

# EMMANUEL

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### 'D'ILLUSIONS OF GRANDEUR'

2XLP/CD > Cat. No.: LLC003 / LLLP003 > Release date: October 2005

Inspired by a personal tragedy, when at the age of 11 he was involved in a horrendous road accident which left him with half his foot having to be amputated thus ending a promising career in football, the young Emmanuel emerged from 6 months of surgery with his mind focussed on becoming successful at the one other thing he loved doing, music.

Emmanuel is Colin Emmanuel aka C Swing, a musical genius and producer of hit singles and albums for the likes of Jamelia, Beverley Knight, Terri Walker and Estelle as well as the Mercury Music nominated "Hot Shots 2" album by The Beta Band.

The line-up of contributors to this album is simply ridiculous, you may not have heard all the names but you've definitely heard something they've written, sung or rapped on, the insanely talented Emmanuel has pulled together friends and musical family to create a master-class in British (not Urban!) black music. "D'illusions of Grandeur" is not just the sum of its parts though, it's also a testament to 20 years of perseverance, digging deep and dedication to getting it right.

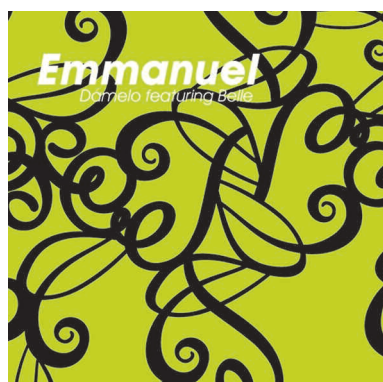
Featured vocalists then, include Michelle Escofferey who has written and provided vocals for Bugz in the Attic through to Liberty X's massive Number 1 hit 'Just a little bit'.

Celetia worked with Groove Armada on their first album and has a successful solo career along with leading her own all girl group Ladies In Question.

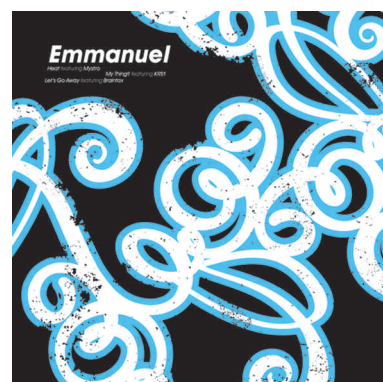
Daniel Dabourg has written hits for R Kelly and, along with Belle and Sammy J met and worked with Emmanuel whilst he produced the bulk of Jamelia's 'Thank You' and 'Drama' albums to which they all contributed.

Braintax and Mystro represent the backbone of the UK's flagship Hip Hop label Low Life Records and have both released their own successful solo albums. KRS-1 is of course a Hip Hop Legend and continues to be probably the most consistent, celebrated and righteous rapper of our generation.

Now add to this story a list of remixes and production credits encompassing Mary J Blige, D'Angelo, En Vogue and Wyclef and it's easy to see why Emmanuel is the UK's best kept secret, a phenomenally modest talent who has produced an album of pure quality, proficient in R&B, Hip Hop or whatever you want to call it, it's all Soul to us.



1st single  
'Dámelo' feat. Belle  
b/w 'Morning Blues' & Yam Who? re-work



2nd single  
'Heat' feat. Mystro  
'My Thing!' feat. KRS 1  
'Let's Go Away' feat. Braintax

## EMMANUEL - BIOGRAPHY

Colin Emmanuel was born with an intuitive grasp of the dynamics of music. Before he could even speak he was spellbound by a documentary on the life of Louis Armstrong, a connection not lost on his music-loving father who provided a soundtrack of jazz and soul to the young Emmanuel's formative years.

At the tender age of eleven a tragic road accident robbed him of his dreams of being a professional footballer (he was due to start trials with Spurs), losing half of his foot and spending up to six months in hospital undergoing surgery. This proved to be the catalyst in propelling him into a life of music.

Hit by a lorry whilst cycling over to see his childhood friend Kofi Baker (son of Ginger Baker, drummer extraordinaire from Cream) it was with him that Colin started playing keyboards and making music.

It was a time of change, Herbie Hancock's "Rocket" was blazing a trail, bands like Mantronix were fusing technology with Funk, and Hip Hop was being born. When the time came to leave school his mind was made up, he only had to check out Whitney Houston falling in love with her producer in the "Saving all my love for you" video to work out what he wanted to do next.

Whilst attending Leicester University Emmanuel also enrolled at the School of Audio Engineering in London. His first break came soon after when he met Definition Of Sound and impressed them with his keyboard playing. It wasn't long before he was handling the band's vocal arrangements and eventually producing and programming most of their third album. The band's popularity however, was fading and when they couldn't afford to pay him anymore Colin used what appeared to be a setback to his advantage and used their studio as a return for the work he had done. It was the material recorded at this time that was to comprise 5 volumes of the JazzyPhatGrooves EPs on Lee Taylor's Nu Breed imprint.

