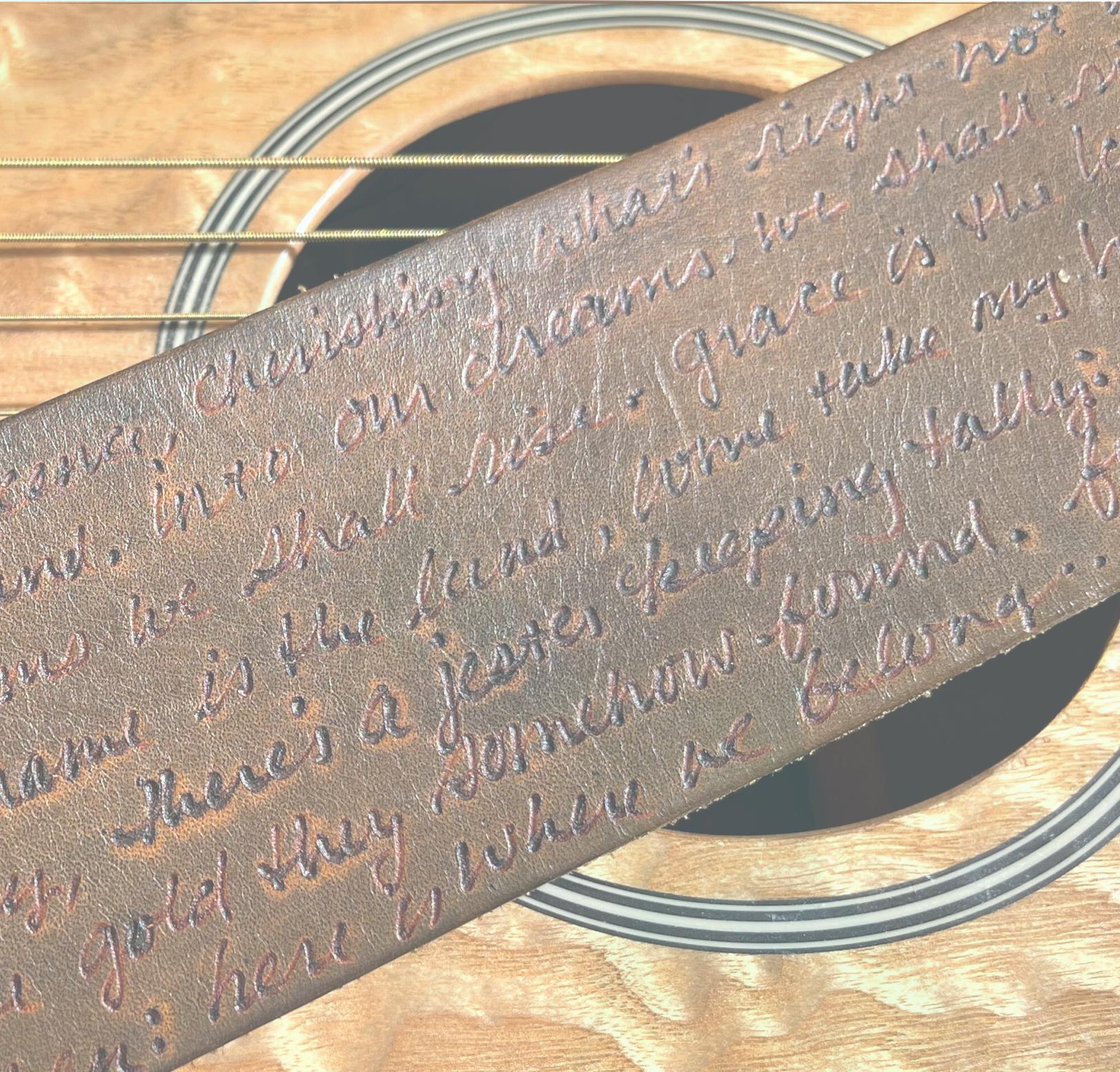


belonging

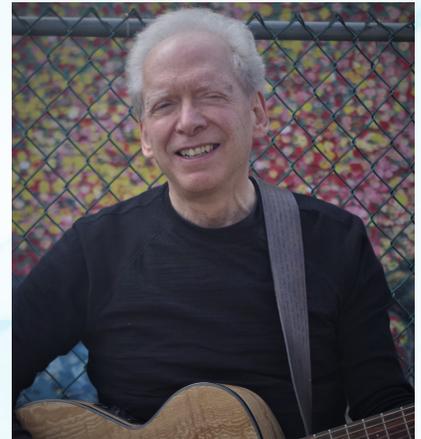
jerry mogul



lyric booklet

the story...

