

SONG BOOK

The Lyrics & Chords of Songwriter Kieran McCarthy



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10'000 FEET OVER NO-WHERE

Written in Darwin in 1994
Recorded during the first “Precious Ground” sessions at
Newmarket Studios in Nth . Melb. In March 1995
Came from 3 yr old Kaedan peering through the glass as I boarded a
Plane from Brisbane to Darwin. We were living in Byron Bay at the time.

E D A E
There wasn't time to hold and kiss you, we'd missed the final call.
D A E
The man at the gate said “come on mister, you're the last one on board”
F#m A B7
I fumbled on that Jetplane kidding myself through
A B7 A B E
But 10,000 ft over nowhere I'm in trouble getting over you

Eleven weeks seems like a life-time, when you're 3 years old
There was I cutting the life-line, and leaving you in the cold.
It tore me inside out to see my little buddy blue
And 10'000 ft over nowhere, I'm in trouble getting over you

Bm A E Bm A E
If I was able I'd b e with you, I'd let you take me to your star,
Bm A E F#m A B7
I'd sit and listen to your stories, and marvel at the wonder in your eye

Music's such a jealous mistress, she clutches for your soul
Teases you with dreams of success, and leaves you out of control
If I could only find I'd tell her that we're through
And 10, 000 ft over nowhere I'd be heading on home to you

ALIVE AGAIN

Written in Broome in 1992

Recorded during the 3rd and final One For The Road sessions

At Tallowood Studio in Greensborough, Melbourne in 1993

Heading home up the Hume Highway in my old EJ

After a summer shower of rain

EM G C G

The wind is in my face, and I can smell the rain

Em G D

Hitting Highway 31 and I'm alive again

Em G C Am

I've just been back to Melbourne, and I've just got to say

G F C D G

There's nothing sweeter than doing the ton, heading North up this big highway

G Bm C D

I used to live in the city, I loved the life I lived

G Bm C D

Home can be anywhere we want, and the smoke gave me a lift

C G Bm C

But I couldn't see the seasons I couldn't see the stars

G F C D

Just a sea of empty faces in a sea of social scars

I still love the bright lights, the urban Rock and Roll

I lose myself for days on end with friends from days of old

I still love them very much I enjoy their company

But when the North wind blows I roll my swag I know it's time to leave

I've heard talk of the outback the great Australian myth

I've heard them say our dark friends were just a part of it

But now I've felt the dreamtime and the spirit of this old land

There's no way known I'm spending my days living on shifting sand

BACKPACKER

Written in Airlie in 1999. Recorded in 2000 at Soundhouse Studios in Richmond,
Melbourne for the "Mr Monsoon" album

C

I've got a backpack, a credit card from my Dad

F C

I've got a sore seat, I rode a bus to Airlie Beach

F C G C

Ten Dollars for a bed, Five Dollars and I'm fed,

F C G C

Eighty Dollars just on beer, But the company is free up here

I come from England, come from Spain, Canada and the USA
Ireland and Germany, the Netherlands and Italy

24 hours on a plane, 24 stops on the way

24 days to see the coast, 24 nights and I'll be broke

Saw the harbour and said "g'day", saw the light at Byron Bay

Saw a genuine Didgeridoo, Koala and a Kangaroo

I wanna learn to Scuba Dive, Sail a boat from 9 to 5

Forest walks and history, Get to meet a real Aussie

BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU - (acoustic)7th Fret

A E Bm G D
It took a long year to say we're over
A E Bm G D
It took a good year to clear my head
A E Bm G D
It took a smart girl to cut my clover
A E Bm G D
It took a bad girl to wreck my bed

A E G D x4
I'm better off without you

Never could do anything right
A new tap dance every day
Well I don't need you and your 3rd Reich
I'm so happy you went away

I'm better off without you x4

F Am
Now I'm flying without trying
C G
The skies are blue and my wings are strong
F Am
In the front row of my own show
C G F G
I'm back to where I belong

I was so sick of your flirtations
You really thought you were something else
A credit card and no credentials
You thought you bought me off the shelf

I'm better off without you x4

BLUE PEARL BAY

Written in 2009 (Challenge to write a 2 chord song)
Recorded in 2010 with Damon at Simmons St

D -----
A balmy night at Blue Pearl Bay
She looked at me, said can we stay
Her hair of silk, skin like milk
On that moonlit deck we lay---- and she said

G -----
Take my hand and we'll find a star
Tonight will be a part who we are
I'll trust in you, and if you trust me
And I'll let you in to my sanctuary

The pure magic in that Caress
The chemistry as our eyes met
Then we kissed, yes yes yes
There were tingles, sweetened sweat—and she said

The morning light brought another day
The real world was miles away
I awoke my face in her hair
She looked at me and whispered yeh

