



50 SONGS YEARS

A Biography of Songs
BOB FLEMING

I give thanks to my 50 songs in 35 years, and to my girls
Tui, Holly and Laura for inspiring me to write this book
– A Biography of Songs.

I give thanks to my beautiful wife Pippa Jane who has been the
inspiration for many of these songs.

I can't read or write music theory, so I give special thanks to
the guiding force within, that gifted me these songs, and
guided and directed my creative energy to produce songs that
can touch each individual heart.

*This is the gift of music
and my music is my gift to you.*

beaded ring

This was the first song that I wrote. Although it predates 1975 when I wrote it, it remained the only original song until I started on my musical journey of 50 songs in 35 years.

Writing about diamonds and three children was interesting as a few years later I met my wife to be, Pippa Jane. We got married in 1979, had three daughters and then Pippa started her own love affair with diamond rings.

Thankfully I never personally turned to drinking each and every day as the song suggests.

It was written as an upbeat song.

I guess you could imagine a 'Billy Joel' feel to it.

*Diamonds aren't your best friend
A pretty girl was told
They're just a shiny piece of stone
Something nice to hold*

Beaded Ring

INTRO G D7 G D7

V1 GDiamonds aren't your D7best friend
 A Gpretty girl was D7told
 They're Gjust a shiny D7piece of stone
 GSomething nice to D7hold G D7 G D7

So when Cshe grew up and Gfell in love
The Cwedding was all Gplanned
For Cher to wear a Gbeaded ring
To Fdecorate her Chand

CHORUS CShake that beaded ring Gcome on baby Csing
 Just rattle those beads and sing your song
 If Gsomeone does you Cwrong, if Gsomeone does you Cwrong G D7 G D7

V2 The Gmarriage was as D7happy, as Ghappy as could D7be
 The Gchildren came in D7great supply from GNo. 1 to D73
 Then Chusband turned to Gdrinking Ceach and every Gday
 While Cshe would stay at Ghome all night
 And Fteach her kids to Csay

CHORUS

V3 It was Gthen he knelt D7upon the floor
 A Gtear was in his D7eye
 GWhatever you wish, my D7wife, he spoke
 It Gwill be yours to D7buy G D7 G D7

A Cdiamond ring is Gall I want and Cnot this beaded Gthing
But Cwhen he heard of Gher one wish
You Fshould have heard him Csing

CHORUS x 2

paradise lady

Written in 1975 it was about my wife to be, Pippa Jane.
I fell in love with her the year before,
when I came home from my O.E.

She was always in a good space and I knew that her
positive influence would be good for me.

With the words 'Takapuna City' it gave
reference to a local song.

This is a summertime fun song. Just imagine driving down the
road, thinking of the one you love and the good times
ahead. When Dire Straits put out Sultans of Swing in
the late 70's I could imagine Paradise Lady would have
slotted in well on that album!

*Takapuna City ain't half as pretty
As the woman that's in my dreams*

Paradise Lady

V1 My ^Elady don't visit paradise
 She ^Alives there all of the time
 She ^Egets mixed up on the simple things
 But she ^Aseems to keep a clever mind
 She ^Efloats on air like a butterfly
 On ^Adream clouds hitching a ride
 ^ELanding in a bubble breaking on my bed
 And she's ^Asoon lying by my side

 My lady of ^Eparadise ooh yeh ^Ayeh
 She's my lady of ^Eparadise ooh yeh ^Ayeh ^B ^A

V2 ^EStaring at the red on the traffic light
 Is ^Aenough to make a poor boy sad
 ^EMoving into gear as the green appears
 And it ^Adon't seem to be so bad
 ^EDriving down the road doing 75
 With the ^Aradio doing its scene
 ^ETakapuna City ain't half as pretty
 As the ^Awoman that's in my dreams

 My lady of ^Eparadise ooh yeh ^Ayeh
 She's my lady of ^Eparadise ooh yeh ^Ayeh ^B ^A

BRIDGE ^AShe's everything that a woman needs to ^Ebe
 ^B ^AAnd when she casts those loving eyes at ^Eme
 ^B ^AOoh I get a shiver down my back
 My ^Bparadise ^Alady she ^{G#m}knows where it's ^{F#m}at
 Yeh ^Eyeh

Repeat V1



lazy sunday


There were no more songs written in the 70's.
This is an early 80's song. We were a family now,
with two young daughters and a dog!

Pippa Jane, now my wife, was always at the sewing machine,
either making or mending something for the girls.

It was a Sunday when I wrote this song and I had been
watching a one-day cricket series on T.V. My dog Happy
was cruising around outside, 'kicking up the dirt'.
It was another "Lazy Sunday".

Everything felt good. I gave this song a blues feel.
The last verse was about not stressing or
working too hard, and blowing it on an expensive
Saturday Night out on the town.

*I love you, you love me
And that's how easy this whole damn thing should be*



Lazy Sunday

V1 G G# ^AToo hot outside that's why I'm sittin' in the shade
 G G# ^AMotor on the fan spinning the blade
 G G# ^AWife's in the bedroom sewing up a skirt
 G G# ^ADog's outside kickin' up dirt

 On a ^Dlazy Sunday a ^Alazy Sunday
 A ^Elazy Sunday – ^Dforget about ^AMonday

V2 G G# ^AI'm sitting here watching one-day cricket
 G G# ^AOh lord there goes another wicket
 G G# ^AJust when you thought it was looking like a joke
 G G# ^AHey bro, roll another smoke

 On a ^Dlazy Sunday a ^Alazy Sunday
 A ^Elazy Sunday – ^Dforget about ^AMonday

CHORUS I'm feeling ^Agood, I'm feeling glad
 'Cause you're the best girl I ever had
 And if the ^Dsun comes up, it'll ^Asurely go down
 ^DThis whole world keeps spinning round
 ^DI love you, ^Ayou love me
 And ^Ethat's how easy this ^Dwhole damn thing should ^Abe

V3 G G# ^AI'm thinking of buying a brand new car
 G G# ^AMy kiwi dollars just don't stretch that far
 G G# ^AI work overtime to get more pay
 G G# ^AWhen Saturday comes I could blow it all away

 On a ^Dlazy Sunday a ^Alazy Sunday
 A ^Elazy Sunday – ^Dforget about ^AMonday

a real good rhythm n blues band

Written in the 80's. A song to be performed
by a tight rhythm n blues band. I wrote it
picturing my band performing real good 12 bar blues.
No matter what was going on in life, to play it out
with a great beat would be fun.

The last verse was to make me realise that money
and possessions weren't the goal. The goal was to
play good rhythm n blues.

*You can be a millionaire
Baby I don't really care
'Cause all I want is a real good
Rhythm n blues band*

A Real Good Rhythm n Blues Band

V1 You've got ^Arhythm you've got blues
 You've even got your blue suede shoes
 Grab a ^Dgal get on the floor
 ^AYou can't ask for more
 ^EMaybe except a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band

V2 You've got a ^Afever in your head
 Maybe you should be in bed
 It starts ^Dspreading to your feet
 ^ANow all you need's the beat
 The ^Ebeat to a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band
 The ^Ebeat to a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band

CHORUS ^ARhythm n blues, rhythm n blues
 Or is it ^Drock and roll
 Baby ^AI don't think so
 ^EThat's what you call a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band
 ^EThat's what you call a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band

INSTRUMENTAL

V3 You drive a ^APorsche, you've got a yacht
 Pretty soon you'll have the lot
 You can ^Dbe a millionaire
 ^ABaby I don't really care
 'Cause ^Eall I want is a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band
 'Cause ^Eall I want is a ^Dreal good rhythm n ^Ablues band

CHORUS

saturday morning hung-over blues

This is my classic blues song written in the late 80's.
I went to a wine and cheese evening at the local primary
school where my daughters attended. I got totally drunk
on cheap wine. I was so ill that I had to sleep in the spare
room when I got home. The next day, Saturday,
I had promised to take the girls to the park
but I was still too ill in bed.

On Sunday, I sat down out on the deck with my guitar
and wrote this song. The more I played it, the better the
dynamics of the song became.

Good blues songs come from true heart-felt experiences!

*I'm paying the price for what happened last night
I said Lord, when will I get it right?*

Saturday Morning Hung-Over Blues

V1 I've got the ^GSaturday morning ^{C7}hung-over blues
When I'd ^Grather be doing ^{D7}something with you
I'm ^Gpaying the price for what ^{C7}happened last night
I said, ^GLord when will I get it right

V2 I said ^Gtoo much wine is ^{C7}bad for the brain
^GAnother day later, I'm ^{D7}still feeling strange
Can't ^Geven think clearly ^{C7}inside of my head
I said ^GLord, I may as well be dead

BRIDGE 1 I ^{C7}should have been home early
Like my ^Ggood woman said
Then ^{C7}I wouldn't be in all this ^Gpain
But ^{C7}every time I drink I ^Gnever know when to stop
I ^{A7}pray to the Lord never ^{D7}again

V3 The ^Gkids keep coming ^{C7}into my room
They ^Gkeep saying Dad you're a ^{D7}picture of doom
You ^Gpromised you'd take us ^{C7}somewhere today
Now ^Gdaddy you're wasting it all away
That's what they'd say

INSTRUMENTAL (spoken)

^GI was a mess
^{C7}I was feeling bad
^GThat was the worst hangover I have ^{D7}ever had
^GI had double vision and I's in ^{C7}double trouble too
Tell me ^GLord what am I gonna do

BRIDGE 2 The ^{C7}telephone's ringing there's ^Gsomeone at the door
^{C7}Dogs barking at a cat up a ^Gtree
Is there ^{C7}anywhere I can go where I can ^Gcrawl into a shell
And ^{A7}whisper sweet Lord have mercy on ^{D7}me

Repeat V1

When will I get it right x3
Will I ever get it right

sexy big brown eyes

This was written as a party fun time song. Guy meets girl at the party, the music's cranking, all the friends are there, the mood is set and it's party time.

I wrote it with a similar feel to the song Bad Habits by Billy Field from Australia. The chord structure is pretty cool so the lyrics seem to fall in to line to fit the melody.

My second daughter, Holly always loved it, so I dedicated the song to her. She has brown eyes!

*I know it may sound stupid
But you make me your cupid...
With those fun loving Sexy Big Brown Eyes*



Sexy Big Brown Eyes

INTRO B G#7 C#7 F#7 B x2

V1 ^BMeet me at the ^{G#7}midnight party, ^{C#7}don't ^{F#7}be ^Blate
We've got lots of ^{G#7}things to do that ^{C#7}just ^{F#7}can't ^Bwait
Everyone will ^{G#7}be there – ^{C#7}right ^{F#7}on ^Btime
Turn the music ^{G#7}set the mood it's ^{C#7}par ^{F#7}ty ^Btime

CHORUS ^{E7}Get up on the floor and watch those ^Bfeet
^{E7}You can even make them keep the ^Bbeat
I ^{E7}know it may sound stupid
But ^Byou make ^{Eb7}me your ^{G#7}cupid with those
^{C#7}Fun lovin' ^{F#7}sexy big brown ^Beyes

V2 The ^Bparty starts to ^{G#7}groove and ^{C#7}everything's ^{F#7}far ^Bout
I really must ^{G#7}admit you're what I ^{C#7}dreamed ^{F#7}a ^Bbout
I'll take you back to ^{G#7}my place if you ^{C#7}think ^{F#7}that's ^Bwise
Meanwhile we will ^{G#7}boogie ^{C#7}until ^{F#7}sun ^Brise

CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL [Verse and Chorus]

Repeat V1

CHORUS

travelling man blues

Written in the early 90's it's a three-chord blues song in E. I was studying some music at the time, chord structure, progressions, and blues turn-arounds. That's when the song goes so far and then turns around to take it back to the beginning.

I was reading some lyrics about classic blues phrases and added the ones on verse 6 and 7.

