

3 CANAL

# HEROES OF WHA?



The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024



A Warrior is a Hunter He  
calculates everything. that's  
control. once his calculations  
are over he acts, that's abandon.  
A Warrior is not a leaf at the mercy  
of the wind no one can push  
him NO one can make him do  
things against himself  
or his better judgment  
A Warrior is tuned to survive and  
he survives in the best of  
all possible fashions

The Board Collection 1997-2024

Carlos Castaneda



3 CANAL



1. LET THE SESSION BEGIN [featuring the man called shaft + superblue]: manwarren, roberts, kewley, bishop, ashby; produced by omari ashby + wendell manwarren; arranger omari ashby; engineering + mixed by marka; guitars dean williams; iron brian 'ragga' williams; recorded at d'yard.
  2. WELCOME: manwarren, roberts, kewley, ashby, bishop; produced + arranged by omari ashby; programmed by the man called shaft; guitars dean williams; engineered + mixed by marka; recorded at d'yard.
  3. BEN LION Writer: Tanker. Produced by Andre Tanker & Sheldon Benjamin
  4. REVOLUTION Manwarren Kewley & Benjamin. Producer Sheldon Benjamin
  5. IS WHA? [featuring resistance + karega mandela]: manwarren, roberts, kewley, ashby, masimba; produced by omari ashby, wendell manwarren + roger roberts; trumpet enrique moore; tenor + baritone sax pedro lezama; trombone lambert philip; recording engineers marka + samuel jack; mixed by marka; recorded at d'yard.
  6. HEAT IN THE PLACE: manwarren, roberts, kewley, gurley; produced + arranged by osse gurley; background vocals fate; engineer samuel jack; mixed by dennis 'denny' de souza jr; recorded at d'yard.
  7. WATCH DEM: manwarren, roberts, kewley, benjamin; produced, arranged + engineered by Shel Shok; guitars dean williams; recorded at i.p. studios.
  8. SALT: manwarren, roberts, kewley, benjamin; produced, arranged + mixed by Shel Shok; recording engineer marka; guitars dean williams; recorded at d'yard.
  9. TALK YUH TALK: manwarren, kewley; produced, arranged + mixed by Shel Shok; recording engineer neil bernard; mixed at bad na ras studios n.y. recorded at agra 9 studios.
  10. BLUE: manwarren, kewley; produced, arranged, engineered + mixed by graham wilson; recorded at gw music productions.
  11. MUD MADNESS: manwarren, roberts, kewley; produced, arranged + engineered by graham wilson; mixed by martin 'mice' raymond; background vocals mairon ali + cecilia salazar; recorded at gw music productions.
  12. ONE IN A MILLION: manwarren, kewley; produced, arranged + mixed by Shel Shok; recorded at caribbean sound basin; mixed at bad na ras studio n.y.
  13. LAS' CARNIVAL: manwarren, roberts, kewley; produced, arranged + mixed by nicholas brancker; engineer marka; recorded at d'yard.
  14. MIND YUH BUSINESS: manwarren, roberts, kewley; produced + arranged by carl 'beazer' henderson + ken holder; engineer marka; horn arrangements pedro lezama; horns pedro lezama; enrique moore + david jacob; percussion ronnie sylvester; mixed by martin 'mice' raymond; recorded at d'yard.
- BONUS MIX. THIS IS HELL: manwarren, roberts, kewley, gurley; featuring peter minshall; produced by ossie gurley + wendell manwarren; arranged by ossie gurley; engineer samuel jack; recorded at d'yard. ALL TRACKS MASTERED BY LAURITZ LIDDELOW.

we say thanks and praises to the most high  
for the abundant blessings over time  
and a very special thanks & big love  
to everyone else we say give  
thanks in advance for the  
abundant blessings  
we are about  
to receive  
give



