

Words and Music by

José González

From the album:

Veneer (2005)

Guitarist:

José González

Highest Chart Placing (UK):

107 (2006)

Set-Up:

Alhambra 5P Classical Guitar

How to get that sound:

González has said that his songs "are all down to rhythm and repetition" and that trademark sound comes from very clean, accurate fingerpicking rather than excessive fretwork.

Fascinating fact:

As well as being one of the world's most successful acoustic singer-songwriters, González is also in a band called Junip with two of his oldest and best friends.

Most memorable lyric:

Don't you know that I'll be around to guide you Through your weakest moments to leave them behind you

Returning nightmares only shadows
We'll cast some light and you'll be alright for now

Crosses all over,

Heavy on your shoulders

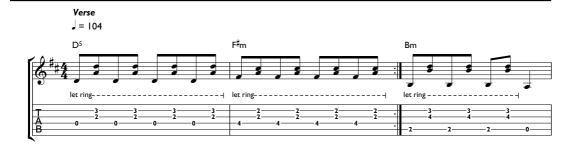
The sirens inside you waiting to step forward
Disturbing silence darkens your sight
We'll cast some light and you'll be alright for now

Crosses all over the boulevard

The streets outside your window overflooded People staring they know you've been broken Repeatedly reminded by the looks on their faces Ignore them tonight and you'll be alright We'll cast some light and you'll be alright

Quote:

"I need to be isolated, but I can't force it. It's pretty important for me to be in a room where no one hears you. It's been a big thing for me to be on tour and not finding a enough time to write new songs or to find an isolated room." (José González)





Words and Music by

Tom Higgenson

From the album:

All That We Needed (2005)

Guitarist:

Tom Higgenson

Highest Chart Placing (UK):

2 (2007)

Highest Chart Placing (US):

1 (2007)

How to get that sound:

Fingerpicking with thumb on bass notes.

Fascinating fact:

The song was written for/to Delilah DiCrescenzo, an American distance runner specialising in steeplechase and Cross Country, who had been introduced to Higgenson by a mutual friend. The pair have never been romantically involved, although DiCrescenzo was eventually persuaded to go on a date with Higgenson to the 2008 Grammy Awards where 'Hey There Delilah' was nominated for Song of the Year and Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal (ultimately failing to win either...)

The songs sparse and intimate simplicity have resulted in many cover versions by artists worldwide (notably the Sugababes during a BBC Radio 1 Live Lounge show) along with a number of re-mixes and many parodies, the most famous of which is probably M. Spaff Sumsion's "Re: Your Song About My Client Delilah", performed by Robert Lund, which takes the form of a cease-and-desist letter to Tom Higgenson from Delilah's attorney!

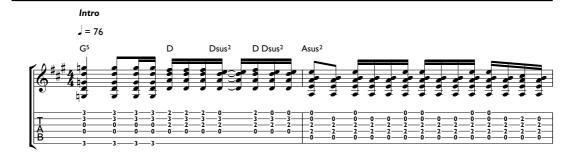
Most memorable lyric:

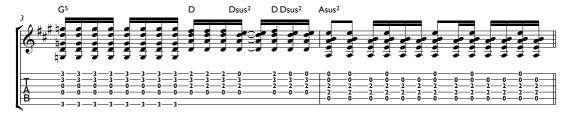
Hey there Delilah, What's it like in New York City? I'm a thousand miles away, But girl tonight you look so pretty, Yes you do, Time Square can't shine as bright as you,

I swear it's true.

Quote:

"That shows how big the song is or how much of a piece of pop culture it is. If you make a parody of it, it's obviously because you know everyone knows it so you can." (Tom Higgenson)





Words and Music by

Richard Ashcroft

From the album:

Urban Hymns (1997)

Guitarist:

Richard Ashcroft

Highest Chart Placing (UK):

7 (1997)

Highest Chart Placing (US):

16 (1997)

Set-Up:

Ashcroft is seen playing a Gibson J-45 in the video for this tune, which was also the guitar he frequently used live in the late 90s.

Fascinating fact:

When researching a fascinating fact about this band, an amazing 'Verve' joke was discovered, Q: Why don't The Verve sleep with blankets? A: Because the rugs don't work. Ha ha ha.

Most memorable lyric:

Happiness
More or less
It's just a change in me
Something in my liberty
Oh, my, my
Happiness
Coming and going
I watch you look at me
Watch my fever growing
I know just where I am

But how many corners do I have to turn? How many times do I have to learn All the love I have is in my mind? But I'm a lucky man With fire in my hands

Quote:

"You know, the whole idea of stardom and commerce and money, if that is your true motivation then you are not going to make any good music. You are not going to make spiritual music, you are not going to make music that has soul, purely because your dreams and ideals are from something incredibly empty." (Richard Ashcroft)