*I just love you baby 'cause you're so nice and brown
You're tailor-made and you ain't no hand me down*

*Don't the sun look lonesome shining down thru the trees
Don't your baby look lonesome packin' her bags to leave*

*I've played this song with a blues harp.
Same structure all the way through with the
classic blues turn-around after each verse.*

Travelling Man Blues

V1 ^EI'm a travelling man I sure got a travelling mind
 I'm a ^Atravelling man I sure got a travelling ^Emind
 I'm gonna ^{B7}buy me ticket and ^Amove on down the ^Eline

V2 ^EWhat you gonna do when your troubles get like mine
 ^AWhat you gonna do when your troubles get like ^Emine
 Get your ^{B7}bags packed girl let's ^Aease on down the ^Eline

V3 I got the ^Eblues so bad it hurts my feet to walk
 I got the ^Ablues so bad it hurts my tongue to ^Etalk
 You done ^{B7}settled on my brain, ^Awoman yeh ^Eyeh

V4 I had a ^Edream last night I hope my dream comes true
 I had a ^Adream last night I hope my dream comes ^Etrue
 I ^{B7}dreamed last night ^Agirl I spent the night with ^Eyou

INSTRUMENTAL

V5 I ^Edon't drink liquor I don't take cocaine
 I ^Adon't drink liquor I don't take ^Ecocaine
 I said ^{B7}them two things are ^Asure bad for the ^Ebrain

V6 I just ^Elove you baby 'cause you're so nice and brown
 I just ^Alove you baby 'cause you're so nice and ^Ebrown
 You're ^{B7}tailor made you ^Aain't no hand me ^Edown

V7 Don't the ^Esun look lonesome shining down through the trees
 Don't the ^Asun look lonesome shining down through the ^Etrees
 Don't your ^{B7}baby look lonesome ^Apacking her bags to ^Eleave

That's why – [repeat V1]

mississippi u.s.a.


Another classic blues song. I wrote it about the Mississippi Delta where the blues apparently originated from. The moonshine whiskey adds another dimension to visualising the players like Robert Johnson playing blues for their keep and living it rough on the road with a bottle of Moonshine for company.

*I've never been down the delta
They tell me it's the home of the blues
Ain't never seen it but I believe it*

Because I've never been to the U.S.A. apart from in transit, this song would be my tribute song to the home of the delta blues in the U.S.A. When I play the song I also include blues harp with it, just the way I recorded it.

A great blues song with lots of emotion.

*I just wanna play
'Cause that's my way to say
Thank you Mississippi U.S.A.*



Mississippi U.S.A.

INTRO G C7 G7 Bb+

V1 Mississippi ^Gmoonshine
 ^{C7}Gives you that warm feeling in your ^Gsoul
 Mississippi ^{C7}moonshine baby
 Gives you that warm feeling in your soul G Am7 Bm7 Bbm7 Am7

 And when you're feeling sad
 ^{Cm}And this whole world's gone bad
 There's ^Gone place, there's ^{C7}one place
 Ain't but ^{G7}one place you can ^{Bb+}go

V2 I've never been down the ^Gdelta babe
 ^{C7}Ah they tell me it's the home of the ^Gblues
 I've never been down the ^{C7}delta babe
 Ah they tell me it's the home of the ^Gblues

 I believe it though I ^{Am7}ain't never seen it Bm7 Bbm7 Am7
 So I just wanna play ^{Cm}'cause that's my way to say
 I say ^Gthank you ^{C7}Mississippi, ^{G7}Mississippi ^{Bb+}U.S.A.
 Oh take me back

INSTRUMENTAL x2 [guitar and harmonica]

V3 Mississippi ^Gmoonshine
 ^{C7}Gives you that warm feeling in your ^Gsoul
 Mississippi ^{C7}moonshine baby
 Gives you that warm feeling in your soul G Am7 Bm7 Bbm7 Am7

 So I just wanna play ^{Cm}'cause that's my way to say
 I say ^Gthank you ^{C7}Mississippi, ^{G7}Mississippi ^{Bb+}U.S.A.
 I hope to see you one ^Gday

you and today

Another classic blues 3 chord song in E7. It's about being in the here and now, and appreciating each moment. An old friend of mine was showing me his grandma's poetry book and I really liked the lines: Your will and wish since time began, today has been the friend of man.

The second verse about past, future and present was taken from an inscription on a wall at ex. Beatle George Harrison's 19th Century mansion where I worked as a gardener in 1974.

I play it with a blues harmonica. I always said to myself I should play it every day 'cause it has such a simple yet powerful message. This is one of my favourites!

*Present is ... improve your hour
Live today ... it's in your power
With every rising of the sun
There's a new day just begun*



You and Today

INTRO E7 B Bb A E

V1 E7 With every rising of the sun
 A7 Think of your life as just begun
 E7 Concern yourself with just today
 You've got to B7 woo it and teach it to obey
 E7 Your will and wish since time began
 A7 Today has been the friend of man
 You've got E7 you and today, B baby don't Bb waste A it E away

V2 E7 Past is gone you can't recall
 A7 Future's not may not be at all
 E7 Present is improve your hour
 B7 Live today it's in your power
 E7 With every rising of the sun
 A7 There's a new day just begun
 You've got E7 you and today, B baby don't Bb waste A it E away

INSTRUMENTAL x2 [guitar and harmonica]

V3 E7 But in your anger and your sorrow
 A7 You look to yesterday and tomorrow
 E7 Concern yourself with just today
 You've got to B7 woo it and teach it to obey
 E7 With every rising of the sun
 A7 There's a new day just begun
 You've got E7 you and today B baby don't Bb waste A it E away
 You've got E7 you and today B baby don't Bb waste A it E away
 You've got E7 you and today B baby don't Bb waste A it E away

calypso blues

This started out as an entirely different song many years ago. I kept the same chords and melody and changed all the lyrics to a different song. Imagine a calypso/reggae dance scene on a Caribbean beach with some steel drums, lots of laughter, pretty girls and an infectious beat.

This became a really catchy song whenever we played it in our band. Some people were heard humming the song when leaving the venue.

*So you reap what you sow and all you know
Is what you know now*

*Feel the rhythm, dance to the beat
Your soul is satisfied
That's Calypso Blues.*

Calypso Blues

INTRO A Bm7 Dbm7 A

V1 ^ACome on clap your ^{Bm7}hands
 ^{Dbm7}Come on move your ^Afeet
 We're going to find the ^{Bm7}rhythm ^{Dbm7}of a brand new ^Abeat
 Yes this is what it's ^{Bm7}like to be in the ^{Dbm7}arms of the one you ^Alove
 Ooh la la ^{Bm7}la ^{Dbm7}la la la la la ^Ala

V2 ^APeople ^{Bm7}understand it's ^{Dbm7}not in the words we ^Asay
 It's more the way we ^{Bm7}dance ^{Dbm7}into the brand new ^Aday
 Yes this is what ^{Bm7}it's like to be in the ^{Dbm7}arms of the one you ^Alove
 Ooh la la ^{Bm7}la ^{Dbm7}la la la la la ^Ala

BRIDGE ^ESo you reap what you ^Asow
 ^EAnd all you know is what you ^Aknow now
 ^EAnd if you feel that deep ^Ainside you need a break
 Just ^{Bm7}open up your heart and let it ^Eout
 Ooh yeh ooh yeh

V3 Feel the ^Arhythm of the ^{Bm7}beat
 ^{Dbm7}Dance to your very ^Atoes
 Connected so it ^{Bm7}seems to ^{Dbm7}satisfy your ^Asoul
 Yes this is what it's ^{Bm7}like to be in the ^{Dbm7}arms of the one you ^Alove
 Ooh la la ^{Bm7}la la la la la la ^Ala

Spoken: Ooh la la la la la la la la la x4

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

you're the reason

Once in a lifetime a special song comes along. This certainly is one of these. We were now a complete family unit with our three girls and the dog!

Pippa was doing just the best job as a Mum and supporting me in my self-employed venture. She really deserved a good song to be dedicated to her. This is that song.

It's played with a jazz/blues feel, really laid back.
At the time I was playing a song called Girl Talk and loved the chord structures. I took some of these chords and came up with You're the Reason.
It has become my classic love song.

*I look into your eyes
I see a kind of magic
Then you hit me with a smile*

You're the Reason

INTRO Abm7 Am7 Dm7 Gbm7 Gm7 C9 Bbmaj7 Fmaj7

V1 Am7 All I want to Dm7 do is to Gm7 keep on loving you C9 baby
Am7 Just can't Dm7 get you out of my Gm7 mind C9
Am7 Anything you Dm7 say you're Gm7 sure it make it C9 happen
Bbmaj7 You're the reason that I'm Fmaj7 trying

V2 I Am7 look into your Dm7 eyes
I Gm7 see a kind of C9 magic
Am7 Then you Dm7 hit me with a Gm7 smile C9
Am7 Can it mean to Dm7 me true Gm7 love is really C9 happening
Bbmaj7 Won't you stay for a Fmaj7 while

BRIDGE I'm Bbmaj7 trying to find a better world in Fmaj7 every way
Out Gm7 there it's not C9 easy
But I Bbmaj7 love it when the sun comes up Fmaj7 every day
Gm7 That's what makes life a little C9 breezy

V3 Am7 All I want to Dm7 do is to Gm7 keep on loving you C9 baby
Am7 Just can't Dm7 get you out of Gm7 my mind C9
Am7 Anything you Dm7 say you're Gm7 sure to make it C9 happen
Bbmaj7 Won't you stay for a Fmaj7 while, stay with me baby

INSTRUMENTAL x2

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

I'm trying for you baby
Bbmaj7 Won't you stay for a Fmaj7 while
And give me some time
Bbmaj7 You're the reason that I'm Fmaj7 trying

castaway

This is another really early song. It's in Dmaj7 so it has a mellow, reflective sound to it. I was learning meditation techniques at the time and understanding the simple, yet important aspects of 'the breath of life'. For me to describe it, like most other things in my life, I am at home writing about it in a song.

*Set your course for a distant shore
A land that lies so deep inside*

It seems distant because most of us never get to visit it,
but it's just a breath away inside.

I recorded the song with a work colleague who was a good guitarist in the early 90's. We teamed up for a recording session and then went our separate ways.

*I need to cast away
I need to set the sails
I need the breath of life
To blow my blues away*

Castaway

INTRO Dmaj7 Bm7 x2

V1 Dmaj7 If I just hide this feeling of love
 That lies Bm7 inside my heart I just get lazy
 If Dmaj7 I just bide away my time
 On feeling Bm7 down and out, I just go crazy
 Oh Em7 oh I need to F#m7 cast away
 Oh Em7 oh I need to F#m7 set the sails
 Mm Em7 mm I need the F#m7 breath of life
 To G blow my blues A away
 To get me through the new Dmaj7 day Bm7 Dmaj7 Bm7

V2 If Dmaj7 I just sigh and hang my head
 Then it's a Bm7 crying shame it ain't no wonder
 If Dmaj7 I just cry and think that life
 Is just a Bm7 foolish game then I go under
 Oh Em7 oh I need to F#m7 cast away
 Oh Em7 oh I need to F#m7 set the sails
 Mm Em7 mm I need the F#m7 breath of life
 To G blow my blues A away
 To get me through the new Dmaj7 day Bm7 Dmaj7 Bm7

BRIDGE Em7 Set your course for a Dmaj7 distant shore
 A Em7 land that lies so A deep inside
 Em7 Troubles seem to Dmaj7 be no more
 G Just sit back for the A ride
 Take me home Dmaj7 Bm7

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

it's alright

Written in '93, it is a tribute song to my friend and neighbour who was killed in a car accident. We shared some good times together and it was a sad loss when I heard about it.

I had a chord structure that I was playing around with and the words seemed to fall into place easily. I took the song to my recording engineer friend, Mark, who took it upon himself to turn it into a masterpiece. His guitar work was excellent. He told me he used this song as a demo song to let prospective clients know what he was capable of producing.

It was my first song to be mixed, produced, and released on cassette tape.