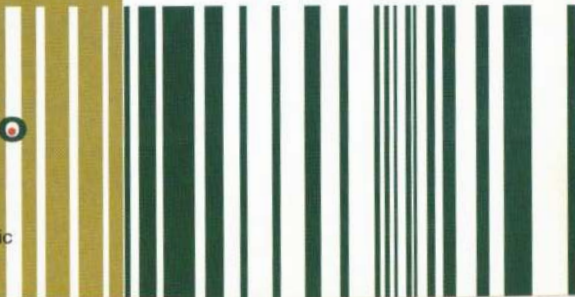
thanks

The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024

4 john

a true hero

Of wha? u live 4 ever in the music

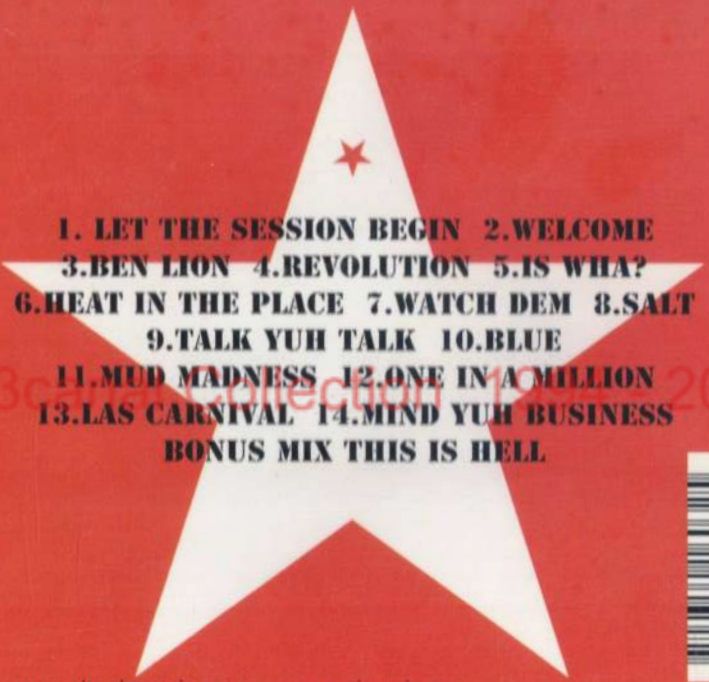


3



5 YEARS IS A BLINK OF AN EYE + A LIFETIME IN THE MUSIC  
WE BEGAN BY SAYING 3CANAL MAKING A STATEMENT AND  
SO WE REMAIN TRUE TO OUR WORLD  
RAPSO SOLDIERS, HEROES OF WHA? IN THIS WAR OF  
REBELLION





**1. LET THE SESSION BEGIN 2.WELCOME**

**3.BEN LION 4.REVOLUTION 5.IS WHA?**

**6.HEAT IN THE PLACE 7.WATCH DEM 8.SALT**

**9.TALK YUH TALK 10.BLUE**

**11.MUD MADNESS 12.ONE IN A MILLION**

**13.LAS CARNIVAL 14.MIND YUH BUSINESS**

**BONUS MIX THIS IS HELL**



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The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024



## 1- Where Is The Love? (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Benjamin)

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by Sheldon 'Shel Shok' Benjamin.  
Guitars Dean Williams. Tassa malick Tassa Drummers. Additional engineering Samuel Jack.  
Recorded at d'yard studios. Mixed by Jean Leguay

I try to understand why it's so hard to be a man / Oh lord I'm just a simple man please help me understand / Why it's so hard just to love / Just to love and to be loved / I look around and sometimes wonder do we really love / Where is the love that we keep on dreaming of / I look inside my heart and wonder do we really love sometimes / And where is the peace that we pray will never cease / Oh lord help me to understand if this was meant to be / Where is the love? / That we keep on dreaming of / Where is the love, mankind? / It seems like the more that I search is the more I cannot find / That promise of a life where love & peace dwells in our hearts and minds / Is love an elusive dream something that will never be / I hope that we'll awake to see that love is our destiny / Where is the love that we keep on dreaming of / I look around the world and wonder do we really love sometimes / And where is the peace that we pray will never cease / Oh lord help me to understand if this was ever meant to be / Love to the world Love to the world / The joy of the little boys and girls / First time see a flowers unfold / What a sight to behold / Love to the world Love to the world / The joy of the little boys and girls / First time see it die & fold / Now they know what is nature's role

## 2- Over The Mountain (Manwarren)

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by Samuel Jack.  
Additional production by Jabari Palmer & Lex Superstar for Livewirez entertainment.  
Mixed by Jean Leguay. Guitars Dean Williams. Recorded at d'yard studios.

