

disemvoweled

bllkll

Liner Notes

Thanks for listening to my efforts as a hobby musician, the product of 3 years of retirement. I set out to learn to play guitar and had no plan to write songs, but then it started to happen. My first effort (the rework of Johnny B. Goode) was out of frustration that I wasn't improving faster on guitar. (Practicing it enough to record it did help my playing!) Since then some riff or chord sequence I played while "noodling" sounded like it could develop into a song. Or sometimes an idea for lyrics started the process. Or later the desire to write in a particular style.

Occasionally I wake up with a tune in my head, maybe even with accompanying bass. The songs came to me when they wanted and often went where they wanted, not where I intended them to go. (And I have a whole archive of songs that didn't want to go anywhere. Tennis elbow played its part too. I wasn't supposed to play guitar for about 7 months, so I signed up for voice lessons, which was fun and educational and helped a lot.

I learned a lot about music and song structure. And who knew that writing bass parts or singing background vocals would be so much fun?

In summary, the songs were fun to write and a good learning process from 2017-2020. And having unlimited takes helps overcome my limitations as a guitarist and singer!

It's not Lennon-McCartney nor Cole Porter, but I hope you enjoy some of these too!



Bill

Dedicated to Anna, who is first listener and my main booster and critic. Thanks to all everyone who has taught me (Sandro and Simone), and encouraged or inspired me (thanks to Devon for lending me his guitar and to Dave and Laure for guitar lessons).

1. Willie B. Goode (2017)

[*A song to cope with frustration.*]

Deep down in Pennsylvania close to
Harrisburg

There was a boy who grew to a computer
nerd

He earned his first few dollars with a paper
route

Bought a guitar and called it Willie B Goode

He never learned to play that instrument so
well

When he played that guitar, well, it sounded
like hell

Go go. Go Willy, go go go!

Take that guitar and go

Go Willy go go go!

Go Willy B. Goode!

2. Sartorial Blues (2018)

[*Lyrics-driven: went for a walk, almost
forgot my hat, out popped a song.*]

I got to admit, I got an eyesore of a hat
When I put it on, I even get laughed at by
my cat

My hatter is no flatterer

If I hang my head in shame, then he's to
blame

The way people stare I just can't bear
And all because of that eyesore of a hat

When he moved to Switzerland,
he could write some hacks
But the question remained,
could he learn the ax?

His friends said with no teacher
you'll remain a fool

So get on down to Zurich
and learn that tool

If it helped to make an ax-man,
it is still in doubt

On that question gotta say the jury is out

Go go. Go Willy, go go go!

Come on Willy, let us know

Will he be good?

Will he ever be good?

At least my hat does help to distract
From the fact that my suit shows no tact
This garment is really rude
The pain when I wear it is quite acute
My tailor's a failure, he thinks plaid is rad
He's a corduroy boy from Illinois
Gets his gabardine from Aberdeen
He's mighty cavalier with a pinking shear,

My haberdasher cuts like a horror-film
slasher
And whips up creations like you've never
seen (nor want to)

But the shoes on my feet really can't be
beat!
No, these shoes on my feet, they just can't
be beat
My cobbler ain't no wobbler

3. Insomnia (2018)

[*So many of us find it hard to get the sleep we need. First song with a "bridge".*]

I don't wanna go to bed
Too much buzzing through my head.
Now the day is done
Night has just begun

Really got to get to bed
Thoughts are draining from my head
Don't wanna toss all night
I'll put out the light

All the words and thoughts and worries
Blending to a wakeful slurry
Buzzing in a stressful hum
As fast as my world's turning
Got me yearning for some inner quiet
But it just won't come.

His clodhoppers are eye poppers
My hat and my suit will surely fade
When I take those shoes out for a
promenade
They're gazing so amazing at my feet on the
paving
Wear that crocodile leather in every
weather!
Ooh! Feet don't fail me now!

Really wanna talk to you
But can I call at half past two?
Don't play innocuous,
O my succubus.

I don't wanna mourn my plight
Let those daily cares take flight
Dawn approachin' fast
Ah, good night at last

All the words and thoughts and worries
blowing in a blinding flurry
buzzing in a stressful hum
As fast as my world's turning
got me yearning for some inner quiet
but it just won't come.