Emmanuel productions (under the moniker 'C-Swing') hadn't gone un-noticed as a host of major labels employed his mercurial skills to fine tune artists such as Beverley Knight, Celetia, Terri Walker and an unknown at the time 14 year old girl called Jamelia. The rest as they say is history and the hits flowed.

Looking for a new challenge Colin jumped at the chance to produce The Beta Band's "Hot Shots 2" album. The resulting work was short listed for the Mercury Music Award and exemplified the talent and flexibility of a true producer in the vein of a Quincy Jones with the adaptability to produce successful R 'n' B and Rock music. A plethora of remixes flooded in with Colin being asked to work his magic on artists such as En Vogue, Mary J Blige, D'Angelo and Nas through to pop acts such as E17 and Gary Barlow. Recent productions include Estelle and Rodney P and he continues to work with Steve Mason from the Beta Band on his new solo project King Biscuit. With the release of this his debut album Emmanuel has once again proved that making music with integrity is something that comes naturally.

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**'a dizzy magical voyage of self discovery'**  
8/10 NME

**'Mystical and magical, this has to be the most interesting working band in Britain today.'**  
5/5 Jockey Slut

**'Hot Shots II is a very fine thing.'**  
4/5 Uncut

**'a relaxed and silken stream of poppy, trippy, chill out gems'**  
Time Out

**'A near masterpiece...a scorcher.'**  
4/5 The Mirror

**'Every song has something that confirms their reputation as one of the most influential and important bands in Britain today.'**  
CD of the week / The Guardian

**'Album of the year potential'**  
5/5 The Express

**'If there's a band making more gorgeous noise than the Betas right now, we'd love to hear it.'**  
4/5 Muzik

Jockey Slut No. 2 Album of the Year

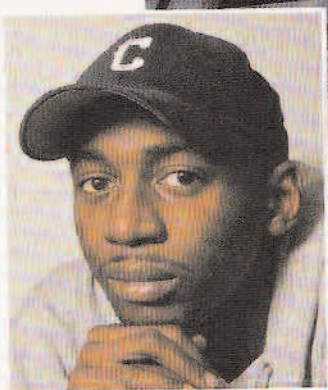
NME Top 50 Albums of the Year

**THE BETA BAND**

[www.betaband.com](http://www.betaband.com) 

## RECORDING JAMELIA'S 'MONEY'

Although 'Money' took new British R&B star Jamelia into the top 5 at the age of 17, her apparent overnight success was built on more than a year of hard work by producer Colin Emmanuel. **Sam Inglis** uncovers the story behind the single.



**D**espite the massive worldwide popularity of the genre, it's unusual to find a successful R&B single that bears the legend 'Made in Britain'. It's even more unusual for that record to feature both a newly discovered 17-year-old singer and the undisputed king of Jamaican music. And it's almost certainly unique for it to be based around real orchestral strings and operatic backing vocals. Nevertheless, that's exactly the combination that British record buyers and radio audiences were treated to earlier this year, courtesy of an inspired collaboration between singer Jamelia, reggae megastar Beenie Man and London-based producer Colin Emmanuel. The resulting track, 'Money' was one of the most original R&B singles of recent years and became Jamelia's breakthrough hit, peaking at 5 in the UK singles chart.

Although 'Money' was mixed in Los Angeles and Beenie Man's contributions were tracked in Jamaica, the bulk of the song was recorded in the Shepherd's Bush studio complex where Emmanuel is based. As well as being Jamelia's first hit single, 'Money' also represented a major milestone in Emmanuel's career — the difficult step up from programming and remixing to a major production job.

### Hard Slog

Like most producers, Colin owes his current position partly to luck — in his case, however, *bad* luck: "The original plan was that I was going to be a footballer. But I got run over a week before my trials for Tottenham, and I lost half my foot. And when you're in hospital doing your homework and stuff, all you've got is your headphones. So I started taking tunes apart, working out how they'd put together the drum patterns, and I made up my mind that when the compensation money came through I was going to go into music and get a little setup.

"I used to work in a newsagents, and I used to

# tracks

## COLIN EMMANUEL • RECORDING JAMELIA (FEATURING BEENIE MAN): 'MONEY'

read all the magazines when I should have been serving the customers, working out what I was going to buy and how stuff worked. I met a guy at the shop who was into music as well, and he said 'You should come down the studio, see if you like it, try it out,' and I joined his band. We were programming on *Dr T* on the Atari, and they had a Sequential drum machine, which had the samples on EPROM chips. I started as a programmer, and then just picked it up from there.

"I was torn between going to university and going to the School of Audio Engineering, and due to my dad being considerably bigger than me, I did both! I went to university during the week in Leicester, and then I'd come back home at weekends and go to SAE."

With his name as a programmer and keyboard