*A simple dream, the perfect vision
Unlocks the door inside your prison*



It's Alright

V1 ^AI say a prayer ^{Dbm7}I send a message
 ^{Bm7}I see your face ^{E7}I feel your presence
 ^AThe day is over ^{Dbm7}the sun is falling
 ^{Bm7}I reach for you ^{E7}I hear you calling

CHORUS It's ^Aalright, it's ^{Dbm7}alright
 You've ^{Bm7}got to love each other like a ^{E7}sister and a brother
 It's ^Aalright, it's ^{Dbm7}alright
 You've ^{Bm7}got to find the courage
 Just to ^{E7}help one another ^{A Dbm7 Bm7 E7}

V2 ^AA simple dream ^{Dbm7}the perfect vision
 ^{Bm7}Unlocks the door ^{E7}inside your prison
 ^AWith every day ^{Dbm7}I keep on praying
 ^{Bm7}The show must go on ^{E7}I hear you saying

CHORUS

BRIDGE ^DSometimes life is ^{A0}not what it seems
 You've ^Agot to take the good with the ^{A7}bad
 ^DOne day you're happy you're on ^{A0}top of the world
 The ^Bnext day you're feeling ^{E7}sad

Repeat V2

CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

with a little help

This song appeared on the flip side of the single,
It's Alright. I knew I needed another song to add
to the single for release so I suggested it to
Mark at Bronzeing Studio.

It features just my vocals and acoustic guitar playing.
It's about taking a look at yourself and watching
the way we perceive ourselves.

*We're the land of milk and honey
They are the land of poor*

These lines refer to us living in such luxury while others
only ever live in poverty. We need to open our hearts,
show some understanding that despite such diverse living
standards, we are all one on planet Earth.

*Don't fish in your shadow
The tide might slowly turn
You might catch your own reflection
That's a lesson you will learn*



With a Little Help

Finger picking in ^G and ^C with single note picking on higher frets

V1 If you don't ask no questions
 Then you won't get no lies
 People are mistaken
 They just don't realise, they just don't realise

V2 Don't fish in your shadow
 The tide might slowly turn
 You might catch your own reflection
 That's a lesson you will learn
 A lesson you will learn

BRIDGE And don't feel sorry for your broken soul
 You've got to mend it with some tape
 Wrap it round that little heart
 Before it's too late

V3 You've got to give a little to your brothers
 Over on the other shore
 We're the land of milk and honey
 They are the land of poor
 They are land of poor

V4 So give some selfless actions
 And pray to the living sun
 You've got to show some understanding
 That we're really one
 Yes we're all just one

BRIDGE

INSTRUMENTAL

robert johnson

A blues tribute song to the King of the Delta Blues.
Robert Johnson set the benchmark for the others to follow. British blues/rock artists like the Stones and Eric Clapton owe their roots to this man.

Although Robert Johnson played along with other artists, he was a loner and recorded his classic set of songs in a hotel room with a microphone and acoustic guitar and tape recorder.

Crossroads, the classic blues song, is where Johnson said he sold his soul to the devil to play the blues. Again, at the session with George who played slide guitar, it shows the raw passion of acoustic playing.

At the time, I had a National Steel Guitar. It's tuned to open G. That old guitar I had to play hard and mean!

Robert Johnson was murdered just before he was to be discovered by talent scouts. He had been fooling around with another fella's wife.

*Everybody knew that Johnson
had a way with the girls
he just couldn't leave them alone*

Robert Johnson

V1 ^GDoes the name Robert Johnson mean anything to you
Does the ^Cname Robert Johnson mean anything to ^Gyou
[']Cause ^Dsome folks say he was the ^Cking of the delta ^Gblues

V2 ^GHe'd play bottleneck slide
[']s fast as a bullet from a gun
He'd play ^Cbottleneck slide
[']s fast as a bullet from a ^Ggun
[']Cause ^Dsome folks say he was the ^Cking he was number ^Gone

BRIDGE 1 ^CRob was born in Mississippi
In a place called Hazelhurst
^GAround about 1912
He ^Cworked in all them juke joints
And them street corners too
^DThat's where Robert learned to play those blues

Repeat V1

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE 2 ^CEverybody knew that Johnson
Had a way with the girls
^GHe just couldn't leave them alone
^CThen one day he fooled around
With another fella's wife
^DThat's what ended poor young Robert's life

Repeat V1

familiar friend

I had a time in the early 90's when I had a prolific period writing songs. This one is about Pippa Jane. We had been married now for more than 12 years. I was locked into work, there was a cold wind blowing through my mind. I imagined how I would be, on my own without the one I loved. I imagined sitting at a café, drinking to ease the pain of not being with 'my familiar friend'.

She never hides her love from me. Can I express
how my love for her will never die.

I recorded the song at Bronzeing Studio. It was part of the session with my work colleague. He played some fine acoustic guitar on the song. Thanks for that George, wherever you are!

*Thinkin' that the world is at an end
Dreamin' 'bout my familiar friend*

Familiar Friend

V1 EmThere's a cold wind Em7blowing Bmthrough my mind
 EmBringing only Em7bad luck to Bmme
 EmI'm looking for the Em7sun that Bmshines like her smile
 EmIt makes me Em7feel a little Bmfree

CHORUS G Ooh she's the Am7right one
 G The Gonly love for Am7me
 G Ooh she's the Am7bright one
 C And Cwill I ever Bmknow the Greason Am7why
 C The Clove I have for Bmyou will Am7never Gdie

V2 EmSitting on a Em7cold one at a Bmcorner café
 EmThinking that the Em7world is at an Bmend
 EmDrinking only Em7sorrow from the Bmglass in my hand
 EmDreaming about Em7my familiar Bmfriend

CHORUS

BRIDGE C Ooh girl can you Gfeel it
 C That gentle feeling that's Ginside ooh yeh
 C Girl can you Gshow it
 Am7Show me all the love now that I Bm7know you can't hide

INSTRUMENTAL

CHORUS

a groovy kind of day

I remember it was the first song of several I wrote in '92.

I had returned from summer holidays in Whanganata.

Pippa and the girls were still there,
but I had work to get back to.

I was sitting at the dining room table looking out at
the blue sky, thinking about the beach, the sand, and
everything being groovy.

Summertime has such a positive effect on us all, that
when there are some bad times and misery, the summer
breeze has the power to blow it all away.

It's a happy song with a blues feel to it. I now play it
with the blues harp. It's a great sing-along song with
good chord structures.

*It's a groovy kind of day
And I hope it's gonna stay that way*



A Groovy Kind Of Day

INTRO A F#m B E7 A D7 A E7

V1 There's a ^Ablue sky up ^{A7}above
 ^DSummertime's here and there's ^{D#0}people in love
 It's a ^Agroovy kind of ^{F#m}day
 And I ^Bhope it's gonna ^{E7}stay that ^Away D7 A E7

V2 ^AHot sand in the ^{A7}sun
 There's ^Dpeople everywhere and they're ^{D#0}havin' fun
 It's a ^Agroovy kind of ^{F#m}day
 And I ^Bhope it's gonna ^{A7}stay that ^Away D7 A A7

BRIDGE I ^Dknow that there's been some ^{D#0}bad times
 And ^Amaybe lots of misery ^{A7}too
 But ^Dwhen that summer breeze comes ^{D#0}calling
 It's gonna ^Bblow away your lonesome ^{E7}blues

V3 So just ^Aremember in your ^{A7}heart
 ^DEven when you're down and you're ^{D#0}falling apart
 It's a ^Agroovy kind of ^{F#m}day
 And I ^Bhope it's gonna ^{E7}stay that ^Away D7 A E7

INSTRUMENTAL x2

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

 It's a ^Agroovy kind of ^{F#m}day
 And I ^Bhope it's gonna ^{E7}stay x2

 It's a ^Agroovy kind of ^{F#m}day
 And I ^Bhope it's gonna ^{E7}stay that ^Away D7 A A Ab A



lonely heart

This song was a direct dedication to my teacher
of knowledge, who revealed to me in 1975 the
ever-changing yet never changing place in my heart.
Now there's a riddle for you!

*As a child I come, so humble so small. I'll find comfort and
joy and then I can start to understand*

This single event in my life has given me a strong philosophic
core (home base) where I can strengthen all the other
areas in my life to create balance and harmony.

It's like planting a seed in really fertile soil, nurturing it
and watching it flower, and seeing that flower bring a smile
to all those that look hard enough to see it!

*Longing to fall in to your hands
Then I can start to understand*

Lonely Heart

V1 ^EHow this lonely heart ^{F#m7}cries
 For the ^Alonging of your ^Eshelter
 How this lonely heart ^{F#m7}cries
 For the ^Acomfort of your ^Elove

V2 ^ESuch a yearning I ^{F#m7}feel
 For the ^Apresence of your ^Ebody
 Such a burning I ^{F#m7}feel
 From the ^Afire in my ^Esoul

BRIDGE As a child I ^{F#m7}come so ^{Abm}humble so ^Asmall
 Longing to ^{Abm}fall in ^{F#m7}to your ^Ehands
 Knowing that ^{F#m7}I'll find ^{Abm}comfort and ^Ajoy
 Then I can ^{Abm}start to ^{F#m7}under^Bstand ^{B7 E}

CHORUS Deep in my ^{B7}heart
 I feel my ^Aloving start to grow
 I feel my ^Eanger start to go
 Deep in my ^{B7}heart that's where it will ^Estart
 And when that ^Aanger starts to go
 I feel that ^Eflower start to grow
 Deep in my ^{B7}heart
 Deep in my ^Eheart

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

aotearoa (the land of the long white cloud)

I wrote this song after we won the America's Cup
in the 90's. It is to promote New Zealand
as a great place to live and visit.

In the bridge I make reference to L.A. and Texas, where
people will try all manner of ways to 'cut a living', yet
here in Aotearoa we just get it on by being ourselves
in a no nukes, clean green country.

As a video song, I would add some Maori vocals as backing
vocals behind part of a verse (my little secret!).

This would make a great promo song!

*It's not Nashville Tennessee
But we can play guitar just as mean as can be
That's Aotearoa, the way we like it to be*

Aotearoa (The land of the long white cloud)

V1 ^DThere's a place that I know you've heard
 ^GAnd it lies at the bottom of the world
 ^DThe girls are cute, the boys are proud
 ^AIt's called the land of the long white cloud
 ^DIt's not Nashville Tennessee
 But ^Gwe can play guitar just as mean as can be
 That's ^DAotearoa, ^Athe way we like it to ^Dbe

V2 ^DThe air is sweet and the girls are too
 ^GAin't nothin' dirty and the skies are blue
 ^DThere ain't no nukes in this far off land
 Just some ^Aclean country boys in a clean country band
 ^DIt's not Nashville Tennessee
 But ^Gwe can play guitar just as mean as can be
 That's ^DAotearoa, ^Athe way we like it to ^Dbe

BRIDGE You're ^Gsitting in L.A., chokin' on some fumes
 Or ^Ddown in Austin Texas in some motel room
 You're ^Gtryin' to cut a living as best as you can
 But ^Athere's a better place in a far off land

V3 ^DSome sing our praises like a long lost song
 ^G30 million sheep just can't be wrong
 A ^Dsteinie in our hands singing 'hey bro wassup?'
 ^AWe even won the America's Cup
 ^DIt's not Nashville Tennessee
 But ^Gwe can play guitar just as mean as can be
 That's ^DAotearoa, ^Athe way we like it to ^Dbe

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

The way we like it to be

boys night out

I was jamming with my brother Dave and his friend up the road. We made Friday nights our practise night.

We were listening to some country rock songs, one in particular by Marty Stuart, Hillbilly Rock.

This is a classic 3 chord country rock song.

We jokingly called ourselves Boys Night Out, so that's where the song came from. I wrote it with a country blues slide guitar to feature in the song.

*Doctor, doctor I'm calling you
I think I've got a case of Original Blues*

Boys Night Out

V1 ^GDoctor doctor I'm calling you
 I think I've got a case of original blues
 I'm writing a song with a catchy beat
 One that makes you boogie, get up on your feet

V2 ^GI come home from work with a smile on my face
 I seem to be in love with the whole human race
 It's Friday night, time to twist and shout
 It's time to play some blues with the boys night out

CHORUS ^{C7}Boys night out it's like a natural thrill
 ^GBoys night out it's like a natural pill
 ^{C7}Boys night out no need to reason why
 ^{D7}Boys night out it's just a natural high

V3 ^GI've got a fever and it won't go away
 It's called the blues and it's here to stay
 It's like an achin' heart disease
 One that makes you get down on your bended knees

V4 ^GSo doctor won't you give me that pill
 I've got to ease that shakin' chill
 It's Friday night it's time to let it all out
 It's time to get down with the boys night out

CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL

V5 ^GSo doctor doctor I'm calling you
 I think I've got a case of original blues
 It's Friday night and it's outa sight
 It's time to get down with the boys night out

CHORUS

casino blues

This song was written in '96. I was practising on a Friday night with Dave, and later in the evening I suggested that we write a song together.