Jerry Mogul was inspired by a late-in-life calling to communicate through music his passion for social justice and his empathy for the human condition that touches us all. His newly-found muse took him on a seven-year songwriting journey through musical genres centered around folk, rock and pop, with a few surprises along the way.



There is a longing at the heart of our need to belong, to connect with, and to be a part of something larger than ourselves. Through intimate vignettes and topical stories, these 11 original lyric-driven songs describe the seeking, finding, or loss of those connections. As a thematic album, *Belonging* begins with a series of deeply-felt character sketches at various stages of life, then moves into topical songs that depict the whiplash of emotions from living through these fraught and tempestuous times, before coming full circle at the end.



This lyric booklet is a companion piece to the cd so that you may follow the lyrics and a brief thematic description of each song in sequence.

If an electronic copy of this album is preferred, scan the qr code below or go to: witchwoodmusic.com/jerry-mogul to listen and/or download the full album.



1. Will I Fit

Belonging, or fitting in, is central to defining our identity. But for some, especially teenagers, it can be a struggle, feeling frustration and anger when stymied at every turn.

Will I fit, from where I sit
When you look at me do you see me at all
Can you see, what's right in me
Or do you look at me as if I am a wall

I am awkward I'm a clown
I get pushed and I fall down
I really don't know what I'm supposed to do
When I see you on the street
I'd give anything to meet
But what to say to you I haven't got a clue

Will I fit, from where I sit
When you look at me do you see me at all
Can you see, what's right in me
Or do you turn away when we pass in the hall

I have no idea what's cool
I can barely learn in school
The teachers don't know what to do with me
So they put me in a class
Where I feel like such an ass
We do nothing and they give us A's and B's

Will I fit, from where I sit
When you look at me do you see me at all
Can you see, what's right in me
Or do you play me like I am a bouncing ball

I may look like I don't care
Sometimes I freeze, sometimes I stare
You only think you know what it's like to feel stressed
I try to keep things nice and straight
But I am early or I'm late
I don't think I will ever pass this fucking test

Will I fit, from where I sit
When you look at me do you see me at all
Can you see, what's right in me
Or when I look at you does it make your skin crawl

My mother taught me to be strong
She showed me right, she showed me wrong
She told me people can be kind or can be mean
My mother tells me that I'm smart
And that I have a real big heart
And that things are never quite as bad as they seem

But can you tell me mama mama
Can you tell me mama mama
Can you tell me (3) mama mama
Mama mama mama mama (2)

Will I fit, from where I sit
When you look at me do you see me at all
Can you see, what's right in me
Or do you look at me as if I am a wall

Will I fit, or should I quit
Do you see me when I pass you in the hall
Can you see, what's right in me
Or do you look at me as (if I am a (4)) wall

My mother taught me to be strong...

But can you tell me mama mama
Can you tell me mama mama
Can you tell me (3) mama mama
Mama mama mama mama (4)
Will I fit!

2. Your Call

Sometimes, we run away from belonging, finding it constraining, and go off on our own to find satisfaction and meaning. This quest for self-fulfillment can go bad in so many ways. Who or what is the protagonist in this song running from, and is he worthy of redemption?

When I left you I was so sure that my aim was true
I was fleet of foot and full of fire so far away from you
I chased many rainbows till I found the pot of gold
I had conquests in so many lands and stories to be told

I was the center of attention
Many took me at my word
I built buildings and burned bridges
All that time I never heard
You when you called

When you called (2)
I never heard your call
I never thought I'd fall
I turned my back on you

Soon enough I looked around and only saw myself
But I got bored with the view and all my ill-found wealth
The path got cold, my feet got slow, the fire just caused me pain
I went down a many slippery slope and lost all I had gained

I always thought I had protection
I amassed so many friends
But when all of it came crashing down
I had no one in the end

I heard your call (3)
I thought I had it all
I thought I'd never fall
I finally heard your call

I heard your call
Your call
I finally heard your call
I'm feeling oh so small
I finally heard your call

I heard your call
Your call
I finally heard your call (2)
Please don't make me crawl
I'm coming home to you

Will you take me, don't forsake me, I'll be true to you

3. You are the One

Lifelong relationships invariably go through ups and downs, the connection sometimes frayed but there until the end. A love song.