In these times of trouble and strife and tribulation / Sometimes you find it hard to deal with the situation / But in those moments look to the mountain / Spread yuh arms say lord Ah coming / Ah coming ah coming ah coming / Meet me on the other side of the mountain Holy father / Ah coming ah coming ah coming / so take me over take me over yeah / take me over take me over yeah / take me over d mountain / take me over got to find something / take me over looking for meaning / got to keep on / Building a bridge from nothing to something / Filling the void to stop me from tumbling / Into a pit of pity and doubting / Wondering if nothing could bring me something / Over the walls The walls of confusion / Jumping d fence to a new conclusion / Facing up to the realization Something from nothing / leaves you with nothing / but hope / So take me over / take me over yeah take me over / take me over yeah take me / over d mountain / take me over got to find something / take me over looking for meaning / GOT to keep on

The 30th Anniversary Edition 1994 - 2024

### 3- Oye Como Va (Can U Feel It?)

An adaptation of "Oye Como Va" (Puente)

Produced programmed & arranged by Carlos Molina & Omari Ashby

Additional production in NY by Jabari Palmer & Lex Superstar for LiveWirez entertainment. Mixed by Prince Carter

Alexander. Assisted by: Juan Leonor

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Chorus Oye Como Va me ritmo / Bueno pagosa / mulata / Ay yo amigo listen how de ting go / Now is time to fling a little / Spanish in the lingo / Salsa rapso hip hop calypso / Come and flavour up we rapso wit yuh lingo-o / Spanish Rap / Chorus / I say to listen to the music between you and me / inevitable like the river to the sea / From the island into the mainland / We make the harmonies the melodious rhapsodies / For all the world to see the possibilities / Of living in love and unity / Spanish Rap / Chorus / Amaracho watch my pecho, touch the techno / Rapsoman electrifying I'm rhyme-dancing / I know the feeling you feeling you feeling / So dance and show miñ that yuh feeling it / Jump and show miñ that yuh feeling it / Scream Oye Como Va if yuh feeling it / Get mad now! Scream

**Ole!**

### 4- HOW MANY TIMES ? [Manwarren,Kewley,Roberts]

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by Sheldon 'Shel Shok' Benjamin.

Guitars Dean Williams. Recorded at d'yard studios. Mixed by Vince McLean

How many times do I have to say that the way I feel is the way I feel? How many times? And how many times do I have to say that my love is real? How many times? Ah sit down watching the wheels everyday / ah just watching the scenes and the games that we play / everywhere ah watch the wheels go round / and somehow ah keep on hearing the same old song / How many times we go sit down dey / and hear de same ole lies in the same old way / How many times do I have to say / that the people aint taking dat no way / Ah been listening everyday / the more you talk is the less you say / Oh how you deviate and you manipulate / You must be take me for a fool / And when I look into your eyes / All I see is a web of lies / How much straw can the camel take / Before his back begin to break / How many times How many signs How many words / How many rhymes How many singers How many songs / When will we right the many wrongs. How many times / Globally thinking politically minded / ah is a youth well yuh know ah right-handed / to point the ills out that's where miñ mind is / Point them out Stanny point them out / Point to the left can't see where their mind is / Point to the right and they still look blinded / Point to the people who muddle in miñ business / lord time to end this stupidity now + Na nana nana nana na

### 5 - IMPERIA [Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Molina]

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by Carlos Molina & Omari Ashby.

Guitars Dean Williams. Mixed by Jean Legoux. Recording engineer Mark "Mark" Williams. Recorded at d'yard studios

A warrior is a hunter, he calculates everything  
Once his calculations are over, he lets go,  
He abandons he acts. That's control  
Imperia Imperial Impervious  
Imperia a re-definition of the limits of expression.

Chorus 3canal come down in the power of the Trinity

Imperia

Peace Love + Possibility

In yuh area.

Verse When I was a boy I see the world so huge  
When I thought about time I used to get confused

When I go to school so much things I could be

Endless possibilities.