I think we were having a few bourbons and then started writing the song.

It's about a guy who goes to the casino and bets his money and luck playing blackjack. He thinks he's on a roll with a pretty woman, sitting on his lap, encouraging him to beat the dealer's hand. He's thinking what he'll do with her when he wins big time, but lady luck is against him and so is his 'hussy', who's looking for another winner - her ticket to ride.

A blues song that would have been right at home on a Stevie Ray Vaughan album.

*You know the rules, honey
It's 21 or bust
Stay by my side from dawn til' dusk*

Casino Blues

INTRO Db9 D9 G Db9 D9 G Db9 D9 G A

V1 Db9 D9 I was in the casino Gplayin' blackjack
Db9 D9 When this pretty little thing came and Gsat on my lap
Db9 D9 I say you know the rules honey it's G21 or bust
A Stay by my side from dawn til' dusk

V2 Db9 D9 Cash another chip, Gdeal another ace
Db9 D9 If I win tonight babe it's Gback to my place
Db9 D9 If I lose this time then Gwhat the hell
A 'Cause baby you've got me under your spell

BRIDGE - INSTRUMENTAL Dm Am C G Dm Am G Ab9 A9

V3 Db9 D9 You loosen my tie I Ghave another drink
Db9 D9 I need some space, some Gtime to think
Db9 D9 The cards are dealt it's Gtime to choose
A Do I double up can't afford to lose

V4 Db9 D9 The dealer's hand will Gseal my fate
Db9 D9 I need a win can't Gafford to wait
Db9 D9 It's now or never I'll Gstake the lot
A 'Cause baby you're just too hot to trot

BRIDGE - INSTRUMENTAL Dm Am C G Dm Am G Ab9 A9

V5 Db9 D9 I don't believe it another Glosing hand
Db9 D9 What's this lesson I don't Gunderstand
Db9 D9 Maybe the next time might be Glady luck
A This time baby we will d. d. double up

V6 Db9 D9 I lost again it's Gall downhill
Db9 D9 Time to swallow that Gbitter pill
Db9 D9 Wash it down try to Gdrown the pain
A Casino Blues it's g. g. got me again

BRIDGE - INSTRUMENTAL Dm Am C G Dm Am G Ab9 A9

V7 Db9 D9 I'm out on the street Gnowhere to go
Db9 D9 Confusion reigns I'm Gfeelin' low
Db9 D9 Where's my 'hussy' she is Gstill inside
A She's lookin' for a winner – her ticket to ride

Db9 D9 Casino Blues it's Ggot me again
Db9 D9 It's like a drug it's Gin my veins x3

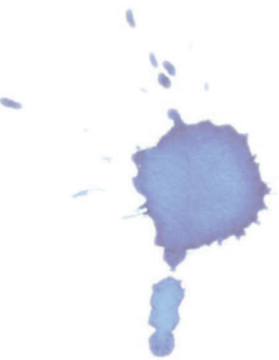
Db9 D9 Casino Blues it's got Gme again
A Deal 'em again

puppet song

This song was written with a Santana feel to it, similar to Black Magic Woman, also with just three chords to the song. It's about feeling the love inside, letting the good times roll, being set free and dancing the night away.

The song had no title for many years until one Friday night when we were practising. Our part time jamming band member Kev, suggested the title Puppet Song. I thought it was ridiculous, but the more we played it together the more it stuck. He said he could visualize a puppet on strings dancing to the song. And he was the straight guy!

*Open up that love inside
Come on dance with me*



Puppet Song

V1 ^{Am7}Dance brother dance, dance out on the floor
Dance brother dance, your heart cries out for more
Let it ^Ggo ooh let it ^{Am7}flow

V2 ^{Am7}Dance sister dance, dance out on the floor
Dance sister dance, your heart cries out for more
Let it ^Ggo ooh let it ^{Am7}flow

^{Dm7}You can let those good times roll
^{Am7}You can be set free
Just ^{Dm7}open up that love inside
^{E7}Come on dance with me, come on ^{Dm7}dance

INSTRUMENTAL

V3 ^{Am7}Dance mama dance, dance out on the floor
Dance mama dance, your heart cries out for more
Let it ^Ggo ooh let it ^{Am7}flow

V4 ^{Am7}Dance papa dance, dance out on the floor
Dance papa dance, your heart cries out for more
Let it ^Ggo ooh let it ^{Am7}flow

^{Dm7}You can let those good times roll
^{Am7}You can be set free
Just ^{Dm7}open up that love inside
^{E7}Come on dance with me, come on ^{Dm7}dance

keep it simple stupid

Like the title suggests, I wanted to write a song that it's strength would be in it's simplicity. There are only two chords throughout the entire song.

It's as simple as the answer to problems
being laughter - the spice of life.

It's about appreciating what we have when we are lost in a
maze of work and responsibilities. It's about the
answers being inside, not outside, enough to bless
each day before it starts.

There are so many layers that can colour this song.
In it's simplicity it could become a simple classic song.
I lose myself in it whenever I play it.
It takes me to a peaceful place.

*I hold on to something simple and nice
'Cause sweet laughter ... is the spice of life*

Keep it Simple Stupid

Two chords through entire song

Open ^E on the 6th fret
^{F#m} shape with open ^{E B E} strings

Keep it simple stupid – kiss
Keep it simple stupid – kiss

V1 Problems I've had my share
 Bad memories can take me there
 I hold on to something simple and nice
 'Cause sweet laughter is the spice of life

Keep it simple stupid – kiss

V2 Working can sometimes seem like a chore
 When I'm halfway walking through the open door
 But I stop and start to turn around
 'Cause what I've got is the best I've ever found

Keep it simple stupid – kiss
Keep it simple stupid – kiss

INSTRUMENTAL

V3 Answers, yes they come and go
 But there's one thing I surely know
 That special place that lies inside my heart
 It makes me bless each day before it starts

Keep it simple stupid – kiss
Keep it simple stupid – kiss



i'll be dammed i've been jammed

The second half of the 90's only resulted in a couple of songs. That was all about to change in the 21st Century!

In 2004 I joined a charitable organisation assisting kids with disabilities called StarJam.

This song is about how I came to be involved with StarJam. Two years later I became their first music tutor, teaching guitar.

The song is written as a blues song in E. I also play the song with a blues harp. I wrote the song at work two days after attending their end of month meeting.

*How do you really feel in your heart
Don't you wish that when you wake up in the morning
That you can start it with a brand new start*

I'll be Dammed I've been Jammed

V1 ^EIt all started at a party I was talking with a friend
 She said, how do you really feel in your heart
 She said, ^Adon't you wish that when you wake up
 In the morning, you can ^Estart it with a brand new start
 That it's all about ^{B7}passion and if you give
 You'll ^Areceive, yes I ^Ebelieve

V2 ^ESo I came along to this meeting
 Thought I'd come along for the ride
 And then I felt it when I sat down in my chair
 I could ^Afeel a kind of loving that was stirring in my heart
 I could ^Efeel a certain magic in the air
 Then I'll be ^{B7}dammed, then I'll be ^Adammed
 I got ^Ejammed

INSTRUMENTAL 1 guitar

INSTRUMENTAL 2 blues harp

V3 ^EIf music was a dollar then we would all be rich
 And the melody she would be our friend
 And if ^Aevery song that we could sing could touch another's heart
 We'd ^Ehave so many dollars we could spend

 So I'll be ^{B7}dammed, so I'll be ^Adammed
 I got ^Ejammed x3

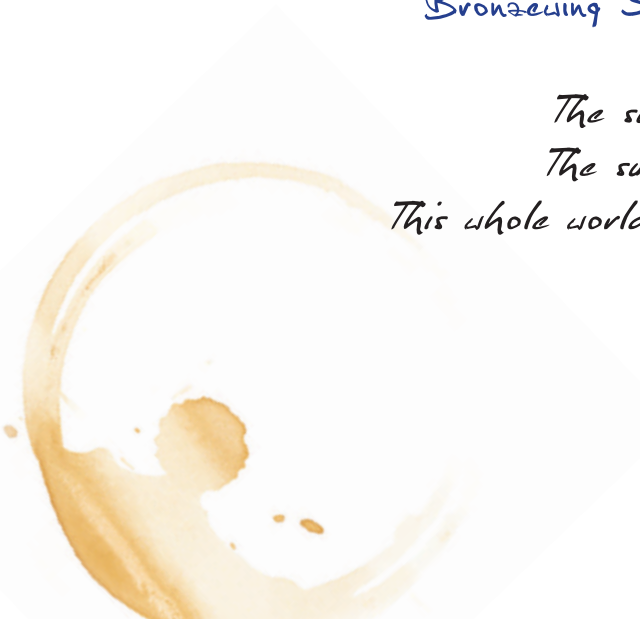
my friend - my bro

My daughter, Laura had just returned from a funeral of her friend who took his own life. I read on the programme the songs from the service. I used some of these lyrics to add to other lyrics I had lying around and came up with this song. It uses the same melody throughout the song. I recorded it at Bronzeing Studio.

Apart from the acoustic guitar we added flute and viola, both simulated on keyboard by another great musician.
Thanks heaps Johnny.

It fades out at the end, to give the feeling of being suspended in the song. There was a lot of feeling in the studio when we recorded this song. Again, Mark knew where he was going with the song. I miss being at Bronzeing Studio. RIP Mark.

*The sun comes up
The sun goes down
This whole world keeps spinning round*



My Friend – My Bro

Open ^D

V1 Why be with a stranger
 When you can be with your friend
 If you're ever lonely
 You know I'm lonely too
 I'll stay lonely, I'll stay lonely
 Until I'm again with you

V2 The sun comes up the sun goes down
 This whole world keeps spinning round
 I love you and you love me
 And that's how easy it all could be
 In this world, in this world
 Until I'm again with you

Repeat V1

I won't let you go – *repeat – fade*

10 000 miles (carly's song)

Yet again, good songs come along out of nowhere and this is a real classic. I was sitting by the fire one winters night listening to Laura's friend Carly talk about her long distance love affair with her boyfriend who stayed behind from their O.E. in France. The more I heard Carly explaining to Laura how she felt, the more I was inspired to write a new song.

I had a tune in my head I was working on, and it all came together really quickly. I call it a classic 'cause it has a great structure to it: verse 1,2,3, chorus and a bridge - and of course an instrumental in the middle.

This is one song I will take with me into a top recording studio and turn it into a classic pop song. It has a blues feel to it with a perfect 'hook' in the melody to bring the listener right into the song.

*I have a long distance love affair
One day I'm down then I'm up in the air*

10 000 Miles (Carly's Song)

INTRO A F#m B7 E7

V1 A I wrote a letter and I F#m sent it to
The Bm one I love and the E7 one is you
A A simple message I just F#m wanna say
Bm How can I cheer you E7 up today
A We may be 10 000 F#m miles apart
But Bm I can feel you beating here E7 inside my heart

CHORUS So baby how A long, how C#m lo – ng
D 'Til we're together E7 again
So baby how A long, how C#m lo – ng
My D heart is burning like a E7 flame

V2 A I have a long distance F#m love affair
Bm One day I'm down then I'm E7 up in the air
A I hope this letter gets in F#m to your hands
So Bm you can read the part that says, I E7 understand
A We may be 10 000 F#m miles apart
But Bm I can feel you beating here E7 inside my heart

CHORUS

BRIDGE So hold C#m on and hold F#m out D even through stormy Bm weather
So be C#m strong 'cause no F#m doubt D we'll make it work E7 together
(Come on baby we can make it work out)

INSTRUMENTAL

V3 A I wrote a letter and I F#m sent it to
The Bm one I love and the E7 one is you
A A simple message I just F#m wanna say
Bm How can I cheer you E7 up today
A I hope this letter gets in F#m to your hands
So Bm you can read the part that says, I E7 understand
A We may be 10 000 F#m miles apart
But Bm I can feel you beating here E7 inside my heart

CHORUS x2

How long

tropical breeze

This is one of 3 songs I wrote in four days. We went on a holiday to Ellis Beach in North Queensland. The weather was a bit crappy, so I used the time to write (and of course I brought my guitar).

This song reflects the mood I was in. The breeze was tropical, my girl was beautiful. We had a cabin right on the beach surrounded by palm trees.