When I met you I could not forget
The way you looked at me and what it took for me
To overcome my fears and battle through my tears
Until I saw the blessed truth
You are the one
Who lights up the sun
Wind at our back we did run

I saw your flaw I wanted you more
So much I could barely contain
You saw my flaw it rubbed my heart raw
You soothed me and eased the pain

In the garden there's no need for pardon
We were kids still learning we were hearts all
yearning
All around was pounding all we heard resounding
Till we saw the naked truth
You are the one
Who gave me a son
We will never be done

I saw your flaw...

I saw your flaw it made me love you more
So much I could not explain
You saw my flaw I bolted my door
You found your way inside, cast out my false pride
And in my heart you've remained

Now its late we've long since left the gate
We have been pocked by strife and even mocked
by life
We chart our fall from grace we watch them take
our place
We have seen the battered truth.
You are the one
Who still lights the fading sun
Into the wind we do run

4. Take Me with You

Loneliness, and the primal need for one last connection before a sacred acceptance.

Are you coming for me?
Is it now the time?
Come sit with me first
Let's have a glass of wine
I won't try to trick you
I'm no good at chess
Just give me a moment
To put on my best dress

Then take me with you
I don't care where
My grip on tomorrow
Is nothing but air
Yes, take me with you
Take me away
My grip on tomorrow
Is fading out today.

Would you like red or white
A cheese platter too
Let's have a little small talk
Before I follow you
I've been so alone
I crave your cold touch
Ever since Frank passed
I haven't had very much

So take me with you...

Can I see your face
Under that dark hood
Or does it hurt so much
To be misunderstood
Have you feelings left
Or are they numb to the task
It must be so hard
When the eyes of children ask

Well I'll make it easy
There's no need to fear
I've lived long enough
No illusions, no tears

So take me with you...

I know you can't tell me
What's next once we part
But while we're together
Please show me some heart
It will give me strength
For the journey that lies ahead
In your arms I trust
As I lay back in bed

Then take me with you
I don't care where
My grip on tomorrow
Is nothing but air
Yes, take me with you
Please don't delay
My grip on tomorrow
Has faded out today

5. Will You Remember Me?

In the grip of existential dread about whether and how one will be remembered. This song in five distinct vignettes, or movements, is the hinge of the album, segueing from individual to communal experiences and topical themes.

Do you remember sitting on my shoulders
After the war our lives got hard and colder
When you get older
Will you remember me?

Do you remember the night we had our first kiss
And when you told me our true love felt like pure
bliss
Our lives have since gone amiss
How will you remember me?

I believed in justice
I believed in freedom
I believed in changing the world
Do you remember the causes that we fought for
The world kept on changing, soon we weren't so
sure
We lost our faith more and more
Will you remember me?

I believed in virtue
I believed in country
I believed in God and family
Do you remember when our jobs did matter
Then the factories closed and all our lives did shatter
Our town is in tatters
Who will remember me?

We were the champion
We won the battles
We were on top of the world
Do you remember all the ways we cheated
We didn't listen when the children pleaded
The earth's overheated
No one will remember me

6. Into our Dreams, America

This song contains historical sweeps and contemporary vignettes that pose the essential question of who is America, and the American dream, for? It was written in 2015, when competing versions of populism were bubbling up from the grassroots in the presidential race. Much has changed, but much remains.

All the strumming, all the singing
Through the valley freedom's ringing
Telling tales of strife and triumph
In our protest songs
To this country our allegiance
Pledged in spite of all malfeasance
Cherishing what's right not what's gone wrong

Oh, what a land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

On a ship from faraway places
Weathered and determined faces
Fleeing from the wars and hatreds
In their old home towns
To the gates did come these masses
Each one prays their story passes
And they make it through to settle down

Hope is the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

Running with a host of pilgrims
Seeking fortune for their children
To the golden streets of Eden
California bound
Riding railroads coast to coast
With the drifters and the ghosts
Of all the seekers who could not be found

Hard is the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

Brought in shackles to pick cotton
Holy terror not forgotten
Freedom riders overcame
Jim Crow and all their fears
Children of a once-proud nation
Forced to live in reservations
Taking back the blood-stained trail of tears

Cruel is the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

She was just a farm girl singer
Hoping fame would surely bring her
From the heartache cross the heartland
Nashville city lights
He got up before the dawn
Wind sprints on a lonely lawn
Touchdown glory Texas Friday nights

Grace is the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

She came from beneath the border
Heard the screaming to deport her
Faced her demons studied hard
And graduated first
She got married to her wife
But had to start a brand new life
Away from her home town
Where they got cursed.