Now I making music that filling me with pride

Now I making music for man woman and child

Now I humming melodies that filling me with truth

Peace + Love is the roots, Well.

Chorus

Verse Everywhere that we go

The people want to know

What is the name of the flow?

We call it Rapso

Rapso.

And it don't need no definition

Described by no nation

To succeed in world provocation

Yuh better tune in yuh radio station

Tune in yuh station to good vibrations

Presently rocking the nation we call it

Rapso

Chorus

Verse When I watch the world I see the world so small

When I think about time sometimes I feel to bawl

When I look at life, life looking back at me

One thing I know about is possibility

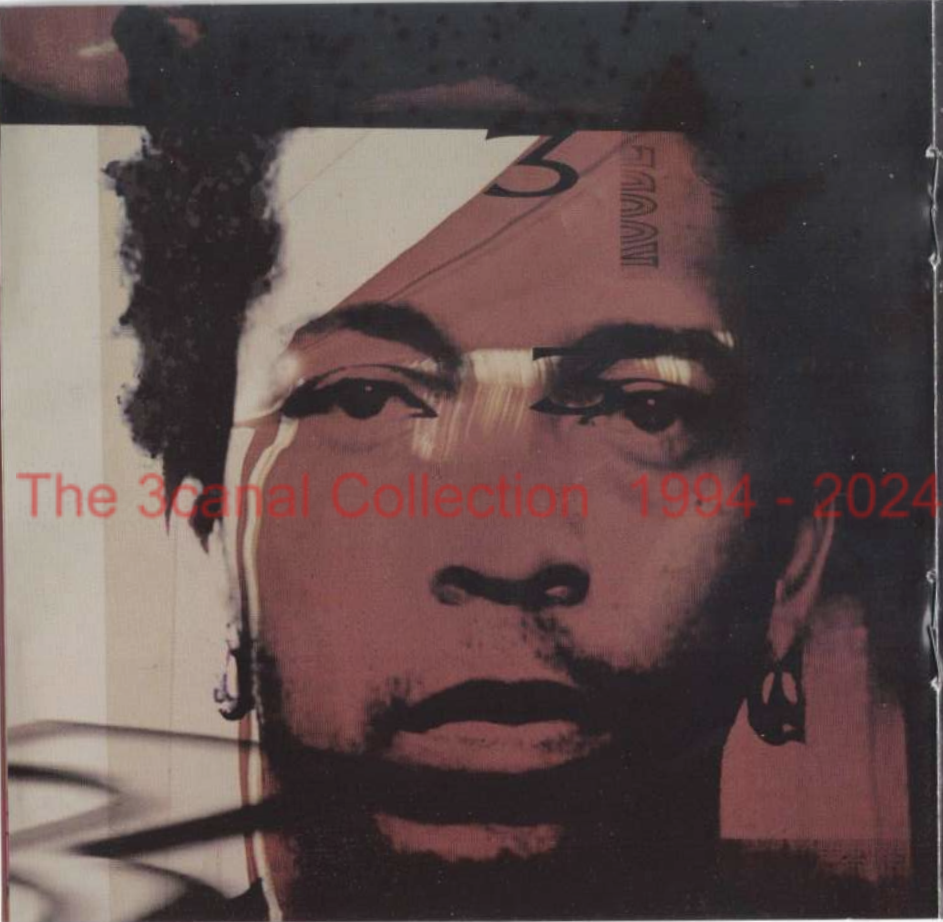
Now I making music that filling me with pride

Now I bring the smiles to man woman and child

Now I sing the songs to share the happiness

Peace and Love is the best. Yes.

The 30-year Collection 1994 - 2024



The 30 Canal Collection 1994 - 2024

### 6. EMERGENCY (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts)

Produced, programmed, arranged & recorded by Sheldon 'Shel Shok' Benjamin.  
Guitars Dean Williams. Recorded at d'yard studios. Mixed by Vince McLean.

