

Detroit sounds : The raw power of motor city music

Headline from the Guardian, Friday 19 July 2013

Detroit is a musically influential and innovative city, including genres from R&B (Motown), jazz, gospel and techno to rock, blues, rap and pop.

“[Rap is] one of most powerful art forms in the history of cultural production.”



Gaye Theresa Johnson
Author, *The Future Has a Past*

“Detroit turned out to be heaven, but it also turned out to be hell.”

Marvin Gaye

Fields

[Verse 2]

[...]

Sitting on porches of abandoned houses
Or sitting in the field on bed bug ridden couches
It's like they all forgot, man, nobody care about us
That why we all ways end up in prison instead of college
Living in the system working kitchen for chump change*
Lost in the streets n****s playing that gun game
Where nobody wins just a bunch of mommas losing
Dead body in the field, nobody heard the shooting
We living in the streets where the options is limited
Cause it's burnt building instead of jobs and businesses

[Hook]

And where I live it's house, field, field
Field field, field, house
Abandoned house, field, field



Lyrics extracted from underground Detroit rapper Danny Brown's album "XXX" released in 2011.

chump change : little money • hook : a chorus in a piece of popular music that makes it easy to remember.

Grit, noise and a bubbling tension: it was these components that made Motor City the birthplace of some of the all-time greatest musicians. [...] it's time to celebrate the place that inspired the fruition of techno, Motown and garage rock.