Change is the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

He came home from years of war
Traumatized by what he saw
Given pills to ease the pain
They found him on the street
He worked two shifts at the mill
When it closed couldn't pay his bills
They took his home his kids could scarcely eat

Shame is the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

Busted for a broken tail light
Escalated into a fight
Thrown in jail couldn't meet bail
Week later she was dead
Thirty years incarcerated
DNA exonerated
Thanking God in tears he bowed his head

Rage in the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

In the darkness of the alley
There's a jester keeping tally
Who is up and who is down
As life's wheel spins around
Businessmen and politicians
Make in secret their decisions
Pocketing the gold they somehow found

Fire in the land
Come take my hand
Into our dreams we shall rise

Gathering force from blogs and tweets
From country roads and city streets
Red and blue and black and white
All know there's so much wrong
Now's the time to...reawaken...
For our dreams will...not be taken...

Here is where we belong
Here is where we stand strong

7. Truth

Written three years later in 2018, this traditional folk-spiritual responds to the lies and darkness of the era and highlights issues – climate change, reproductive rights – that resonate more than ever.

In the shadow of the night
There's a stirring of the light
On this glorious day we will prevail.
Our voices will rise
And drown out the lies
On the river of hope the truth will set sail.

All over this land people take a stand
Fighting for their rights and to be heard
They've been ignored and seek to be restored
Speaking the truth word by word

In the shadow of the night...

The earth's in doubt from storms and floods and drought
It's warming up at such a rapid rate
Young people see their future that might be
They're shouting out the truth before it's too late

In the shadow of the night...

Women will not go way back to before Roe
To lose their choice and their autonomy
We need this world in which to raise our girls
To know the truth of their equality

In the shadow of the night...

Leaders who divide and scapegoat those outside
Stoke fears about religion and race
Well, love trumps hate together we won't wait
To tell the truth and make sure they're replaced

In the shadow of the night.... (3)
From the river of hope the truth will set sail
On the river of hope the truth will prevail.

8. She Goes into the Fire

We interrupt this album for a pandemic. Written one month into lockdown in April 2020, the song reflects the mixed emotions of fear and anger, while celebrating a new breed of heroes and a city that rises to the occasion to turn isolation into solidarity, if only for a moment in time.

Sounds of the city eerily silenced
By a stealthy virus brutal and violent
Hospital walls they shudder and groan
From an onslaught of victims who lie so alone
The bodies pile up the morgues overflow
When it will stop only fools say they know

She's a doctor, a nurse, an ER technician
She's guided by science not partisan positions
She's scared for her life, but each day she arrives
Exhausted she strives to keep each one alive
She took an oath for a calling that's higher
She doesn't blink, she goes into the fire (2)

Then each night at seven people come out
They cheer and they sing they clap and they shout
For the first responders who are changing their shift
To all front line workers a thank you a gift
Just for that moment the city awakes
Determined to show that its spirit won't break

She's a doctor, a nurse, an ER technician...

They've got loans to pay off their rent is too high
So many of them struggle just to get by
They take care of their kids their parents too
They've got hopes and dreams just like me and you
They're from here and afar all religions and race
They're America's best her unadorned grace

When this is all over a reckoning will come
A righteous anger will wash away some
Who frittered away precious time that was lost
Thousands then died what a terrible cost
A broken system works just for the few
Years of neglect now the bill has come due.

She's a doctor, a nurse, an ER technician...

9. Oh Yeah!

Moments of sheer, unadulterated joy, including on November 7, 2020, inhabit this fun, retro rock song, with a cameo by one of our founding fathers. These moments, these highs we experience in life, are quite ephemeral, though, as the republic's survival is still very much in question.

