penkiln Burn’ (Bill Drummond’s publishing company).

Comments ranged from “Whoever is responsible... it sounds like they got hold of the KLF’s source material...” “I hope this gets released!”, ”to “It really could mean that they are back!”, “Even titles of the pages on the site put together state: available soon, jams CD8”. The Hedphonesex blog said, “... even if this is the doing of some fakers / fans it’s a worthwhile piece of work.” Mark Easley from ireallylovemusic wrote, “someone doing a great rip off or there are stirrings in the KLF/JAMMS world”. DJ Hickory Dickory Doc (before I even knew him, it’s such a small world - we truly are musical soul brothers) said, “Whoever made this mix did it in a good marketing way so that it looked like something the KLF would have released but did not”. He also spotted Mr Trick’s Beach Boys inclusion not being from any original KLF material too.

And the sheep say ‘Mu’

I have no idea if it’s authentic or not, where the KLF are involved there is no way of separating truth from myth... however it seems unlikely that they’ll reneg on their promise to retire from the music industry until world peace is established. Bill Drummond is nothing if not stubborn.

The facts are that the album sounds exactly like a followup to the classic Chill Out, pooled with familiar KLF samples, and the site has three new pictures of unidentifiable KLF imagery. This album has supposedly been given the code number JAWSU06, and the site states that it contains ‘sources from the forthcoming documentary “The Sound of Mu”’.

It lacks a couple of the truly magical moments that lit up Chill Out... such as

This is just a FANPAGE...

The Hills Are Alive...

Seems there's three random dirt.

Someone just sent me an interesting link you should really check out - The Sound Of Mu. Nicely done, and there is an hour long KLF mix to download available there. But there is even more!

According to the website - which gives no information by whom it is done - this is taken from a forthcoming documentary entitled “The Sound Of Mu”. No idea whether this is for real or not, but I guess you should keep an eye on that page.

*Bill Drummond and Mark Manning will be reading from their new book “The Wild Highway Road”, London WC1 at 6.30pm on August 25th 2005:*

JAM5 CD8 Beeloyer 5 Track 5C

- 01:135 - Sound of Mu
- 02:09 - Mu Mu Country
- 03:04 - Northern Lights
- 03:13 - What Time Is Love
- 02:23 - Into The Black Range
- 02:55 - Hills Are Alive
- 03:33 - Echo Beach
- 02:15 - K Cera Cera (War)
- 03:18 - Sound of Silence
- 02:22 - KLF/Beeloyer/Audio/Source

“Bootleg” ---

as said, seems to be just bits of ‘chill out’, with some bits of ‘space’ & other sample nick ‘wasting’ at all the other stuff that uses the same source material

nearly mixed though - the promo material is quite convincing too. Very well done - all

no style, no pop
Imaginary CD front cover

THE SOUND OF Mu[sic]
MU MU COUNTY
NORTHERN LIGHTS
WHAT TIME IS LONG?
INTO THE BLACK ROOM
THE HILLS ARE ALIVE
3am, ECHO BEACH
K CERA CERA (war is never over)
THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Imaginary CD back cover

The KLF
The Sound of Mu[sic]
JAMS CHU
KLF

MADE, MIXED & MUTATED BY THE KLF
This ‘original’ composition by Trick had kicked off the whole idea in the first place. He had made an ambient version of the Beach Boys’ ‘Wouldn’t It Be Nice’ in the style of the ‘Chill Out’ album. This was complete with sheep effects and all manner of other found sounds and he mailed it over to me for use in a mix I was doing in a similar manner (originally for Solid Steel). We slipped this ‘unreleased’ gem into the rest of the KLF material and only a few picked up on it as not being part of their musical output in the past. Also I couldn’t resist using ‘The Sound of Music’s’ famous ‘the hills are alive, with the sound of mu...’; cutting it off before it finished and alluding to the JAMMs’ publishing credit on early records. This just fitted with the Easter Island imagery, like a jigsaw puzzle and we had more and more fun piecing the ‘story’ together.

All the images I’d compiled for the site had been intended to look as though they could have been real, either in a KLF project past or in some fanboy fantasy of the future. We made the site as fans of what had been and what could have been, because the KLF had something so good going and they cut it off at its peak. It was exactly the right time for them to have done so because they ensured there would never have been any chance for them to go downhill, get stale or disappear into irrelevance. They were there and then they were gone - if only more groups had their courage... The downside of this however is that many fans didn’t have any, for want of a better word, ‘closure’ on the band, leaving so many questions, “what ifs?” and unfinished projects behind to be pored over, unravelled and expanded upon. It was these fragments that we used as material to both authenticate and entice people in to the site. The mix contained a section of the unfinished ‘Black Room’ album, numerous sounds buried deep within lesser-known remixes and even a cameo from the late John Peel exclaiming “Is it the KLF or isn’t it?” I had, in fact, made up proper CD artwork whilst making the website images which was later visible on the second ‘burning’ stage of the project.