Chorus Emergency! the whole place shot up / Move or yuh sure pick it up : Emergency the whole place is red / Jump high jump low somebody dead / Some of us who see really and truly blind / And some of us who hear still deaf to the sign / I have a permanent hate stained on my mind / The knowledge of right and the profits of crime / With pressures of bling bearing down on me / I end up falling prey to my own vanity / My own vanity now what do I see / Chorus / I cry every day for the gift of clear vision / With a tear in my eye I persist on my mission / Got to watch every night for the read highlight / Flowing out flashing out of my head tonight / Got to put up a fight with all of my might / One day I pray we'll see the light / Chorus / Somebody dead oh, Sombody dead / Somebody dead oh, Sombody dead / Death and destruction is all part of life / As the weak and the strong struggle to survive / Now I know that we cannot live life without pain / But why kill another for material gain / Are we doomed to repeat the mistakes from the past / How much can we take how long will it last / Now it seems that intelligence is wasted on man / For all I can see is destruction at hand

### 7. WHAT A FEELING (Manwarren, Kewley)

Produced, programmed, arranged & recorded by Sheldon 'Shel Shok' Benjamin.  
Guitars Dean Williams. Recorded at d'yard studios. Mixed by Jean Leguay.

I say get up! Smoke some hard weed! / Get happy! Get high! / Express yourself / Joy and wonder alive don't act surprised / Come I come to spread it with some good positive vibes / True mission ah bliss pure love and happiness / Sleeping in like a thick blue mist and / Everybody alive celebrate alive / Come I come to spread it with some good positive vibes / Show yuh friends the love and yuh neighbour the love / Thus accepting the blessings from above / What a feeling a wonderful feeling, what a feeling I am feeling tonight / What a feeling oh what a feeling / What a feeling a wonderful feeling, what a feeling I am feeling tonight / What a feeling oh what a feeling, somehow I feel that everything is going to be alright, is going to be alright / Ah say the father never give yuh more than you could cope / Father Jah help me carry this load / Everyday as I walk on my road / I keep my eyes firmly fixed on my goal / In my vision a beautiful sight / All Jah children here gathered tonight / Raise your voices in spit of the fight down / Somehow I feel that everything is going to be all right / What a feeling a wonderful feeling, what a feeling I am feeling tonight / What a feeling oh what a feeling / What a feeling a wonderful feeling, what a feeling I am feeling tonight / What a feeling oh what a feeling, somehow I feel that everything is going to be alright, is going to be alright / I say get up! Smoke some hard weed! / Get happy! Get high! / Express yourself / Joy and wonder alive don't act surprised / Come I come to spread it with some good positive vibes / True mission ah bliss pure love and happiness / Sleeping in like a thick blue mist and / Everybody alive celebrate alive / Come I come to spread it with some good positive vibes / Show yuh friends the love and yuh neighbour the love / Thus accepting the blessings from above / What a feeling a wonderful feeling, what a feeling I am feeling tonight / What a feeling oh what a feeling / What a feeling a wonderful feeling, what a feeling I am feeling tonight / What a feeling oh what a feeling, somehow I feel that everything is going to be alright, is going to be alright / I say get up! Smoke some hard weed! / Roll a joint! bring out the wine! invite your friends over! / We gonna have a party

### 8. Blow Wind Blow (Manwarren,Kewley,Roberts,Benjamin)

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by  
Sheldon 'Shel Shok' Benjamin. Guitars Dean Williams. Additional engineering Samuel Jack.  
Recorded at d'yard studios. Mixed by Vince Mclean.

I feel a cool breeze blow, cool breeze / Chorus Blow wind blow turning me non-stop / I will never stop dig up the roots of corrupt / That is my way this is how this rapsoman stop / Back to the top again / The story goes / You say you care 'bout the people / You say you care 'bout the children / You say you care 'bout the education system / But that is the roots of our problem / You say you care about health / And you care 'bout the poor / Well the poor can't afford the doctor bill / So what's to become of the poor / Chorus / This is the voice of the voiceless / This is the voice of the distressed / This is the voice in the wilderness / Crying out for bread and justice / Another voice of rage crying out in pain / Another victim of the vampire system / Prepare to reap the whirlwind / Chorus / I'm standing firm like the rock of Gibraltar / Firm from my position I will not alter / Firm like a rock I'm standing firm / I'm standing firm like the rock of Gibraltar / Firm from my position I will not alter / Firm like a rock I'm standing firm / This is the voice of the voiceless / This is the voice of the distressed / This is the voice in the wilderness / Crying out for bread and justice / Another voice of rage crying out in pain / Another victim of the vampire system / Prepare to reap the whirlwind

