

SONGS WITHOUT WORDS/TOWARDS TOMORROW

Liner notes.

Side 1. Songs Without Words. (Instrumentals)

Sea of Tranquility

Dear 'Desert Island Discs': should you ever be looking for a new theme tune, might you consider this? First emerged in 1997 as the closing track on the Psychomuzak album *Send*. Guitar trio. If Brian Eno played guitar...The wren song you can hear on this and other tracks was a real-time component of the actual ambience of the recordings, a 'happy accident' rather than a 'mistake', and was welcomed by me and left on the takes, as I realised their contributions to be very much in the spirit of the project.

Nostalgia

First heard on *Grimoires*, the cassette-only private release I was selling at gigs c. 1989. Originally a 2-track piece, thus a duet, here with three guitars, one of the guitar parts being doubled. The revisiting of such pieces now playable live using a loop pedal is largely what has inspired this current phase of activity.

Calm Space

Solo guitar live performance. Thanks to Rozzy my partner for the title. Such a very quiet, ambient, intimate piece I doubt it will be played often live.

One August

Young love, lost love, Cadbury Castle, Somerset 1980. A version including flute was featured on the Dean Carter album *Persistence of Vision*, possibly the rarest CD on the planet. Guitar trio in this version, again the basic Gtr 1 part merely being doubled.

Beltane's Gift

This little rather folky tune came through in dreamtime at Beltane this year while in the process of the album sessions. Never look a gift-horse in the mouth. Solo guitar one-pass performance.

Winsome

Originally entitled 'I'm Nice Aren't I?' and featured on the Dean Carter and the High Commission album *Average Man*, possibly the rarest piece of *vinyl* on the planet...solo guitar. For its life as a live performance, the same comments apply as per 'Calm Space'.

NewD

A recent guitar trio, 2021. Apart from the recurring melody line, an improvisation over the 1st guitar's 'ground bass' with two sets of lead. Acoustic twin lead guitar: namaste Peter Green and Jeremy Spencer!

OldD

Solo guitar one-pass performance. A *very* old tune in 'D', hence the title. Never performed or recorded until now, dating from probably the early 1980s.

Side 2. Towards Tomorrow. (Songs with plenty of words!)

All My Friends

Another relic from my previous life, this should have appeared on *Persistence of Vision* but we ran out of studio time/money. ‘No worries, I’ll put it on the next one’ I said to myself, little suspecting ‘the next one’ (at least the next songs album), was 25 years off into an unfathomably unpredictable future.

All The Things We Want To Be

Demoed in 1996 but I don’t think it ever made it out of the house. Probably the nearest I’ll ever get to a clap- or a sing-along—get ready to wave your phones—wait for it.....NOW!

Together Alone

2020. ‘nuff said. Channelling Nick Drake for this one (main guitar part). Dave Gilmour for the breaks, if you can channel someone still alive.

Thine Is The Kingdom

A dreamsong from May 2021: Sandy Denny was singing the opening lines. Realising that back in the shared dream of consensus-reality, Sandy had never sung these words or this tune, I got up immediately, got the opening lines and words down, and wrote the rest. I would never write a *song* beginning ‘Oo’... and I’m using Tibetan vocal overtone technique here, as natural to me as singing like Sandy Denny isn’t...

Only To Feel Her Slipping Away

Another piece that emerged during the sessions. Elijah said he liked a couple of chords I was playing just to tune up, I retained them, started fooling around with them, and by the time of the 2nd session, the song was ready. My version of ‘To His Coy Mistress’, the difference being her that the coy She here isn’t flesh and blood, but The Muse and/or Muses. Also chastised in ‘Kingdom’ for taking such long breaks between visits—a quarter of a century, in my case.

No More No Less

Her return visit in April 2021...also inspired by Andy Partridge/Colin Moulding, XTC being one of my favourite bands. Subject material too transparently obvious to need elucidation.

Torch Song

The history of the planet in 5 mins 31 seconds. First performed with my band Thing c. 1997/8. What happens next is the song we all are writing collectively now.

All voices and guitars, words and music, (c) Dean Carter.

All birdsong (c) Mother Nature.