I don't wanna get up yet

4. Baby, Welcome to this World (2018)

[A song for two Ellas, one newly born, one the Queen of Jazz. As I had tennis elbow at the time, the music is by dfriedl and Tutama from wikiloops.com. Lyrics in italics are from Ella Fitzgerald hits.]

Baby baby baby
Welcome to this world
The trumpets are blowing.
And the flags are unfurled.
Guitars are raging too
Which might give you pause,
But enter stage left
To great applause!

Life has many paths
Both rocky and flat
Gotta find your own way
Go and sleep on that
I guess I can say
With no caveat
It's always good to do
The thing you're best at!

This song's for you
And the chords are three
What more do you want
Than G, C and D?
Gonna add a fourth
And mark it with an E

And put it in the oven
For baby and me

They say there's no future
But I hope they're wrong
You can't live your life
By a Sex Pistols song.
Your future dream
Ain't no shopping scheme.
Just croon along with the
First Lady of Song

*A tisket, a tasket,
A brown and yellow basket
Send a letter to your mommy!
(Don't drop it! Don't drop it!)*

*Truckin' down the avenue
Not a single thing to do
Really sounds to me,
Like the living is easy!*

Life's song has many verses
Though they may repeat
Gotta find your own way
From beat to beat
And find a harmony of life
To a lovely tune
East of the Sun
And West of the Moon

*When you sleep
You're charming and gentle
I don't want to be too
Sentimental
But this feeling isn't
Purely mental
Especially when you do the
Continental*

*You'll wine and dine on Mulligan Stew
And never wish for turkey
And hitch and hike and graft too
From Maine to Albuquerque*

5. You Know That (2019)

[For Anna on her 60th birthday. A Great Gatsby type sings to his love. The bass & guitar was in my head when I woke at 6:00 one day.]

I got style (We know that)
I got class (We know that)
I got smarts (Yeah!)
Piles of money too

I got cars (We know that)
Private planes (We know that)
And yet...
All I need is you

*I get too hungry for dinner at eight
I like the theater, but never come late
I never bother with people I hate
That's why the lady is a tramp*

They say there's no future
But they can't be right
The Queen of Jazz saw things
In a different light
So pogo into life
And fight the good fight!
Good night!
Sleep tight!

You got heart	(And her?)
For a start	(I know that)
You got flair	(I know that)
And you care that I want you	(Yeah)
You've got legs that want to climb to every mountain top	
And ideas that go fly like watching popcorn pop	
You've got a heart that wants to love me and it just won't stop	
And that's why I need you!	

You know we made this date, well, kinda
late
But it seems that we are now one another's
fate
We took the bait and put love on the slate
Which brings us to this fête

You know what? I can't leave her.
It's like fever.
I believe her (Yeah?)
When says she needs me too.

It's so strange (You know that)
I'm quite deranged (You know that)
If we're estranged
That's how my life has changed.

We got the urge (You know that)
Wanna merge, (You know that)
Make the splurge (Yeah?)
We're on the verge of something grand!

So beware! (Listen up now)
When we dare (You all ears now?)
We're quite a pair
You and your bill-ionaire

Glamerland's a long way from
Pennsylvania...
I see the moon, you see dä muu
But we called the calling off off long ago
I'm happy to be stuck with you!

I just want to say 'specially on this day
When you mark your sixtieth year
That the last years together were just
warming up
Now we're shifting to high gear

You got style (We know that)
You got class (We know that)
You got flair (Yeah)
So a grand birthday to you!
(Happy birthday!)



6. Mars Wind (2019)

[A fantasy of being on Mars, a Yamaha keyboard plus guitar pedals, and help from freesound.org formed this instrumental.]

7. I Sing the Body Electric (2019)

[None of the songs so far is really the kind of music I listen to. I wanted to write a rock song, an ode to the guitar.]

What is that sound?

Unchain me from this mast!

This is no siren – this is my muse!