You took my hand and we found a star
We celebrated, who we are
I trusted you and we found our way
I'll never forget Blue Pearl Bay

BLUE ON BLUE

Re recorded in a different style in
Airlie during 2008

(Chorus)
Am Dm
Blue on Blue, Green on Green
G Am
My home lies by the ocean in a tropical retreat
Dm
Blue on Blue, Green on Green
G Am
The friendliest people and the prettiest
women you'll ever see

(Verse)
C G
I'm sailing in the twilight
Am F
Into a setting sun
C G
I'm thinking of a fast life
Am F
And a new one just begun

I love the nights in Airlie
The young at heart at play
I'm glad I put my bag down
Where every day's a Whitsunday

E F
Hammock on a Sunday
G# G
Rainbow afternoon
E F
Dolphin daydreaming
G# G
Sunlight coming through
I'm diving off an island
Into the Coral Sea
I can see the mainland
Trying to reach me

CALL OF THE WILD

Written in Byron Bay in Feb 1993
Recorded during 1st "Precious Ground " sessions at
Newmarket
Studios in Nth Melb. in March 1995

About a kid I met in Mt Isa.

G C G C
The boy lay low, he could hear the train
G C G C
His ride to the West, a Blue Mountain Freight,
Am C Am
The cross took his friends as Sydney reduced his soul.
G C G
Now he's taking a chance before it's too late

F C G
Survival out there won't be easy, he'll go hard
F C G
Learn to shear on the Lachlan, fight and sleep under stars
F C Am
Out on the Cooper Plains ,rope and ride
F C G
It came from the T.V. The Call of the Wild

He shouts to the world as he jumps the train
And roars through the hills in the pouring rain
His frozen hands hold on for dear sweet life
With a fire in his eye feeling insane

He jumps from the train in the evening light
Hungry and cold but feeling alright
He walks down a lonely road somewhere in NSW
And the morning dawns on a brand new life

CHASING THE SUN

Written in Melbourne in 1978 after my
Trip around Australia in 1977. Intended
To be performed with Muddy Creek
At the Wandong Country Music Festival
Recorded in the 1st sessions for One For The Road
At Curtain St Studio in 1991

Memories of camping on the lake at Kununurra

G C G C
It's a crystal morning the dawn's dancing on the water
G C D
Kununurra water is always cool
G C G C
Red dust is in my cup it's hotter now the sun is up
G C D
I wet my boots while I got my billy full

G/C/G/D
Em B
I'm riding my thumb to Darwin
Em B
Chasing the sun to Darwin
Em B
I'm making my run to Darwin
C D
And I'm not going back

Leaving Perth wasn't easy, my job was great and so was my girl
But I got lonely there were too many people
I could feel that spirit calling feel that North-West cost surf falling
As I walked out the Oxford for the last time

C D C D
Pandanus, Boab silhouette up where things aren't spoiled yet
C D
It's not something that you've done or said

CHRISMAS IN QUEENSLAND

Written in Airlie Beach in1989
Recorded at Greg Ham's Curtain St studio
In Carlton,Melbourne during the first
One For The Road sessions in Feb. 1991

Airlie was full of young tradesmen and labourers working
On the new Daydream Resort and Hamilton Towers
"Working hard and living high"

1st place Victorian Country Music Awards 1992 -- Professional
Songwriter Section
Finalist in Queensland Songwriters Competition 1999
Dumped straight onto Blue on Blue through popular demand

Am F G D A G D
Ooh look at it rain,Mister Monsoon's here and I've been caught
again
Am F G D A G D G/D
Ooh,look at it rain,there's water in my shoe and Bundy in my brain

Am G
I caught the bus to Cairns and stood in worksite queues
D A
Mixed the mud and cleaned the bricks and yes I've paid my dues
Am G D G D
Working hard and living high and hell the time just flew- skies
were blue

Stayed on through the Dry I took the odd week off
Hitched a ride up the Cape did some fishing in the Gulf
Then the build-up came I'd never sweat so much- wet so much

Christmas in Queensland, thinking about the south
I got my gear and got my pay and got the first bus out
Down as far as Airlie Beach my money's all run out-and it's my
shout

COMPANION

Written in Melbourne in 1974
Recorded during the final sessions for
One For The Road at Tallowood Studio
In Greensborough Melbourne in 1993

One of my earliest efforts and a round
the BBQ singalong favourite

Em Bm Em A
Looking at you melts me inside there's not one thing I can do
Em Bm G A Bm
And for the first time I don't want to hide I'm living on you

D G A D G A D G A
I'm in the mood I'm in the mood I'm in the mood
G A D
For you companion

You're as natural as the stars up above, you've opened the door
To a world that's made out of love, I want to explore

Twenty years since I wrote down this song, and nothing's
changed at all
Through ups and downs we somehow belong, we're still ten
feet tall