### 9. Together (Manwarren,Kewley,Burnham)

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by John Jube Altino & Corey Burnham. Guitars Dean Williams.  
Additional engineering Samuel Jack. Recorded at G.W. Music & d'yard studios. Mixed by Jean Leguay

Together we moving yeah / Together we grooving yeah yeah woe dayday / Moving yeah / Together we grooving yeah woe dayday / Together we moving, together we groove, yes together we moving / Together we crossing the chasms that seek to divide us but nothing can harm us as long as we moving with love / Together we building participating, together we sharing, together we building bridges through space and time, filling the gaps in our hearts and our minds with love / I need you in my life, together, everyday by my side, together, come together love one another and together we'll arrive, together forever and ever and ever as one / Together we moving fast gathering strength as we pass, a hurricane of togetherness is we not I so we cannot miss, yeah / Together we striving, together we thriving not just surviving but realising the vision of love over time over you over me 'til eternity / Together we growing together we knowing together we showing / Together we know that we grow when we move it together so come let we move it together / Together we moving yeah / Together we grooving yeah yeah woe dayday / Moving yeah / Together we grooving yeah woe dayday / I need you in my life, yeah together, everyday by my side, together come together love one another and together we'll arrive, together forever and ever and ever as one / Ever look down in ah ants nest, check it out is no contest yes / Everybody they work and strive building a nation and taking it high / Check out the honey-bee vibe sweet engineering down in the hive / Is about we not I so come come together we moving / Together is we not I / Together we touch the sky / Together we leaping bounds cause yuh know that together we moving on / Together is we not I / Together we take the sky / Together we leaping bounds cause yuh know that together we moving

### 10. I believe (Manwarren, Roberts)

Produced programmed arranged & recorded by Samuel Jack.  
Additional production by: Jabari Palmer & Lex Superstar for  
Liveness entertainment. Recorded at d'yard studios. Mixed by Jean Leguay

I believe in love, I believe in love, I believe in love / I believe in the power that come from above / I believe in the need to believe in something / I believe in the power of believing / But most of all I believe in love / I believe in the love that ah feeling / And all of the pain it revealing / But most of all I believe in Love / Chorus I believe, I believe, I believe in Love / So bring yuh love come bring yuh love come come bring yuh love / I believe, I believe, I believe in Love / Everyday people asking brother / Tell mi what yuh believe in / They want to know what I believe what I believe deep down in mi soul / They want to know what ah stand for / And what ah prepare to die for / They want to know if I believe if I believe that man in control / Tell them no way / Chorus I believe, I believe, I believe in Love / So bring yuh love come bring yuh love come come bring yuh love / I believe, I believe, I believe in Love / Bridge Yuh cyah stop the sun from shining / Yuh cyah stop the breeze from blowing / Yuh cyah stop the rain from falling / Yuh cyah stop the love from flowing / Yuh cyah stop the sun from shining / Yuh cyah stop the breeze from blowing / Yuh cyah stop the rain from falling / Love like a river Joy like a flood / So bring it down / Yuh have to believe in something / You know what I believe in? / Chorus I believe, I believe, I believe in Love / So bring yuh love, come bring yuh love, come come bring yuh love / I believe, I believe, I believe in Love / So what yuh believe in / What you believe, what yuh believe, what you believe / Do you believe in love? / I believe in love

### ILLUMINA+R

[Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Sawhney]  
Produced programmed arranged recorded  
& mixed by Nitin Sawhney.