One enterprising / cheeky fucker even downloaded it all and sold a mocked-up copy on eBay for £40, claiming he’d got it at a record fair! Unfortunately he emblazoned KOPYRIGHT LIBERATION FRONT across the top of the cover in the wrong typeface, ruining all my hard work and making it look just like a bootleg.

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A few months later new images replaced the old, this time with the theme of burning prevalent as with the K Foundation’s million pound arson stunt. Images of burning ‘Sound of Mu(sic)’ CDs and LPs, echoing the back cover of ‘Who Killed The JAMMs?’ featured with the lines “Burnt Offerings...” and “1 Million Pounds Can’t Be Wrong” (an Elvis reference). The main site images were replaced with two Stonehenge images and a final burning T speaker completing the phrase “Lost in Mu(sic)”, “Caught in a trap...”, “...no turning back”. The strapline again declared ‘Scenes from the forthcoming documentary...’ with ‘Soundtrack available now at www.thesoundof.mu’. Oh the anticipation! I once arrived at the Ninja Tune office to find an employee with the Stonehenge image I’d created as the desktop image on his Mac and had to keep a straight face when I asked about it and he replied that he was looking forward to the documentary.
No Turning Back... COMING 2006
Hi there, I was just tracking back using Add Stats this Monday morning - clicked on one of the search links and found this post on Dub dot dash dating back to August 25, 2005.1

It's great mix-up of the classic 1990's CHILL OUT album - the beginnings of the ambient scene.

The blurb reads that it's a soundtrack to a documentary coming out sometime in 2006.1

In true KLF style that's all I can find out - If you happen to know more - please drop me a line!

***MP3*** SECRET KLF MIX: The Sound Of Mu(sic)

Original KLF link
(In true KLF fashion each link is in the last of the three dots,......)

posted by S.A.T @ 6:11 AM
Lost In Mu (Sic)

The Sound of Mu(sic)

www.thesoundof.mu
The second reason was that there was to be a third and final part to the ‘project’: firstly there would be a new change of images at the site, a solitary opening page with the line ‘2007 - What the Fuck Is Going On?’. Now, any KLF/JAMMs fan will see the significance of this as it’s 20 years since this immortal phrase was first issued - obviously as ‘1987 - What the...’ - and the site going down only added to the situation as those paying attention would have been thinking of this fact.

Lastly, we were going to print up large flyposters of fake release ads for the “documentary”, have a friend post them up around certain media hotspots in the capital and photograph them for the site. The thinking behind this was that if people saw images of actual posters they would start to believe that there really was a film coming out. Then maybe the media would jump on it and we’d have a good laugh as they chased a non-existent film.

I made around 20 variations on different designs for potential posters, which are being shown here for the first time. These had mildly provocative straplines like, ‘Burn The Beat’ and ‘Burn The Bastards’ (after their old single), plus ‘Adding Fuel To The Fire’ and ‘No Turning Back...’. They were all meant to look like scenes from a film, snapshots for promo purposes or frames from a trailer. These are the ones I was most happy with and three were earmarked to be printed up for the final phase.

Then life got in the way, both our partners gave us children and the poster thing was put on the back burner. Then the site disappeared. It’s a shame it didn’t all happen as we’d hoped but we hadn’t actually worked out what we were going to do for the encore, after the poster images had gone up and (hopefully) the web was buzzing about this impending film. I guess we would probably have made it up as we went along, much the same as Bill and Jimmy did, but it was fun to play at being the KLF for a while.
These two posters, along with the 'Lost In Mu[sic]' Stonehenge one on the preceding pages, made the shortlist to be printed up into flyposters and pasted up around London before the project ceased. On the next pages are examples and variations of other designs of those that didn't make it.
Burning vinyl and CD versions of the imaginary 'The Sound of Mu[sic]' release.
Postscript: the outtakes
Postscript:

Whilst creating all these images I made many others which weren’t as successful and didn’t make the grade of authenticity I was looking for. Again, these have never been seen until now...

Early images for the various spreads to illustrate the site, the one above places the ‘I speaker’ onto the actual ‘The Sound of Music’ film program which I got from eBay and adapted. The floral font was dropped as it was too obscure a reference and The KLF would never have used that kind of typeface. A real shame that the Easter Island one to the left didn’t work, the pyramids to the right were incredibly difficult to fake as the ghetto blaster just looked wrong and stuck-on.

The scale made the pyramid look tiny, the top left hand one rectified this with the inclusion of people but it still didn’t look right. The above image was meant to be an ‘it’s grim up north’-type scene where a pyramid was discovered in remote farmland.
A few of the rejected web spreads that would illustrate the ‘film’ and mix, I really like the top left sepia tinted speaker on Easter Island but it didn’t fit with anything else visually. The three other black and white corner photos are actual KLF images, I thought that by mixing up real and fantasy images the spotters would be more likely to go for it. Notice slightly different titles for some of the mix sections on the lower right page.
No Turning Back...

More aborted images for the burning stage of the project.

This was a *Strictly Kev* and *Mr Trick* fantasy with apologies to The JAMMs, The Timelords, The KLF etc etc...

Music mutation by DJ Food & Mr Trick, design and image manipulation by Openmind

“Everybody lie down on the floor and keep calm”