CRAZY WOMEN A

Written in Byron Bay in 2006 and recorded in Airlie in Trevor's
downstairs Toilet in 2010

A
I've had some crazy women, yes that's true
E
I've done some stupid things, and that's true too
A
I've had my share of crazy women,
D
I keep losing when I think I'm winning
A E A
I've loved them all and now I'm falling for you

D A
I never did believe in Red Lights
D A
Crossing Bells were music to me
D A
Never lost my lust for the wild ones
B7 E
A pretty smile is all that I could see

I've heard we learn from disaster
We learn a lesson every day
Well my history makes me a master
But I'm so dumb when beauty comes my way

All said and done, it doesn't matter
I've had a crack and done it all in style
Though at times my life's gone pear shaped
Looking back I cannot help but smile

CRUISING

Written in Airlie in 1999 and recorded for the Mr Monsoon album in 2000
At the Soundhouse Studios in Richmond, Melb

A D E
People tell me that I'm crazy the way I live my life
F#m D E
They say I should work Southern streets and do the circuit right
A D E
I say there was a time when I worked fingers to the bone
F#m D E
Motivation, graduation, sweat on the grindstone

F#m D F#m D
Now I know what I must do and if you want it includes you
F#m D E
With a suitcase and a dollar in my shoe

A D E
I'm cruising yes I'm cruising
A D E
Me and Mr Monsoon we're off to the other side
A D E
We're cruising yes we're cruising
G D E
And kissing all those too hard things goodbye

We all fall in love too easy we jump right in the fire
We don't want to see the truth we'd rather live a lie
And now I just wont settle down I say that from the start
Expectation, confrontation, it breaks a broken heart

I hate the thought of growing old, I really don't know why
I can be a baby every time I say goodbye
And when I think of what I think, I think I'm still a kid
Ecstasy and fantasy and shoulda, coulda. did

DANIEL WAS A PIONEER

Written in Airlie Beach in 1989
Recorded in the 2nd sessions for One For The Road
At Curtain St Studio Carlton Melbourne in Feb 1992

Daniel McCarthy –my great grandfather
Left Ireland alone at the age of 16 and
Finally settled at Dairy Creek,near Yea,Victoria

Song Of The Year Nth Queensland Country Songwriters 1992
National Country Songwriting Finals Tamworth 1993
1st Place S.E.Queensland Songwriters Awards 1994
Performed at the Starmaker Final -Tamworth 1994
Performed at Muster National Talent Search Final Gympie 1994

A E D E
Six months on the open sea,left old Ireland,left his family
A E D E
Look for land off the starboard bow,a shout went up there was no turning back now
D E A E
Daniel was a pioneer,he could have been a sailor,could have been a tailor
D E A E A
But Daniel was a pioneer,and loved his new home,Australia

Made his way through the dockside crowds,walked to Kimore,looking for the good ground
Bought stores ready for the push,into the mountains,into the real bush

C#m G#m C#m G#m C#m G#m B
Wild duck flew,kangaroo too, no landlord will tell me what to do
C#m G#m C#m G#m C#m G#m B
I'm alive I'll fight and survive,under the wonderful southern sky

Coming down off the great divide,a valley lay before him a river on the farside
Lit a fire made damper and tea, he fell asleep in the shelter of a gumtree

And today Daniel's fruit-trees stand, on Dairy Creek,beneath Mt Maryann
Close your eyes and you'll hear him sing,horses straining,axes ringing

DESPERATE DAYS

Written in Darwin in 1993 In June '93 , I went solo to Darwin in the Panel Van and spent a lonely 8 weeks working solid at the Top End Hotel. Recorded during first 'Precious Ground' sessions at Newmarket Studios, Nth Melbourne in March 1995

A sus/A D sus D C /Em G/Bm A
My V8 roars down that long white line, leaving all my love behind

D C/Em/G/Bm A
3 days out to an 8 week shift, the isolation blows my mind

G D
she fills the tank and says they need some rain
Bm E
I don't catch her eye ,so she don't see the pain

A C#m
Those desperate days pushing through the haze
D E
Looking for an answer when I haven't got a clue

A B
And when the self doubt looms in a hotel room
D E A
That's when I thank God I've got you

**A broken girl in a run down bar, a bottle and a broken heart
I turn away because I can see, a fine line in front of me
She lifts her head and says she'll start again
I don't catch her eye ,so I don't see the pain**

Bm A
In the mirror there's a stranger's face
Bm E
Pull yourself together boy

DON'T LOOK BACK

Written in Broome in 1991
Recorded in the 2nd sessions for One For The Road
At Curtain St Studio, Carlton, Melbourne in Feb 1992

**A result of going for a jog out of Halls Creek
At dusk. Kimberley magic!!**

Features John Dallimore's classic one take guitar outro

1st Place Annual Vic-Song Writing Awards 1992

A G D Bm A Bm

Out on the road in the early morning light, feeling solitaire

A G D Bm A Bm

My life stretched out in front and far behind, footprints in the sand

A G D Bm A Bm

In the mist I see all the safe decisions made always too afraid to lose

A G D Bm A Bm

I can cut free now and risk a little pain, or never know the truth.