On a 5 hour flight, here we are in heaven tonight

At the time I was listening to Jack Johnson so his music was influencing my creative style. I started the song the afternoon we arrived and finished it the next morning.

*I'm lyin' on the sand, I hold my baby's hand
We're having a good time*



Tropical Breeze

INTRO D Bm Em A7 x2

V1 D Life is simple and Bm fine Em A7
 D Sunshine and Bm good wine Em A7
 D Under a Bm coconut tree Em that's where you'll A7 find me
 Having a D good time Bm Em A7

V2 Feel the D warm tropical Bm breeze Em A7
 Just my D baby and me Bm Em A7
 On a D five hour Bm flight
 Em Here we are in A7 heaven tonight D Bm Em A7

BRIDGE And F#m even if the Bm sky is grey
 And the F#m sun decides to Bm hide away for a short while
 I F#m know in my heart it Bm won't be long
 To F#m find the words to Bm finish my song and A7 make me smile

V3 So D please, please, Bm please Em A7
 Give me some D warm tropical Bm breeze Em A7
 I'm D lying on the Bm sand
 I Em hold my baby's A7 hand
 We're having a D good time Bm Em A7

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

 Having a D good time Bm Em A7
 Drinking my D red wine Bm Em A7
 Me and my D baby we're fine Bm Em A7 D

retail shopping therapy

Two days after writing Tropical Breeze, the weather was still grey! We went to the Shopping Plaza in Cairns where I sat watching people bargain hunting. I couldn't believe just how we all get caught up in needing so much.

Back at the cabin I started on a new chord sequence, and Retail Shopping Therapy was born! A great song with verse, chorus and bridge. Although it's a sad kind of song with a slow beat, I had to brighten it up with some fun lyrics. I was thinking of music by Jack Johnson. So you can imagine, the song kind of just came rolling along - just like the music of J.J. Cale. Now, there's a musician!

Does it fit me, do you like it?

Yes it looks amazing

Retail Shopping Therapy

INTRO C Em Am F

V1 C Look at all the people Em shopping Am looking for a F bargain
The C discount rack is Em empty and the Am credit card is F charging
C Does it fit me Em do you like it, Am yes it looks F amazing
The C shop assistant's Em trained to give Am encouragement and F praising

CHORUS Dm Look at all the G7 people in a C hurry Em
Dm With a look of G7 sadness and C worry on their Em face
Dm This is what we G7 call the human C race Em Am

V2 C Try it if you Em like it you can Am always buy a F dozen
And C if it doesn't Em fit then you can Am give it to your F cousin
C Retail shopping is a Em drug it Am gets into your F veins
And C if you Em overdose it seems to Am jeopardize your F brain

CHORUS

BRIDGE

F And when you're satisfied it's C over
F And everything you've bought is C justified
F Come tomorrow you'll C hear yourself Em say
That G7 retail shopping therapy is really
Very good for me C Em Am C Em Am

V3 C Grab a coffee Em fix so it can Am keep you on the F go
Like a C roller coaster Em spinning spinning Am never going F slow
You C convince yourself you've Em had enough
And Am everything is F fine
Then you C see another Em bargain, it's only Am \$99.99 F

CHORUS

Dm This is what we G7 call the human C race Em
I'm Dm surprised we even G7 recognize this C place Em Dm G7 C

hollywood bitch

This was our fourth day at Ellis Beach and no sign of sunshine. I hadn't slept very well the last couple of nights - if at all. No surprise!

I was busy finishing my new songs and my mind was like a blocked highway. I took some down time and read a magazine. You know those women's mags that dish the dirt on all the celebrities.

When I finished an article on a lonely, wealthy Hollywood actress, I had the title for my 3 out of 3 songs in four days - Hollywood Bitch.

I always wanted to write a song that takes the piss out of glamour - it's so false. This song is destined for airplay one day in the USA, and the video clip will be the icing on the cake. Can't wait!

*You may be a movie star and you may be rich
But you're a certified, bonafide Hollywood Bitch*

Hollywood Bitch

- V1 ^FDriving down the ^{Gm}freeway in your ^{Am}fancy ^FCadillac
You've got a girlfriend in the ^{Gm}front seat
And a ^{Am}toy boy in the ^Fback
Your credit card is ^{Gm}platinum
You're ^{Am}paying for the ^Fbest
You've got collagen ^{Gm}lips and ^{Am}silicone ^Fbreasts
- V2 ^FI read about your ^{Gm}movie in the ^{Am}latest ^Fmagazine
They paid you seven ^{Gm}million
Just to ^{Am}do a naked ^Fscene
And you live up in a ^{Gm}mansion in those ^{Am}Hollywood ^Fhills
You get high on ^{Gm}cocaine just to ^{Am}give you your ^Fthrills
- CHORUS You ^{Bb}may be a ^{Dm}movie star and you ^{C7}may be ^Frich
But you're a ^{Bb}certified ^{Dm}bonafide ^{C7}Hollywood ^FBitch
- V3 ^FYou don't speak to your ^{Gm}mother
And your ^{Am}father's moved ^Faway
You have your psycho^{Gm}therapy ^{Am}almost every ^Fday
Even your ^{Gm}old friends don't ^{Am}call you on the ^Fphone
Your dog has gone to ^{Gm}rehab
'Cause he ^{Am}can't be left ^Falone
- V4 ^FAnd when you wake up in the ^{Gm}morning
In your ^{Am}king size ^Fbed
Thoughts of ^{Gm}suicide come ^{Am}running through your ^Fhead
So is it really ^{Gm}worth it all the ^{Am}money and the ^Fgreed
Why don't you give it all ^{Gm}away
To some ^{Am}worthwhile ^Fcharity
- CHORUS
- BRIDGE ^{C7}You do what it takes to get ^Fby
You ^{Bb}take what you need to get ^Fhigh
You ^{Bb}feel what you feel 'cause ^Fnothing is real
And ^{Gm}then you believe it – Bitch!
- V5 ^FDriving down the ^{Gm}freeway in your ^{Am}fancy ^FCadillac
You've got a girlfriend in the front ^{Gm}seat
And a ^{Am}toy boy in the ^Fback
And you live up in a ^{Gm}mansion in those ^{Am}Hollywood ^Fhills
You get high on ^{Gm}cocaine just to ^{Am}give you your ^Fthrills
- V6 ^FYou don't speak to your ^{Gm}mother
And your ^{Am}father's moved ^Faway
You have your psycho^{Gm}therapy ^{Am}almost ^Feveryday
So is it really ^{Gm}worth it all the ^{Am}money and the ^Fgreed
Why don't you give it all ^{Gm}away
To some ^{Am}worthwhile ^Fcharity
- CHORUS
- ^FWith your silicone ^{Gm}breasts and your ^{Am}collagen ^Flips
Everybody ^{Gm}calls you a ^{Am}Hollywood ^FBitch!



everything a girl can be

It was now 2007. This year I would write 6 songs.
The first one was just before Pippa's birthday in April.
It must have been the school holidays. She was still in
bed when I kissed her goodbye to go to work.
I noticed how serene she looked sleeping and it
gave me the lead-in for my song.

At work I had a little travel guitar that
I was playing, and on a break, I started fooling around
with a chord sequence. Verse and chorus.

I wrote it about looking at my girl fast asleep that
morning with a look of serenity - simplicity.

It's played with a Capo on the 1st fret to give a higher
voicing. This song is really simple, and in it's simplicity it
captures a strength that is played out throughout the
song. Another classic! It came out well on the home
recording. Thanks for that, Dave.

*And when she opens her eyes
It's like a summer sunrise*

Everything a Girl Can Be

[Capo 1st fret]

INTRO C Am7 F G x2

V1 C Isn't she Am7 fine isn't she F cool isn't she G sweet
I C like to look at my Am7 baby when F she's fast a G sleep
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be C Am7 F G

V2 C And even in Am7 dreamtimes when she's F in another G place
She C has a certain Am7 smile she F wears upon her G face
Of C serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be C Am7 F G

BRIDGE Dm And when she Em opens Em7 her eyes
Dm It's like a Em summer sun Em7 rise
Dm I feel that Em gentle Em7 heat
G Ooh pretty girl you knock me off my feet

C Doo di di Am7 doo bu – mm – Fba Gyeh yeh Cyeh C Am7 F G
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be C Am7 F G

V3 C So girl can you Am7 take me in your F dreams G tonight
C Hug me and kiss me and Am7 tell me that every F thing's G alright
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be C Am7 F G

V4 C So let it be Am7 known there can F be no other G way
I C want her to feel the Am7 love in my heart
Especially when I G say
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be C Am7 F G

BRIDGE

C Doo di di Am7 doo bu – mm – Fba Gyeh yeh Cyeh C Am7 F G
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be

C Doo di di Am7 doo bu – mm – Fba Gyeh yeh Cyeh C Am7 F G
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be

C Doo di di Am7 doo bu – mm – Fba Gyeh yeh Cyeh C Am7 F G
C Serenity Am7 simplicity she's F everything a G girl can C be

this christmas time

Not long after *Everything a Girl Can Be*, I wrote this song. It's about global warming, so to make it fun, I pictured Santa Claus trying to leave the North Pole to deliver his presents with the snow and ice melting all around him. Poor old reindeer, can't even cool their feet.

The message is, everybody pull together, it won't take long to change the world. So if we want to make a change and help our friend Santa get those pressies delivered, we need to hear the message, pull together and work hard to make this planet Earth sustainable for our future generations.

This song has a Billy Joel feel to it.

*We can make a change
We can help this world to re-arrange*

This Christmas Time

V1 G Ice is Bm melting Am no snow is D7 falling
 G Will Santa Bm Claus really come Am calling this D7 Christmas time
 G Poor old Bm reindeer Am can't even D7 cool their feet
 G In the middle of the Bm North Pole feeling the Am heat
 This D7 Christmas time

V2 G Ocean's Bm rising Am it's getting D7 warmer
 G Everything's Bm changing in the Am corners of the D7 world
 G I hear the Bm message Am it's coming D7 loud and strong
 G Everybody pull Bm together it won't take Am long
 To D7 change the world

BRIDGE Em All it takes is a little bit of self Bm determination
 To C realise that we can make a G change
 Em And even with a little bit of Bm conservation
 Am We can help this world to D7 rearrange

V3 G So time is Bm calling Am maybe we can D7 understand
 G That Santa Bm Claus really needs a Am hand
 This D7 Christmas time
 G I hear the Bm message Am it's coming D7 loud and strong
 G Everybody pull Bm together it won't take Am long
 To D7 change the world

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

V4 G Ice is Bm melting Am no snow is D7 falling
 G Will Santa Bm Claus really come Am calling this D7 Christmas time
 G Ocean's Bm rising Am it's getting D7 warmer
 G Everything's Bm changing in the Am corners of the D7 world
 G I hear the Bm message Am it's coming D7 loud and strong
 G Everybody pull Bm together it won't take Am long
 To D7 change the world^G

made in the usa

I wrote this song about living in the USA. It's not a protest song, rather it epitomises the commercialism that the U.S. has come to be known for.

It has a nice country feel to it and rolls along like a '55 Chevy down Route 66. Speaking of highways, I was travelling south the day the song was conceived in my head and I had to make several stops on the side of the road to write down the verses as they were being processed in my head. I had a lot of laughs writing this song.

I sure hope the song makes it to the USA one day. It's a great commercial song.

