

JACOBITES

The two had met in early 1980, with an initial live performance together in May 1982 under the name Six Hip Princes, but it was not until 1984, after Sudden had already issued two solo releases, that the duo adopted the name Jacobites (after the rebel movement to restore the Stuart line to the British thrones) and completed the lineup by adding Nikki's brother Epic Soundtracks, also formerly of the Swell Maps, and bassist Mark Lemon. The Jacobites were a more traditional, song-oriented outfit than the Swell Maps had been. Sudden and Kusworth were both strongly influenced by The Faces, Bob Dylan, glam rock, and, most vitally, The Rolling Stones — their open worship of the group (Kusworth's entire body of work would later be described as "A tear-stained meeting of Johnny Thunders' 'You Can't Put Your Arms Around a Memory', the Rolling Stones' 'Wild Horses', and Neil Young's 'Down by the River' wrapped in scarves, bound up in leather pants, and shrouded by cigarette smoke", while Sudden called the Stones "the best band there has ever been" and was working on a Ronnie Wood bio at the time of his death), combined with their velvet-and-scarves style of dressing and their girls-and-drugs style of living, made for a natural comparison with Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.

The group released a string of albums and EPs between 1984 and 1985, garnering increasing critical interest, a certain appreciation in the British underground, and great popularity in Germany, but also began shedding its original members in the latter year — Soundtracks to Crime & the City Solution, Kusworth to a well-regarded but ill-remembered solo career.

With the breakup of the songwriting team at its heart, the Jacobites became little more than a name for the shifting backing unit Sudden used for his solo career. An American compilation was released in 1986 after the band's boozy, weary-eyed brand of romantic songwriting gained the devoted support of the similarly-minded Paul Westerberg, and another comp followed in 1988, but the group would not exist again in meaningful form until 1993, when Sudden and Kusworth rejoined forces to recreate the Jacobites with a new lineup that featured Glenn Tranter on guitar, Carl Eugene Picôt on bass, and Mark Williams on drums: all friends from Birmingham. A series of obscure releases followed throughout the mid-1990s, doted upon by the band's cult following, particularly in mainland Europe, but otherwise generally ignored. After *God Save Us Poor Sinners* appeared in 1998, the Jacobites remained silent while Sudden and Kusworth continued their solo careers. With Sudden's death in 2006, the band is now permanently defunct.