

No Escape

This little ditty was written in the dark in October '95. A hurricane swept through Georgia and the power was out for three days. One night I pulled out the acoustic guitar and this song came out. I grabbed a flashlight and scribbled out the chords and the first few words. With that in mind, it is best to listen to this song with the lights out in order to best capture the essence of the recording ... if you're into that sort of thing.

Written: 10/95

Recorded: 10/95

CLUTTERED ROOM

The oldest tune on this album, this one was recorded in 1989 on two-track, with a real piano and real drums. I was very pleased with it and I thought that it was my best recording venture to date. I lost it. So, many years later, I stumbled upon the music and lyrics in my notebook and decided to give it another whirl. Again, I was very pleased and thought that it was my best recording venture to date. I guess some things never change - sort of.

Written: 5/89

Recorded: 10/95

LOOKING ON

This is the first song that I recorded with the Ensoniq KS-32 keyboard. I wanted to do something with the string sounds, reminiscent of The Move. This was as close as I got. It also represents the first in a series of many songs (several of which appear on this album) about the theme of unrequited love. That phase of my writing would last for a couple of years, and some of my favorite pieces evolved from that phylum of thought.

Written: 8/94

Recorded: 8/94

Amazon Hot Wax

The title of this song is the title of an episode of "Wonder Woman" in which she goes undercover as a singer to break a music extortion ring. Her alias was Kathy Meadows. I have tried to write songs inspired by Lynda Carter on several occasions, but they never turned out quite right. I suppose this is written as much to her as it is to Wonder Woman in the sense that she was the reason I watched the TV show in the first place.

Written: 7/95

Recorded: 7/95



BUCK ROGERS VS. FLASH GORDON

I don't know how this happened. I was watching a Flash Gordon serial on AMC and was fascinated. I later saw an episode from Buck Rogers from about the same time period, and was again amazed - particularly because both hero roles were played by Buster Crabbe!!! I wondered what would happen if they actually met, and this song ensued. Of course, in my version, Flash somehow joins forces with Ming the Merciless against the Earth, and Buck must battle his mirror image for supremacy. Hmmm... I smell movie rights...

Written: 11/96
Recorded: 11/96



Lonely Man

Here is an example of a song for which I had no lyrics, save the chorus and title, when I recorded the demo (which on this album means, literally, "song"), so I wrote them on the spot. After I wrote one verse, I got stuck, so I just sang the second verse the same as the first one, with the notion of coming back and dubbing over it later. Oh, well.

Written: 4/95
Recorded: 7/95



MIDSUMMER DRESS

It was winter when I wrote this, so I guess I was having visions of wildflowers and sunshine and a beautiful lady in a bright dress twirling about in an enchanted glade. Of course, I have those visions every night, so maybe the temperature didn't have anything to do with it. At any rate, this is one of my favourite songs on this album.

Written: 1/95

Recorded: 1/95



LOW

This song just kind of evolved from a simple chord change I liked, which shows up in the chorus. I'm not sure what all the symbolism means, or if there even is any symbolism at all, but I actually like the lyrics quite a bit. The chorus seems to be about people telling you how you feel (like psychologists, etc.) when they really don't know, or misinterpret the "signs." The poetic reading in the middle is taken from T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock."

Written: 9/95

Recorded: 9/95

HEARTBEAT

This is the third recording of this song on 4-track. The first one, which was recorded in 1994, was accidentally recorded over. The second version, recorded in May 1995 I didn't like, so I recorded over it on purpose. So I recorded it again in November 1995, and here it is.

Written: 2/94

Recorded: 11/95

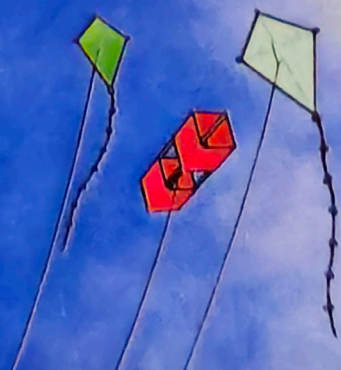


Lovely Weather

Gee, what a happy song. Birds are chirpping, kids are playing in the street (look out for that bus!) and for some reason I am caged up inside my house writing this tune. Instead of frolicking in meadows or tripping through copses, or whatever it is the young kids are doing these days. Ah, well

Written: 6/96

Recorded: 11/96



JAMES AND THE COLD GUN

This is one of the very few covers I have ever recorded. It is one of my favorite Kate Bush songs, and it turns out that it is one which I actually could sing without sounding like an idiot. I always thought that it should have an organ solo in the middle, so I added one. Also of note is that the only percussion instruments used on this track are bongos and a guiro. Maybe James is from the Congo

Written: by Kate Bush, © 1977
Recorded: 9/96

What the Dormouse Said

H. P. Lovecraft (inspired in part by Lord Dunsany) wrote much about a land beyond the Doors of Sleep, where people mingle in a world populated by dreamers from all places, times and dimensions. This is about a visitor from just such a world. A dormouse explains to a man that the world is what you make of it in your own mind - in your dreams you can do anything. The fact that the dormouse wakes the man up to tell him this is actually rather ironic.

Written: 6/95
Recorded: 7/95



GHOST TOWER

Here is another of the unrequited love stories I rattled off between '93 and '95. It is actually one of the last in that series. The title begot the song in this case, which is actually how the majority of my songs come into being. A ghost tower is a fortress that cannot be seen - an invisible wall, if you will. The song is about protecting oneself with just such a wall, which it turns out is really kind of frustrating, because the opposing forces can still see you (and you them). ... And when you come home late at night, you can't find it.

Written: 8/95

Recorded: 8/95

Serenade

At one point I had an idea for a concept album based on the story of a character who fell into a dreamworld in the midst of a masquerade ball, and had to escape the boundaries of an infinite castle to retreat to the real world. While he was there, he met the woman "of his dreams" and sang this song to her. This is the only song that was ever recorded for that project. Perhaps someday there will be more . . .

Written: 4/95

Recorded: 11/95



AND ONLY IF

This was conceived to be a possible addition to the soundtrack to *Machine Cake Flotilla*, a super-8 film by Christo and myself which is still in production at this time, as it has been for the last five years. As it turned out, it didn't make it into the lineup for that project, so I ressurected it here.

Written: 8/93

Recorded: 8/93



GROOVIN' ON JUPITER

Some of the greatest discoveries of mankind have happened quite by accident. While this is not one of those discoveries, it nevertheless happened by mere chance. I found these tracks while mixing down some other stuff, and it sounded cool, so I decided to add it to this album. It didn't have a name, but when I listened to it, I pictured four guys with guitars in a capsule flying to Saturn. But that sounded kind of silly, so I opted for Jupiter instead.

Written: ?

Recorded: ?