Chorus I'm walking with my father hand in hand / I shall fear no man / Cause he showers me with blessings from above / He covers me with love / I'm not afraid to try / Be not afraid / To put up a fight / Be not afraid / To stand up for what's right / Oh children walk in the light / And everything is going to be all right / Chorus / When Jah blow breath he did done make mi mind / Done pave the road that was to stride / Yuh know Stanny as a disciplined child / So by the grace of Jah yuh know ah bound tuh survive / Cause I walk away from hate I walk away from pain And the things that drive me insane / I walk away from fight and I walk towards the light / Chorus / In this life yuh never know / What the journey has in store / I dream one day we'll find a new world of love and blessings divine / So cover me / Cover me / Shower me / Set me free

### On+On

[Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Molau]

Produced programmed & arranged by Carlos Molau

Recording engineer Mark "Marka" Wright. Recorded at d yard studios. Mixed by Jean Leguay.

Dreadies on a mission, blessed mission, destination Zion+on+on+on / Representing the power of the word in the riddem / Rapsa soldiers on a mission in fulfilment of the vision / In perpetuation of the oral tradition / As it was in the beginning we keep going on+on+on / Deliver me from distraction / As I envision my mission / Bless those who gone + those to come / Who pave the way + going to lead the struggle on / A Rapsoman know that love is life / And life is great / When you entertain to educate / Go for your goals and live out your fate / Yeah we dealing with the nowness of now / Give thanks and praise in advance for the abundant blessings / We're all about to receive / Give thanks.

The 3rd Edition - 2024

1- Where Is The Love? (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Benjamin) 3:37

2- Over The Mountain (Manwarren) 6:47

3- Oye Como Va (Cuban Train) An adaptation of "Oye Como Va" (Piaf) 4:34

4- HOW MANY TIMES? (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Benjamin) 4:04

5- IMPERIA (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Molina) 3:18

6- EMERGENCY (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts) 3:57

7- WHAT IS FEELING (Manwarren, Kewley) 3:53

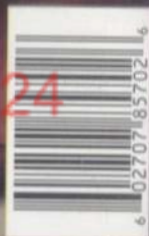
8- Blow Wind Blow (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Benjamin) 3:54

9- Together (Manwarren, Kewley, Burnham) 4:34

10- I believe (Manwarren, Roberts) 4:42

11- ILLUMINATA (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Sawhney) 6:46

On+On (Manwarren, Kewley, Roberts, Molina) 2:31



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The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024



Special thanks to our  
rituals family & maximum  
love + respect  
to d'yard crew

special  
special love to  
our management  
@riddums  
big L

this is it!

mission  
world  
domination.



## the book of blue 1997

blue blue, blue, dudup remix,  
once again, what to do when yuh feeling blue, deep in the blue



## a rakak kie bonay 1998

one in a million, for the people, invocation,  
mud madness, on wid de show, for the people,  
million apella, mud and more mud, blue



## the fire next time 2000

overture, enter the dragon, over the mountain,  
cut + clear, chat chat chatter, mass confusion,  
talk yuh talk, revolution 99, we coming down  
irie tempo, mind yuh business, yuh feeling it,  
mantra, peace chant, alive,  
umbayao, powermusic, i believe,  
walk in the power



## heroes of wha? 2001

let the session begin, welcome, is wha?,  
heat in de place, watch dem, salt,  
talk yuh talk, blue, mud madness,  
one in a million, las carnival, mind yuh business,  
irie tempo, umbayao, i believe,  
this is hell



## trinity 2002

where is the love?, over the mountain, oye como va,  
how many times?, imperia, emergency,  
what a feeling, blow wind blow, together,  
i believe, illuminata, on + on



## 2003canal 2003

hi!, roll it, fools

## the 3canal Music Collection

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also available  
limited edition  
the 3canal Video Collection

featuring  
Blue, Mud Madness, One in a Million  
Black Attack, Talk yuh talk, Salt,  
Revolution/We Free

The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024

# fools

mansarren, kesley, roberts  
aka misleaders

© 2003 canal

produced programmed + arranged  
the phoenix

co-produced  
dean williams

vocal arrangement  
3canal

guitars  
dean williams

flute, bassoon, oboe + fiddle  
dawud orr

recorded + mixed  
giandre diaz

recorded at  
studio 161

also by 3canal  
move  
roll it



## The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024



ROLL IT AKA DO WHAT DE MUSIC TELL YUH



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### Vol.1 Festival

1. GoodNews ★
2. Blue
3. Mud.Madness
4. One.In.A.Millon
5. Down.De.Road
6. Talk.Yuh.Talk
7. Mind.Yuh.Business
8. Irie.Tempo
9. Las.Carnival
10. Salt
11. Welcome
12. Fet.The.Session.Begin
13. Heat.In.The.Place
14. Watch.Dem
15. Clear.D.Way
16. Revolution
17. Roll.It
18. Run.Come ★

