RACETRACK IN FRANCE





Steven Tabor 2022 (c) [Chorus: Gil Scott-Heron]
On a racetrack in France, everybody got to clapping their hands
Seemed like a long way from Union Station
On a racetrack in France, everybody started to dance
I was a long way from home with those good vibrations
Hey!

[Interlude 1: Gil Scott-Heron]

Moving nice and easy

[Verse 1: Gil Scott-Heron]
Heard I needed to travel
"Go out and spread the word now," people say
Yeah, so I'm kicking up dust and gravel
On a racetrack near Marseilles
If it all sound like a mystery
Things that you just don't understand
Well, let me give you a little bit of history
About me and the Midnight Band
[Chorus: Gil Scott-Heron]
On a racetrack in France, everybody got to clapping their hands
It seemed like a long way from Union Station
On a racetrack in France, everybody started to dance
I was a long way from home with those good vibrations
I said, "Hey!"

[Interlude 2: Gil Scott-Heron]
[?]. My chérie d'amour, comment ça va? No

[Verse 2: Gil Scott-Heron]

Me and them bothers no parlez-vous

French was way down on my list

The Africans said, "Merci beaucoup"

Because the rhythm's what they missed

People got the message

From the music that we play

It really shouldn't have been no surprise

That we all got down that day

[Chorus: Gil Scott-Heron]
On a racetrack in France, everybody got to clapping their hands
Seemed like a long way from Union Station
On a racetrack in France, everybody started to dance
I was a long way from home with those good vibrations
I said, "Hey!"
[Verse 3: Gil Scott-Heron]
Yeah, I heard I needed to travel
"Well, go out and spread the word now," people say
Got me kicking up dust and gravel
On a racetrack near Marseilles
If it all sound like a mystery
Things that you just don't understand
Let me give you a little bit of history
I'm talking 'bout me and the Midnight Band

[Chorus: Gil Scott-Heron]
On a racetrack in France, everybody got to clapping their hands
It seemed like a long way from Union Station where I'm coming from
On a racetrack in France, everybody started to dance
I was a long way from home and good vibration love
On a racetrack in France, everybody started clapping their hands
Seemed like a long way, a long way, a long way
On a racetrack in France, everybody started to dance
I was a long way from home and good vibration
Made me say, "Hey!"

Racetrack in France

Gil Scott-Heron's song "Racetrack in France" was on his album with Brian Jackson and the Midnight Band entitled "Bridges". Released in 1977, the song was a wonderful bridge between rock and jazz music. While Gil Scott-Heron is most famous for his poetic protest songs, this was a hip, upbeat, feel-good tune. Listening to it in the 1970s, I wondered what it was about France that inspired Gil Scott Heron in this way. Later in life, I was fortunate to find out.

To me, the song "Racetrack in France" is about the French vibe. The French are different, and they relish that. There is an artistic sense in just about everything they do—in the way people dress, speak and behave; in their cuisine, in the architecture, in the way they hang out on the beach, and even in the summertime games they play. And their flag, the Tricolore, is so simple that is like a Rothko painting. Ask a Frenchman a simple question, and probably they'll respond with a long-winding tale of the history of France, and then finally they'll come to the point. Being in France is an exercise in letting-go, relaxing and enjoying the hipness that surrounds you. And I think it was this "vibe" that Gil Scott-Heron was describing in his fusion-infused masterpiece, Racetrack in France.

For this series, I've drawn on photos that I've taken in my travels in France overthe past thirty years. These were taken in many different parts of France—from the royal boulevards of Paris to the sunny beaches of the far South, and with plenty in between. Most are street scenes and several are drawn from the markets, which are themselves a site to behold.









































































Galanga Eugus Clou de Ginofle Madras Cannelle Pan massala Training from posts betterave, haricot, avec: bonbon inclien boeuf, povee, vin chand. Canard, porc, pomme, pêche --milang Diment el Hamout Josepher dansprecher de pile pe aux de pile pe aux "
pile pile"

avec = huiles, kortes,
potages, viordes,
potages, viordes, Zaa Mélange orelange, 2 olombo smulson C Sumac, Rose Jemarin, Joranie, seisame Joravil, aris, gire le, doré. laya cumin, cureuma, corcui, priment, lousin gingumbre, correndre, genouit, terugrec ossile Tandoori moit dillange macamole