All who follow the six-fold path
Bow down to the fullness of steel
Stride down the walkways of finest
rosewood
Hear in your heart what you feel

Cross o'er the bridge, feel the mighty
currents
With every bend in the flow

Fret not, the rhythm welcomes every
presence

This is a thing that we know

I sing the body electric

My own resonates with its every tone
Revere the hollow, venerate the solid
I feel their soul in my bones

Thrash of steel, clash of cultures

Titans of titanium

Bar no holds, bar those chords
Feel them in your cranium

I sing the body electric

My own resonates with its every tone
Revere the solid, venerate the hollow
I feel their soul in my bones

8. Don't Muff It! (2019)

[Indie rock sound, on the death of Kim Shattuck of The Muffs, with references to my Minnesota heroes, The Replacements.]

Got a cool tune running through my head
Makes my legs start to twitch
My fingers are looking for my guitar
Something just flipped the switch

Gotta get this baby down on tape

Looks like I'm on my own

Cause all the band headed out to vape
Leaving me all alone

Woooa aaa ooo
This is a chance
I don't wanna muff
Now it's time for rock and roll fame
Time to strut my stuff

Got a quatrain running round my brain
Four lines that want to rhyme
Something about love and something about
pain,
Something about not enough time

9. Boowah (2019-2020)

[That's onomatopoeia.]

10. Ventilator (Smashing Pumpkins tribute) (2020)

[A Covid-19 song. In spring 2020, I read
that ventilators (German Beatmungsgerät)
were in such short supply that after 14 days
on one, a patient was probably not going to
make it and would be taken off. I wanted a
Smashing Pumpkins sound with whiny
vocals and double-tracked guitars.]

14 days riding on the waves
Don't know my destination
Could be a new lease
Or a final release
Depends on the complications

Time to record and I've got no band
Probl'y they're all shit-faced
Guess I'll break out as a solo act
Everyone can be Replaced!

Repeat Chorus

Ventilator
Keeps my tides flowing, flood and ebb
Ventilator
Non-stop nightmares are a tangled web
Ventilator
Keeps my tides flowing, ebb and flood
Ventilator
Feel the tidal flow of my very life's blood

14 days riding on the waves
Don't know my destination
Could be a new lease
Or a final release
Just give me some peace

11. One Note Tune (2020)

[Be true to your vision; but a vision can be a straitjacket.]

nobody wants a one note tune, nobody else
but me
nobody wants a one note tune, everybody
else they say

They want it to go UP and down, UP and
down, UP and down,
or down, down, down, down

keep it as simple as you possibly can
but not any simpler than that
keep it as simple as you possibly can
but no, they-want sharps and flats
they want it to go UP and down, UP and
down, UP and down,
or down, down, down, down

12. That's the Way It Goes (2020)

[Experimenting with more complex, jazzier
chords that wanted to be a song.]

Good to see you, my friend
Are you enjoying the trip?
You know I talked to the driver
And he let it slip
That the final stop could be
Just up ahead
Expect some bumps on the highway
Just watch your head

you can modulate
to flee your one-note fate
but it's way too late
and you end up resolving
to that one note tune
one note tune

nobody wants that one note tune, nobody
else but me
nobody wants a one note tune, but I beg to
disagree

keep it as simple as you possibly can
but keep it short!

[P.S. The one note is B flat.]

And that's the way it goes
What the point is, no one knows
So just let loose and let it fly
Like a kite without a string

What the point is, no one knows
So there's no need to strike a pose
Just accept that fact
That that's the way it goes

So jump on the bus
And don't make such a fuss
About the destination we're heading for
It's superfluous

The best laid plans of mice and men
Well they often go astray
So just carpe diem
I say seize the day

And that's the way it goes
What the point is, no one knows
So just let loose and let it fly
Like a kite without a string

What the point is, no one knows
There's no need to strike a pose
Just accept that fact
That that's the way it goes

13. Bonus Tracks: Ennui in the UK
(Sex Pistols cover) (2020)

14. Reversals (2019)
[Uses reverse echo
from my Boss ME-50
multifunction guitar
effects pedal.]



Tracks

1. Willie Be Goode
2. Sartorial Blues
3. Insomnia
4. Baby, Welcome to this World
5. You Know That
6. Mars Wind
7. I Sing the Body Electric
8. Don't Muff It!
9. Boowah
10. Ventilator (Smashing Pumpkins tribute)
11. One Note Tune
12. That's the Way It Goes

Bonus Tracks

13. Ennui in the UK (Sex Pistols cover)
14. Reversals



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