### Vol.2 Experimental

1. Iere.Vibes ★
2. Blue.Blue
3. For.The.People
4. Millennium.Coming
5. Cut + Clear
6. Umbayao
7. Powermusic
8. Over.The.Mountain
9. I.Believe
10. Open.Wide ★
11. Grave.Situation★
12. Wonder★

### Vol.3 Visual [DVD]

1. Blue
2. Mud.Madness
3. One.In.A.Million
4. Black.Attack
5. Talk.Yuh.Talk
6. Salt
7. Revolution/We.Free
8. Over.The.Mountain ★
9. X.Slide.Show ★
10. Trinity.E.P.K ★

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★ previously unreleased

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The Best of 3canal thus far 1997-2004



When you look back on it 3canal's career has been a whirlwind. 3canal, the artistic collective, producer of a series of raucous J'ouvert bands called 'Jocks tuh Pose'- which were wild and crazy and 'duttu' even by the wild and crazy and 'duttu' standards of J'ouvert- suddenly, by accident, in 1996 found itself, with some minor changes in personnel, 3canal the music group." Georgia Popplewell, "Joy etc", Caribbean Beat Jan/Feb 2004.

Rapso as a form predates the advent of American rap music, but is defined as a hybrid of calypso and rap. 3canal is the beginning of the third wave of the Rapso movement. After the late Lancelot Layne pioneered the form and Brother Resistance and the Network Riddum Band established it, the talents of Wendell Manwarren, Roger Roberts, Stanton Kewley and the late John Isaacs made sure it was here to stay.

To categorise 3canal's music as social commentary, spiritual or celebratory would be to deny the awareness of self and environment, the inherent spirituality and the consciousness in all of it. In their 11 year history they have enjoyed the spoils of success and as well endured the limitations that bind many artists in small countries.

The good news is that this CD trilogy represents the best work of probably the most cutting edge group to come out of the Caribbean in the last decade.

Steeped in cultural traditions like Jouvay and Mas, 'Blue' was the track that helped the Trinbagonian Rapso group make its mark on the musical landscape in the Carnival of 1997.

The group is now known for their biting social commentary, a tradition they effectively began in 1999 when they encouraged the mocking pretenders to 'Talk Yuh Talk'.

In spite of their sometimes cutting lyrics, 3canal is also known for their beautiful harmonies, which reverberate with cool irony. Three members had been choir singers and the fourth, Stanton, has a background in reggae singing. In "Las Carnival", one of the final songs John Isaacs appeared on before his death in 2000, the voices simulate the "F. Lam" Brass arrangement that is so typical of kaiso music.

The band can be experimental-for example there's 'Cut+Clear', a drum and bass influenced song that resonates with dark honesty. But they are also capable of lionising elements of what could be called 'Trinidadiana', with a forward focus. They use the refrain "Gih dem bois" in 'Watch Dem'-pure gayelle talk.

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In other tracks, it's clear that they have been influenced by the Golden Era of Calypso, when Fitzroy Coleman's fingers went "dancing on the fret". You can even hear strains of parang and Baptist 'doption' on some songs, notably 'I Believe'.

There are recurring themes in 3canal's 11 year history. Out of the metaphysical power of colour, we get 'Blue Blue', which was actually the first song the group ever did but which they held back for release after the Carnival because it wasn't a "festival" song. It is hardly the only such song they have made. Their catalogue is replete with the introspective, the meditative and the solemn.

Created for the play "Clear Water" [staged in London in 2000], Open Wide is a Rapso ballad if ever there was one.

Rapso has been credited with "giving voice to the voiceless", which is evident in much of 3canal's social commentary. The standing definition of the genre is "the power of the word in the rhythm of the word". 3canal provides a more concise definition - "Powermusic".

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John Isaacs 1959-2000



The 3canal Collection 1994 - 2024

The journey continues