Welcome to the USA
Have a mighty fine stay
Everybody wants to play
In the USA



Made in the USA

- V1 ^CI wrote a little song today
 It's called ^GMade in the USA
 ^{Dm}I hope you really like this ^{Am}song
 ^CIt's all about the land of the free
 ^GAnd how they want to super size me
 ^{Dm}And I promise it won't take ^{Am}long
- V2 ^CI heard it on the news today that ^GGreenland's kinda melting away
 ^{Dm}It's all about the carbon in the ^{Am}air
 When you ^Cwant a vacation and you need to catch a plane
 Or ^Gspeeding in your car when you're trying to change lanes
 ^{Dm}Think of what it's doing to our precious ^{Am}atmosphere
- V3 Up in ^CNew York City and down the Florida Keys
 And in ^GHollywood where it's easy to please
 We ^{Dm}all pull together right now and that's a ^{Am}must
 'Cause at the ^Cend of the day when you're tired and weary
 And our ^Gheads are feeling heavy and our eyes are bleary
 We ^{Dm}all say our prayers and say In God We ^{Am}Trust
- CHORUS ^FWelcome to the ^CUSA have a mighty fine ^{G7}stay
 ^FEverybody wants to ^Cplay in the ^{G7}USA
- V4 ^CWe gave the world burgers and fries
 A ^Gbottle of Coke and cruise missiles
 And we ^{Dm}salute the flag and say hey 'we're the real ^{Am}deal'
 But ^Cshooting missiles is really sad and ^Gburgers and fries
 They can really be bad
 And ^{Dm}I don't think that Coke is all that ^{Am}real
- V5 ^CSo if you feel the way I do we can ^Gchange this world
 Me and you, and if we ^{Dm}all work hard we can change our ^{Am}attitude
 And then ^Ceven people in a crowd will ^Gstop and look
 And say out loud, they'll say ^{Dm}hey man there goes one cool ^{Am}dude

CHORUS x2

like new years eve

I wrote this song in the same week as
Made in the U.S.A. It's a happy song.

*Here's a song to make you feel happy and groovy
Here's a song that gets you through a busy day*

I was thinking of my daughter, Holly, in London.
So in the second verse, the song travels all the way
from Auckland to London, to Arizona to
Mexico and back again.

In the chaos, I was picturing all the pretty girls from
Mexico and Arizona doing a salsa type dance.
Everyone joins in the party which 'makes the night
feel like New Years Eve'.

Again the song has a great structure to it. Three verses,
a chorus and a bridge. It's played at a medium to fast
beat, just like all the dancing going on in the song.
The ending was perfect. A small lead break that
runs down to an abrupt stop. Another song played
with capo on 1st fret.

*Get fancy free - like New Years Eve
It's the perfect place to be
Let the music set you free*

Like New Years Eve

[Capo 1st fret]

V1 ^CHere's a song to ^Fmake you feel ^Chappy and ^{G7}groovy
 ^CHere's a song to ^Fget you through a ^{G7}busy ^Cday
 ^CHere's a song that ^Fyou can hum ^Cwatching a ^{G7}movie
 Or ^Cdriving in your ^Fcar when you're ^{G7}miles ^Caway

V2 It ^Cmakes you want to ^Fshout it from the ^Cstreets of ^{G7}Auckland
 ^CAll the way to ^FLondon down the ^{G7}river ^CThames
 And ^Cecho through the ^Fvalleys of ^CAri ^{G7}zona
 ^CAll the way to ^FMexico and ^{G7}back ^Cagain ^{Em Am}

CHORUS It's ^{Am}such a ^{Em}small world that ^Feveryone can be your ^Cfriend
 ^{Em Am}It gets you ^{Em}thinking that ^Fall the girls from Mexico and Arizona too
 Can ^{G7}all be dancing in the same room as you

V3 ^CCome on ^Feverybody lets ^Cjoin the ^{G7}party
 ^CEvery night can ^Fbe just like ^{G7}New Years ^CEve
 ^CLets all get ^Ftogether and ^Cget things ^{G7}started
 ^CLoosen up your ^Fshirt and get ^{G7}fancy ^Cfree

BRIDGE ^{Dm}Get fancy free like New Years ^{G7}Eve
 When you ^{Dm}give your love you will ^{G7}receive
 ^{Dm}Deep inside your heart you'll ^Cfind a place to start
 It's the ^Fperfect place to be let the ^{G7}music set you free

[Repeat first two lines in each three verses]

CHORUS

Repeat V3

^CLoosen up your ^Fshirt and get ^{G7}fancy ^Cfree x2

let's make a deal

We were on holiday in the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.
We went for a morning walk along the beach before it got too hot in the day. I was absorbing all the sights along the way and started to think of a new song.

I had a chord sequence I was working on at the time, so the next thing I needed were some ideas to bring into the song. When we got back to the apartment we were staying at, Pippa wanted to go 'window shopping', so I stayed behind and wrote this song.

I worked hard at it when I got back home to find all the extras on guitar that would make the song stand out.
I was really pleased with the final result.
It's a great love song!

*'Cause you make me feel like living is real
You understand when I hold your hand*

Let's Make a Deal

V1 ^DFeel the summer sun it's shining
 It's painting up the sky so blue
 I'm happy just to share this moment
 Walking on the beach with you

V2 ^DStepping in each others shadows
 Trying to shelter from the sun
 Hear the ocean waves they're calling
 Saying ain't life so much fun

CHORUS [']Cause you make me ^Cfeel like living is ^Greal
 You ^Cunderstand when I hold your ^Ghand
 If this is ^Creal then honey let's make a ^Gdeal
 If you be my ^Fgirl – I'll be your ^Dman

V3 ^DEverywhere there's sounds of laughter
 Lovers walking hand in hand
 Daddies with their little children
 Making sand castles in the sand

V4 ^DIf I could paint the perfect picture
 I'd paint it in the sky for you
 I'd use all the colours of the rainbow
 And I would paint I love you

CHORUS x2

Repeat V1

Walking hand in hand with you x2



harmony

I was doing some contract work on a property that was rented as a women's refuge for Maori women. While I was on site, I was observing people coming and going and wondering what was going on in their lives. This was the inspiration for the song Harmony.

It's about a man who keeps going off the rails and looks to his woman for guidance and reassurance. He knows that it will never be the same as before, but promises that if he can make a new start he will try to mend his ways. Repeated patterns of behaviour become a hard habit to break for many of us.

Thoughts driven by emotions need to be regularly monitored and kept in check.

*And when it's like I'm lost at sea
You throw a lifeline to my heart
And come to rescue me*

Harmony

V1 G If I can Bm be a better Am man I'll D7 learn to try
 G And I'll reach Bm out to touch your Am hand so D7 please don't cry

CHORUS C We can live in G harmony, girl
 C You can set my spirit G free, girl
 C And when it's like I'm G lost at Em sea
 You Am throw a lifeline to my heart
 And D7 come to rescue me

V2 G Will you Bm catch me when I Am fall I go D7 down so low
 G Will you Bm hear me when I Am call so D7 I will know

CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE Bm It'll never be the Am same
 Bm But if we can start Am again
 Bm I'll make a promise Am every day
 To C send a message to your heart
 And D7 this is what I'll say

V3 G I Bm love you, Am don't D7 want to hurt you
 G Believe Bm me, Am I D7 won't desert you
 G I'm Bm all locked up Am inside and it's D7 hurting me
 G So Bm baby turn the Am key and please D7 set me free

CHORUS

 G Bm Rescue me Am and D7 set me free
 G Bm Rescue me Am and D7 set me free G

that's what it's like inside

I've always been fascinated by the sheer vastness of space,
knowing that each shining star at night is another sun,
sustaining - what?

I also know that deep inside, is a vast universe. When we
can close our eyes and know what to look for, what to
listen to and what to feel, then we start to understand
why we are here. It's like a riddle!

The smaller the question, the bigger the answer - the
bigger the question (existence on planet Earth) the
smaller the answer - go within.

This is another song played on 1st fret with capo for a
higher voicing. It has a kind of Spanish guitar feel to the
song. This song came out of the heavens and fell into my
lap. For that I am forever grateful.

*Inside you'll find a place that's right for you
It's really just a case of déjà vu!*

That's what it's like Inside

[Capo 1st fret]

V1 ^{Am}I Look at the ^{Dm}stars up ^{Em7}in the ^{Am}sky
Tell me how ^{Dm}far can you ^{Am}see
Imagine a ^{Dm}place that's ^{Em7}in your ^{Am}heart
Just waiting to ^{Dm}be set ^{Am}free

V2 ^{Am}Free like a ^{Dm}bird on a ^{Em7}wing and a ^{Am}prayer
Taking your ^{Dm}time not a ^{Am}care
Flying so ^{Dm}high ^{Em7}taking a ^{Am}ride
That's what it's ^{Dm}like inside^{Am}
That's what it's ^{Dm}like inside^{Am}

BRIDGE ^FInside you'll find a ^{Fm}place that's right for ^Cyou
It's ^Freally just a ^{Fm}case of déjà ^Cvu
When you ^Fsee it you'll know for sure
That ^Gyou've been here before ^{Am Dm Em7 Am Am Dm Am}

V3 ^{Am}Traffic light ^{Dm}stops you on the ^{Em7}way to ^{Am}work
Is all of this ^{Dm}really ^{Am}real
You're selling your ^{Dm}soul to the ^{Em7}dollar ^{Am}bill
When all you really ^{Dm}want to ^{Am}feel – is feeling

V4 ^{Am}Free like a ^{Dm}bird on a ^{Em7}wing and a ^{Am}prayer
Taking your ^{Dm}time not a ^{Am}care
Flying so ^{Dm}high ^{Em7}taking a ^{Am}ride
That's what it's ^{Dm}like ^{Am}inside
That's what it's ^{Dm}like ^{Am}inside

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

Just waiting to ^{Dm}be set ^{Am}free
Just waiting to ^{Dm}be set ^{Am}free



a better way

I wrote this song a few weeks after
'That's what it's like inside' and the feelings
just seemed to flow on to this song.
I was listening to a new Jack Johnson C.D.
so I was influenced by his style of writing
when this song came along.

We go to work all day, come home, turn on the T.V. to watch
the network news and shake our heads, it's just
the same, it's such a shame.

If we spent more time listening to music, our souls would
be more satisfied in the groove of the melody.

The bridge brings you back to the message in the last song, to
listen to the voice within.

It all comes down to a simple smile that's from a child - a smile
of innocence - what you see is what you get.

The song is played on the 1st fret with a capo.
At the time I was really looking for a great song to appear and
as it unfolded, it got better and better
so it was easy to name it, A Better Way.

*A simple smile that's from a child
Is all we need to stop the greed
So we can begin to sow the seed*

A Better Way

[Capo 1st fret]

INTRO E F#m x2

V1 E Turn on the T.V. and it's F#m all bad news
 E Someone's found a reason or F#m just another excuse
 To E start a war we can't ignore
 Where F#m people die and children cry
 And E all we do is wonder F#m why

It's always been the E same F#m ain't it such a E shame F#m

V2 E So turn on the radio and F#m listen to a song
 E Find a reason in your heart where F#m you can right the wrong
 And E be around a simple sound
 Where the F#m melody can set you free
 So E you can be you and I can be F#m me

Ain't that a better E way F#m to start the E day F#m

BRIDGE Abm A And even when it C#m all goes wrong
 When F#m everything falls E apart F#m Abm A
 Just listen to the C#m voice within
 It's B7 calling from your heart (saying)

V3 E Let's get together so F#m we can find a way
 To E bring a little happiness in F#m to the world today
 A E simple smile that's from a child
 Is F#m all we need to stop the greed
 So E we can begin to sow the F#m seed

For a better E way F#m – to a better E day F#m

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V3

happy in my heart

This weekend we had a weather bomb hit our shores. It rained really hard all weekend. On Sunday I was inspired to write a song and got my first line by looking out the window. Pippa was next to me doing a school assignment.

I got out my chord book and looked for
a suitable chord structure.

The song starts in A major so it has a mellow tone to it. I was feeling really content and wanted to convey it in this song. It's about love overriding the greyness of winter and how being happy together can blow away the rain clouds.

The more I worked on the song that day the better it became, and later in the afternoon it was complete. There are minor 7th's, major 7th's and 9th's in the song. I can't read or write music theory but when I played it much later to a friend who is an accomplished player, he said it was a classic jazz chord structure.

I believe it is one of the top three songs that I have ever written. Every time I play the song, it puts me in a good space.