Johnny took a drive down route 495
Today was the day he was feeling alive
He said oh yeah, oh yeah
He picked up Marylou on her way home from school
They went down to the lake she stole a kiss or two
He said oh yeah, oh yeah
They sang all their favorite songs at the top of their lungs
They fell laughing in a heap when all their songs were sung
They sang oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah

Ginny and her mates they had a plan to be great
As the big day approached you know they just couldn't wait
They said oh yeah, oh yeah
They took up the chase in the boys' relay race
Nobody thought they would end in first place
They said oh yeah, oh yeah
They piled into the van still giddy from the win
They were toasted at the pub and then they beat the boys again
They sang oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah

When Cami heard who won she said it's time for some fun
She put on her red sneakers and she started to run
She said oh yeah, oh yeah
She called and she called for her best friend Saul
They took the trolley downtown to Independence Mall
They said oh yeah, oh yeah
They joined thousands of people who were dancing in the streets
There was laughter, there was joy, there were tears of relief
Ol' Ben Franklin he smiled on them and chuckled with glee
"A Republic, and you kept it!" they all did agree
They sang oh yeah, oh yeah
He sang oh yeah, oh yeah
We sang oh yeah (oh yeah), oh yeah (oh yeah), oh yeah!
Yeah, yeah, yeah!

12. Open the Door

...they see a place, knock and are invited in. Is it just a dance hall or is it also a metaphor for something larger, for that elusive, inclusive American dream?

Open the door come on inside
There's a party going on tonight
This is the place you can be yourself
Everybody's going to treat you right

Dancing together dancing apart
Soon enough you'll hear your song
Feeling the beat in your sway and your feet
Come on, this is where we all belong
Hi-ho, hi-ho, hi-ho
It's off to the party we'll go

It's cold outside you feel so alone
When other people put you down
Don't hesitate just open the gate
We're always going to be around

Dancing together dancing apart...

Into the rhythm into the rhyme
The music goes on and on
Losing ourselves in the river of time
We'll dance until the early dawn

Nobody care where you're from how you look
Or what haters call your sin
The only thing that we ask of you
Is to let the next person in

Dancing together dancing apart...

Into the rhythm into the rhyme...

Open the door come on inside
There's a party going on tonight
This is the place you can be yourself
Everybody's going to treat you right

Dancing together dancing apart...(2)

10. Where Have You Gone

A deep lament afflicting so many- the inexplicable loss of loved ones to political polarization, misinformation and the dark, tribal side of belonging.

Where have you gone?
From my heart you stole away
Where have you gone?
Did you part in the dark of day?
Storms ravaged our only land
Tore us asunder hand from hand
Facing each other to take a stand
Worlds apart we shouted into the wind

Where have you gone?
Captured by the fog of war
Where have you gone?
Drifted far to the shrouded shore
Lies unbound our sacred trust
Turned our green fields into dust
All we had built was left to rust
Ties of love were loosened and lost to the wind

Where have you gone?
Am I now your enemy?
Where have you gone?
Is our pain for the world to see?
Are we doomed for an awful fight?
Winner takes all and might makes right
Can't see each other without the light
All I can hear approaching is the howl of the wind

Where have you gone?
I don't know how this ends

11. Will I Fit (Reprise)

Our teenager from the first song returns, perhaps older now, but still forlorn. As they walk down the street...

Will I fit
From where I sit
When you look at me do you see me at all
Can you see
What's right in me
Or do you look at me as if I am a...

Jerry Mogul - vocals and acoustic guitar (lead on tracks 4 and 10)

Jefferson Riordan - lead acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, organ, drums, percussion, and backing vocals

All songs written by Jerry Mogul © 2022 BMI

Produced by Jerry Mogul and Jefferson Riordan for WitchWood Music

Recorded at WitchWood Music studios, Roslindale, MA, Jefferson Riordan and Chris Toppin, recording engineers.

Mixed by Dave Locke, JPMasters, Seattle, WA (tracks 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12), jpmasters.com; and by

Steve Friedman, Melville Park Studio, Hyde Park, MA (tracks 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10), melvillepark.com

Mastered by Dave Locke, JPMasters

Additional backing vocals: Chris Toppin on tracks 1, 2, 7, 9 and 11; Henry Korman on track 5;

Rebekah Lamb on track 10; Makala Noble on track 12; Dave Locke and Hawk Riordan on track 1

Violin: Jill Good on tracks 4 and 5

Cello: Winnie Belk on track 5

Keyboard: Sam Fribush on track 12

Saxophone: Aaron Gelb on track 12

Graphic design by Chris Toppin

Front cover photo is of guitar strap with selected lyrics from "Into Our Dreams"

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