*I can't believe what is happening to me
You see, I'm really happy in my heart*

Happy in my Heart

INTRO Amaj7 F#m7 Bm7 E9 Amaj7 F#m7 Dmaj7

V1 Amaj7 Down comes the F#m7 rain
Bm7 I hear it beating on the E9 window pane
Amaj7 Today but it's F#m7 O.K.
Bm7 I'm with you baby and that's E9 where I want
To Amaj7 stay F#m7 today Dmaj7 I'm really happy in my heart

V2 Amaj7 I can't believe it's F#m7 true
Bm7 That when you smile at me and E9 say those
Three sweet Amaj7 words I love F#m7 you
Bm7 I see those grey clouds E9 disappear and the
Amaj7 Sun comes shining F#m7 through
I'm really happy in my heart

BRIDGE 1 C#m7 I know it's winter F#m7 time
C#m7 And everything is F#m7 grey
C#m7 But when you whisper F#m7 in my ear
You Bm7 make those rain clouds E9 blow away

V3 And Amaj7 I'll under F#m7 stand
Bm7 That when you smile at me and E9 take my hand
Amaj7 Today – I'll F#m7 say
Bm7 I can't believe what is E9 happening to Amaj7 me
You F#m7 see Dmaj7 I'm really happy in my heart

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE 2 Dmaj7 Winter time can be so C#m7 bad
Dmaj7 And everybody seems so C#m7 sad
And lonely lonely
Dmaj7 So when you kiss me I feel C#m7 glad
You've Bm7 given me a reason
E9 Something to believe in

Repeat V1

special friend

Life can be like a maze. There are many roads that lead to all sorts of adventures, some good, some not so. This song is about journeying down some of those roads, only to find that the way back was not so easy as the way down, and the prize at the end is my good woman, who has watched me go down these roads, knowing that there's not much there and who waits patiently for my return.

I guess it's all about having a balance. If we can all dabble in some adventures, make mistakes (which is life's prerequisite) learn from them and keep a steady footing, then we can be happy in knowing that 'life' is not an end result but a forever changing journey.

The song came to me at work and I was keen to work on it when I got home. I had it finished by the end of the night. It has a blues/jazz feel to it, with a nice lead break in the middle. Again, a great structure to this song of verse, chorus, bridge, and instrumental.

*And in the darkness you can guide me
'Cause baby you're beside me
Keeping me close at hand*



Special Friend

V1 GSo many roads that lead to Emnowhere
 BmOr it's just a long way to the Am7end Abm7
 GSo take me down the only Emhighway
 Cmaj7Where I can D9find my special Gfriend

V2 GSo many times I took the Emwrong turn
 BmThat led me down that lonesome Am7road Abm7
 GNo one there that I could Bmturn to
 Cmaj7To help me D9loosen up this Gload

CHORUS Am7So baby stop me feeling lonely Cmaj7
 'Cause baby you're the only
 Am7Special friend I Ghave
 Am7And in the darkness you can guide me Cmaj7
 'Cause baby you're beside me
 Am7Keeping me close at Ghand

V3 GI used to always look to Emquestion
 BmNow I don't really seem to Am7care Abm7
 GAs long as I can know the Bmanswer
 Cmaj7Is that you D9always will be Gthere

V4 GSo many times I took the Emwrong turn
 BmThat led me down that lonesome Am7road Abm7
 GNo-one there that I can Bmturn to
 Cmaj7To help me D9loosen up this Gload

CHORUS

BRIDGE Db9 D9No more sad times feeling Glonely Db9 D9
 No more troubles that can Emmake Bm7me Am7blue Db9 D9
 Just a road that's straight and Gnarrow
 That can lead me to Am7you, baby it's true

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

Cmaj7Where I can D9find my special Gfriend
Cmaj7Where I can D9find my special Gfriend

a smile

This song is all about a smile. Something so simple and yet so powerful. The universal language - with no spoken word!

It has a reggae/blues feel to it. It was the first song I wrote in 2009. It's played with the capo in 1st fret for a higher voicing in the key of A major.

The power of a smile is something not to be underestimated. Just observe a baby smiling. Doesn't that say it all!

*A smile can be a blessing
It's a simple way to say
That everything is going well today*

A Smile

[Capo 1st fret]

INTRO A D A E A D A E A

V1 ^AI don't need a reason to ^Dsmile everyday
 [']Cause ^Awhen I smile for just a while
 What I ^Ereally mean to say
 Is that ^Aeverybody sometimes can ^Dfeel it in their heart
 It's a ^Asimple way to ^Eget back to the ^Astart

V2 Like a ^Aspinning wheel in motion ^Dlife is passing by
 It's ^Ahard to find some peace of mind
 When the ^Eworld's not on your side
 So a ^Asmile can be a blessing it's a ^Dsimple way to say
 That ^Aeverything is ^Egoing well ^Atoday

BRIDGE ^A ^{C#m} ^{Bm} ^AAin't no need for ^Acomplications
 ^A ^{C#m} ^{Bm} ^ANo reason to doubt or ^Adespair
 ^A ^{C#m} ^{Bm} ^{F#m}It's just a simple ^{F#m}explanation
 That a ^Dsmile can really show how much you ^Ecare

V3 You know ^Alife is just a journey
 ^DHowever long it takes
 You can ^Aoverload take the rocky road
 That's the ^Echoices that we make
 So a ^Asmile can be a blessing
 It's a ^Dsimple way to say
 That ^Aeverything is ^Egoing well ^Atoday

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

Repeat V1

It's a ^Asimple way to ^Eget back to the ^Astart
It's a ^Asimple way to ^Eget back to the ^Astart

little buddah

[Capo 1st fret]

An instrumental song in the key of C_{maj7}

Medium-slow tempo

Chords used in song:

C_{maj7}

F_{maj7}

A_m

E_m (7th fret)

This was the first time I worked on a chord sequence without looking for some suitable lyrics. As I progressed more into the song with fingerpicking styles and strumming, I never felt the need to add any words.

The song starts in a very mellow reflective tone and moves to a quicker pace with harder picking and strumming. It then moves back to the same pace and structure as in the beginning.

I likened it to the way life plays out for us all. We have times of peace, tranquility, reflective thinking, and then things happen in life to challenge us, to throw us off the smooth road. It's like when our lives are put in a blender and mixed around. When we can find our inner strengths in these turbulent times, then we can find our way back to the beginning again - when life was fun, innocent, and carefree.

That's why I called it Little Buddah. The song takes you through the yin and yang of life and brings it back in balance.

winter melody

[Capo 1st fret]

An instrumental song in the key of A
Fast tempo

Chords used in song:

A D E

A year after writing my first instrumental, Little Buddah, I started on another instrumental song. It was winter time and I was looking for inspiration to create a happy sounding song. I was playing my 'Eric Clapton' Martin acoustic guitar and was reflecting on Clapton's musical styles of playing.

It is a challenging piece of music, played at a medium-fast tempo, in a fingerpicking style of playing. Again like Little Buddah, it is played with the capo on the 1st fret.

When I finished the song, I said to Pippa that she could have the 'naming rights' to the song. When I played it again to her she said 'Winter Melody'. That was a great title. It's the perfect musical tonic on a bleak winters day.

no excuses

2009 was a good year for writing more songs.
This was one of five I wrote that year. I used similar
chords for the song 'Happy in my heart' and jumbled
them around to create a different sound.

The song is about taking control of the lives we have and
using it for the good of ourselves and others.

It's easy to convince ourselves that life isn't fair,
and to feel so down that you just don't care. Happiness
and sadness are emotions that the mind won't distinguish
between - rather, it just acts on the strongest emotion.

If you put yourself in a sad situation and
stay in it for long enough, the mind will act upon that
emotion and before you realise it, you can be in a very
dark space with only a shimmer of light
showing you the way out.

No Excuses is my song that can take you away
from negativity and doubt.

*No excuses - anymore
Find your future, knocking on your door
Calling for more*

No Excuses

INTRO Amaj7 Dmaj7 x2

V1 Amaj7 Sometimes when Dmaj7 life ain't fair
Amaj7 You feel so down that you Dmaj7 just don't care
Amaj7 You sit around and you Dmaj7 wonder why
Amaj7 Everything you want is just Dmaj7 passing you by

So chill Bm7 out and F#m7 take away the negative and Bm7 doubt
That's F#m7 going on inside of your Bm7 brain
E9 Making you do the same over Amaj7 again Dmaj7 Amaj7 Dmaj7

V2 Amaj7 Sometimes when it Dmaj7 gets you down
Amaj7 You carry with you a Dmaj7 face with a frown
Amaj7 So maybe then you can Dmaj7 understand
Amaj7 That you can ask for a Dmaj7 helping hand

So chill Bm7 out and F#m7 take away the negative and Bm7 doubt
That's F#m7 going on inside of your Bm7 brain
E9 Making you do the same over Amaj7 again Dmaj7
And Amaj7 again and again and Dmaj7 again and again

BRIDGE F#m7 No Bm7 C#m7 Amaj7 excuses Dmaj7 any more
F#m7 Find Bm7 your C#m7 Amaj7 future E9 knocking on your door
Calling for Amaj7 more Dmaj7

CHORUS More of Amaj7 love, more of peace and Dmaj7 positive action
Amaj7 Pride and joy and Dmaj7 human compassion
Amaj7 Feel the vibe don't Dmaj7 let it resist ya
Amaj7 Open your hearts to your Dmaj7 brothers and sisters
Amaj7 Hoo ya ya Dmaj7 ya ooh hoo Amaj7 hoo Dmaj7
Amaj7 Hoo ya ya Dmaj7 ya ooh hoo Amaj7 hoo Dmaj7

Repeat Bridge and Chorus

Amaj7 Sometimes when Dmaj7 life ain't fair
Amaj7 You feel so down that you Dmaj7 just don't care
F#m7 No Bm7 ex C#m7 cus Amaj7 es

airlie beach

I bought a ukulele to learn and to take to a wedding at Airlie Beach, Whitsundays Australia in October 2010.

I wrote the song before we left, imagining the tropical setting and warm breeze.

It's a good old D, G, A song. Simple as that.
The song rolls along with a calypso/reggae feel to it.

While writing this, I am recording the song in a studio. I have laid down the ukulele, guitar and vocal tracks so far. My daughter Laura came along and did some backing vocals. She really enjoyed it, and that makes it even more special when others you love, become involved in the project. So it will be out there somewhere by the end of the year.

It's such a buzz to have the structure of the song in my head and to see it become reality! Thanks for the inspiration Melanie and Steve. This song is for you.
Happy Anniversary.

*But if I just close my eyes
Then I can realise
That Airlie Beach is just a thought away*

Airlie Beach

[Written for ukulele]

V1 ^DMy cellphones out of reach
 I'm ^Gup on Airlie Beach
 ^DLyin' 'neath the palm trees on the ^Ashore
 The ^Dsky's a perfect blue
 And I'm ^Gso in love with you
 So ^Dtell me, tell me, ^Awho could ask for ^Dmore

V2 ^DWith our friends all gathered round
 All ^Glistening to the sound
 Of ^Dmarried couples saying yes I ^Awill
 It's ^Dtime to reminisce, when you were ^Glovers and you kissed
 ^DOh yes ^Aain't life a ^Dthrill

CHORUS ^GTropical Breeze ^Dblowin' cross the sea
 ^ACruising round the islands in the ^D ^{D7}sun
 ^GTropical Breeze ^Dmakes me believe
 That ^Aevery day's about having ^Dfun

V3 ^DNow it's time to head back home
 And ^Gcharge up my cellphone
 I'm ^Dworking in the city day to ^Aday
 But if ^DI just close my eyes
 Then ^GI can realise
 That ^DAirlie Beach is ^Ajust a thought ^D ^{D7}away

CHORUS X 4

love spreads like butter

I found a great chord progression in one of my music books and realised that it didn't need a chorus line in it, rather just repeating the progression. Van Morrison does this in many of his songs.

It's about keeping in step with the movement of life. Through good times and hard times, we learn the resilience of ourselves in the ever-changing energy that exists.

Keep on moving, don't stop!

In the end, what matters most is:
How well did you live?
How well did you love?
How well did you learn to let go?

This song sounds just right at night with me and my Eric Clapton Martin guitar. This guitar helps to soften the butter that spreads the love. The song and guitar are a perfect match.

*This whole life keeps rolling
It's like a movie before your eyes*

Love Spreads Like Butter

CHORUS ^DKeep on moving, ^{Em9}don't stop
 There's ^Dno way of knowing just ^{Em9}where you're going to be
 ^{G5}This whole life keeps rolling
 It's like a ^{A6}movie before your eyes

V1 ^{Bm}Scene One is amazing
 When you're ^{Bm/maj7}totally in control
 Your ^{E7}life's lit up like a neon sign
 ^{A7}Everything's on a roll

CHORUS So ^Dkeep on moving, ^{Em9}don't stop
 There's ^Dno way of knowing just ^{Em9}where you're going to be
 ^{G5}This whole life keeps rolling
 It' like a ^{A6}movie before your eyes

V2 ^{Bm}Scene Two is confusing
 When you're ^{Bm/maj7}doing the best you can
 ^{E7}Life throws you a wild card
 And ^{A7}nothing goes to plan

CHORUS So ^Dkeep no moving, ^{Em9}don't stop
 There's ^Dno way of knowing just ^{Em9}where you're going to be
 ^{G5}This whole life keeps rolling
 It's like a ^{A6}movie before your eyes

V3 ^{Bm}Scene Three's looking better
 Your ^{Bm/maj7}hazy mind is clear
 You ^{E7}know love spreads like butter
 That's the ^{A7}reason why you're here

So ^Dkeep on moving, ^{Em9}don't stop
^DKeep on moving, ^{Em9}don't stop
^DKeep on moving

just stop for a moment

I was playing a chord progression for a Michael Bublé song and liked the structure. I knew that if I could make some changes to the chord pattern but maintain a similar structure, then I could have the platform to a good song.

And here it is!

It's about how vulnerable we all are, sitting on a planet in the middle of space wondering just what we should do. When we can learn to dig deep and find that inner contentment then we realise that what we already have is as good as it gets.

The secret is to learn to appreciate life, in every moment. But time is going by so fast! We need to 'stop for a moment and listen to the voice of our heart'.

*Don't gimme no lies
Don't gimme no crap
This is as good as it gets
And there's no turning back*



Just Stop for a Moment

INTRO D Bm E D A7sus

V1 ^DDon't gimme no lies, don't ^{Bm}gimme no crap
 This is as ^Egood as it gets so there's ^Dno turning ^{A7sus}back
 You're ^Dsitting on a planet in the ^{Bm}middle of space
 ^EWondering just what you should ^Ado
 Your ^Dcellphone's calling, the ^{Bm}sharemarket's falling
 ^GEverything is ^{Gb}coming ^Eapart
 Just ^Dstop for a moment and ^{A7sus}listen to the voice of your ^Dheart ^{A7sus}

V2 There's ^Dlots of persuasions come on ^{Bm}give it a try
 There's ^Eso many things that your ^Dmoney can ^{A7sus}buy
 You're ^Dsitting on a planet in the ^{Bm}middle of time
 But ^Etime is going by so ^Afast
 ^DInside it's singing like a ^{Bm}phone that's ringing
 ^GTelling you to ^{Gb}make a new ^Estart
 Just ^Dstop for a moment and ^{A7sus}listen to the voice of your ^Dheart ^{A7sus}

BRIDGE ^GWay down deep ^Ainside it's ^Dcalling
 It's like an ^Gecho through the ^Acanyons of your ^Dmind
 You ^Gtry to ^Adisconnect it, but ^{Bm}that's to be ^Eexpected
 'Cause ^Dyou don't know who's ^{A7sus}waiting on the ^Dline ^{A7sus}
 (You know what I'm talkin' about)

INSTRUMENTAL

BRIDGE

V3 ^DDon't gimme no lies, don't ^{Bm}gimme no crap
 This is as ^Egood as it gets so there's ^Dno turning ^{A7sus}back
 You're ^Dsitting on a planet in the ^{Bm}middle of space
 ^EWondering just what you should ^Ado
 ^DInside it's singing like a ^{Bm}phone that's ringing
 ^GTelling you to ^{Gb}make a new ^Estart
 Just ^Dstop for a moment and ^{A7sus}listen to the voice of your ^Dheart ^{A7sus}
 Just ^Dstop for a moment and ^{A7sus}listen to the voice of your ^Dheart ^{A7sus}
 Just ^Dstop for a moment and ^{A7sus}listen

restless heart (only one reason)

I was reading a National Geographic magazine article on the importance of fresh water on our planet and how little we have of it. I imagined a dying river trying to get to the sea, signifying the vulnerability of our planet Earth and what we continue to do on it.

This is the starting point for the song, then it moves to a child's perspective on what we have done, what we continue to do and what we need to do to bring some hope and stability for us all to sustain life in it's beauty for our future generations.

It has a slow heartfelt rhythm to the song (mother Earth is feeling the pain). It is played with a capo on the 1st fret for a higher voicing. In our own individual ways, we can all be so different, but we breathe in the same air! That in itself is enough to show the planet that we care.

*There's only one reason
In all the four seasons
For us to get it right*

Restless Heart (Only One Reason)

[Capo 1st fret]

INTRO

Em7 Bm7 C G Em7 Bm C G

V1

Em7 Like a restless Bm heart C looking for a place to G be
Em7 The river is Bm crying 'cause it C can't get back to the G sea
Em7 How can we be Bm so insensitive
C Mother Earth is feeling the G pain
Em7 And all the while we Bm feed our egos
C Looking for someone to G blame

CHORUS

C There's only one world G only one sky
D Where the stars shine so G bright
C There's only one reason in G all the four seasons
Am7 For us to get it right Dm Cm Bm Am
Em7 Bm C G Em7 Bm C G

V2

Em7 We build another Bm bomb we C start another crazy G war
Em7 We lie to Bm ourselves to C justify what it's G for
Em7 How can we be Bm all so different
We're C breathing in the same G air
Em7 We should start to Bm turn around
And C show the planet that we G care

CHORUS x2

Em7 Bm C G Em7 Bm C G

BRIDGE

Am All it takes is a G small child
C To hold out her G hand
Am And tell the world with a G real smile
She says – Cm won't you understand – it's easy

Em7 Bm C G

Em7 Bm C G

mama

I wrote this song in early 2009
when my mum was 80 years old.

When we can look back at all the trials and tribulations that a mother endures, then we can start to understand just how precious a mum can be. The song has a slow beat to it, much the same as Cat Stevens' song 'Father and Son', with a similar structure, taking the listener on a journey through the stages of life.

A simple song with just three chords G, C, D. But in its simplicity, lies the strength, like a mother who draws on her strength through life's everyday tasks, to better the lives of her children. So next, when you see an old woman walking down the street, stop for a moment to reflect, that within her lies a universe of life's experiences.

*She'd say Son you're a part of me
You're in the heart of me
Your blood and mine are the same*

Mama

INTRO ^G

V1 ^GWhen I was just a small boy running ^Cwild and ^Gcarefree
My mama she ^Ccared about ^Gme
She'd show me the courage to ^Cbe who I ^Gam
And always do the ^Cbest that I ^Gcan

V2 ^GAnd when I felt lonely I'd ^Csit there and ^Gcry
My mama would wipe the ^Ctears from my ^Geyes
And all those mistakes that I ^Cmade on the ^Gway
My mama would ^Csmile and then ^Gsay

CHORUS 1 She'd say
 ^CSon you're a part of me
 ^GYou're in the heart of me
 ^DYour blood and mine are the ^Gsame
And if ^Cyou do your best
Then I'm ^Ghappy to rest
 ^DKnowing that we'll meet ^Gagain (always be friends)

V3 ^GNow here I am older with ^Ckids of my ^Gown
With a good wife and a ^Cbeautiful ^Ghome
And each day is a blessing, it's a ^Cdream come ^Gtrue
And I know that it's ^Call thanks to ^Gyou

V4 ^G'Cause you gave me life and then ^Cyou held my ^Ghand
Yes you made me ^Cunder^Gstand
That each day is a blessing it's a ^Cdream come ^Gtrue
And I know that it's ^Call thanks to ^Gyou

CHORUS 2 So ^Chere is my song to you, ^Gyou know I belong to you
 ^DYour road and mine never ^Gend
 ^C'Cause ^CI know when you smile at me
 ^GSomething deep inside of me
 ^DKnows you're my special ^Gfriend

Repeat Chorus 1

10 lonely dollars

I had been playing ukulele for about six months when I wrote this song. It's a fun song about the choices that 10 dollars can provide in entertaining the one you love.

You know the usual gifts that we guys think about, to say I love you. Flowers, chocolates and how about some nice fresh fish 'n' chips on the beach watching the sunset. The easiest of all is a hug and a kiss at any given moment. They sure do appreciate that.

So, I incorporated all these into this song and played the scene out by deciding which was the best. Then, becoming a little confused and frustrated by only dreaming of the outcome, then I had better wake up quick smart and decide what to do!

*I'm in a pickle, I'm in a stew
With these lonely dollars
What can I do?*



Ten Lonely Dollars

[Written for ukulele]

V1 ^EI've got ten lonely dollars to ^Aspend on you today
Now ^EI could buy you flowers to ^{B7}brighten up your day
Or ^EI could send you kisses and ^Apost them out to you
^EOh baby ^{B7}what am I to ^Edo

V2 ^EYes I could buy you some chocolates
Watch you ^Aeat them one by one
^EThat would make me smile yeh baby
^{B7}That would sure be fun
Or ^EI could buy you fish and chips
And we'd ^Aeat them on the sand
We'd ^Elaugh and smile and ^{B7}hold each other's ^Ehand

CHORUS I'm in a ^Apickle, I'm in a ^Estew
With these lonely ^Adollars what can I ^{B7}do?

V3 So do I ^Ebuy you flowers ^Aor nice fish and chips
As ^Elong as it will lead me baby ^{B7}right to your lips
Or ^Ewill those chocolates satisfy the ^Acravings in your heart
Or ^Ewill those kisses posted make us ^{B7}never want to ^Epart

V4 ^EYou know baby if I had lots of money
I'd ^Atake you on a cruise
Then I'd ^Efly you off to Europe
So you can ^{B7}buy your favourite shoes
But I ^Eknow I'm only dreaming
That ^Amuch I understand
So I'm ^Estill deciding what to do
With these ^{B7}dollars in my ^Ehand

CHORUS

Repeat V1

^EOh baby ^{B7}what am I to ^Edo
^EOh baby ^{B7}what am I to ^Edo
^EOh baby ^{B7}what am I to ^Edo

i've got it made

So here I am at my 50th song. I wanted to write a real classic with some different chord structures and this song fell into my lap. It has a jazz/blues feel to it and it plays out just the way I wrote it.

I was sitting on the bed writing down this song when Pippa said to me, 'Honey are you going to be long?' That was my lead in to this very special song. In the lyrics, it captures all the qualities that I have come to love about her. That's why for me, life is good, life is fine, it's better than the grapes for a good vintage wine.

I turned out the light that night humming the song in my mind. When I woke up and my mind turned on its own light, the song was complete. So here I can sing it in this song.

*I've got a real sweet babe, don't you know
I've got it made*

*She dresses to impress
And that impresses me
She always looks so fine*

I've Got it Made

- V1 ^FI'm sitting on the bed ^{F+}writing down this song
When ^{Gm6}my sweet baby says ^{A7}honey don't be long
^FLife is good, ^{Am}life is fine
It's ^{Bb1}better than the grapes for a ^Ggood vintage wine
I've got a ^Freal sweet girl
Who ^{C9}makes me feel on top of the ^Fworld
- V2 ^FShe tells me when I'm wrong
'Cause ^{F+}she knows when she's right
But she ^{Gm6}makes it up to me when she ^{A7}calls me in the night
^FLife is good, ^{Am}life is fine
It's ^{Bb1}better than the grapes for a ^Ggood vintage wine
I've got a ^Freal sweet babe
^{C9}Don't you know I've got it ^Fmade
- BRIDGE She ^{Bb}dresses to impress and ^Fthat impresses me
She ^{A7}always looks so ^{Dm7}fine
And at the ^{Bb}end of every day what I ^Freally want to say
Is that I'm ^{Gm6}sure glad I made you ^{A7}mine
- V3 So let me ^Fhold you really tight
Let me ^{F+}whisper in your ear
^{Gm6}Those sweet words that I ^{A7}know you want to hear
^FLife is good, ^{Am}life is fine
It's ^{Bb}better than the grapes for a ^Ggood vintage wine
I've got a ^Freal sweet babe
^{C9}Don't you know I've got it ^Fmade
- INSTRUMENTAL
- BRIDGE
- Repeat V3
- ^{C9}Don't you know I've got it ^{Am}made
That's what I ^{Bb}say, I've got a ^Freal sweet babe
^{C9}Don't you know I've got it ^Fmade

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Author: Bob Fleming
First published in New Zealand in August 2013