A G D A
When the sun goes down in the West, and the stars begin to show
Em D A
The nights are long if you take second best and you never know

**There's a youth inside that never had a say, and waits to light the fire
Stand up it's time to throw the book away, push back the border line**

**As the light fades low in the West and its dark out on the track
Realize your dream before you rest, and don't look back**

Em D E
The big blue sky wraps it's gentle arms around me
Em D E
And all at once I know what I always knew has found me

DOUGIE'S ALL RIGHT

I met Doug Butterworth in 2007 and he told me some of his remarkable story. When he passed away in 2009, I visited his wife Beryl to give her a copy of this recording which had just been finished. Found out her and Doug built the house next to me –3 Simmons St in the 70's

This is the story about a guy called Doug.

He was an extremely lucky man.

Not only did he survive 13 bombing missions in World War 2,
He survived a plane crash and 3 years in a German Prisoner of War camp.

Doug left Australia as a 20 year old as part of the 460 Australian Squadron
He trained in Canada and Scotland, and arrived in England in late 1941,
As the front gunner and wireless operator in a Wellington bomber

World War 2 bomber crews knew their chances were not good

For every 100 bomber crewmen, only 40 survived and as Doug said ,

"You knew there was a good chance of not making it back, but when you had a good crew it made all the difference"

All the missions were night bombing and one night things went terribly wrong.
Doug's plane was part of a mission to bomb a factory at Essen in Germany's Ruhr Valley .

The bombers were ordered to fly very low as they returned to England to avoid enemy fighters. Just as Doug's bomber crossed the coast, it crashed into the sea."
How I got out I don't know" he said, "I was tangled up in all the wreckage"

All the crew were seriously injured but Doug managed help a few of his crewmates to inflate their life jackets, but others did not surface.

Then shock kicked in and as they lay floating in the ocean, the crew drifted apart.
Doug said he swam towards the moon and soon heard the ringing of a bell He swam towards it and was picked up by 2 German Airmen.

"They were good lads, they treated me well" he said

Doug was the only crew member to survive.

He spent 4 weeks in a German hospital, then was taken to Berlin by train and spent a further 6 weeks in hospital there. He was then taken to a Prisoner of war camp near the Polish border-Stalag 344, where he stayed for 3 years.

During this time Doug was assigned to a working party in Slovakia from where he and 7 others escaped by filing out the windows of the barracks.

The group split up and Doug travelled by train each day and moved back into the mountains to sleep

One morning he awoke near Hirshberg to find local people all around him.

Yet no-one took any notice of the man in a British uniform. He passed a group of German soldiers chatting up girls and they barely turned their heads.

But then Doug's luck ran out. He turned a corner and walked into a soldier with a bayonet.

As punishment for his 12 day journey across the continent, he spent 14 days in solitary confinement.

Now things took a turn for the worse when the Russians advanced close to the camp. The prisoners were evacuated and spent the next 4 months marching across Germany. Eventually the American forces caught up with them and they were rescued. Doug was all right

After the war he worked as a Sugar Chemist in the Ayr Sugar Mill.

He then moved to Airlie Beach where he and his wife, Beryl owned a General Store.
He later became a Commercial Fisherman and also owned a tourist Vessel

Dougie's All Right

EVERY HEAVEN WEEPS THE RAIN

(Chorus)

Am Em
Every heaven weeps the rain
G Am
When holy wars come round again
Am Em
All that pain in their name
G D
Every heaven weeps the rain

Bm A
Even satan walks away
Bm A
He's said all he needs to say
Bm A
The stupidity every day
Bm A
Even satan walks away

2 thousand years and nothing's changed
We give the guns to the deranged
If peace on earth is any gauge
2 thousand years and nothing's changed

Hey you fundamentalist
We've all had enough of this
Keep your doctrine to yourself
And keep yourself to your dim wits

FLASH AS A RAT WITH A GOLD TOOTH

A

Don't have much money, but I live well
I watch the sunrise, drink from the well
Walk through the forest, where the big tree fell
Jump in the ocean, swim in the swell

(Chorus)

 C G F C
 When I think of the dreams and the memories of gold
F—G F G
 Flash as a rat with a gold tooth
 C G F C
 All of stories and pleasures untold
F—G F G
 Flash as a rat with a gold tooth

I sing for a living, I do all right
Belt out a few tunes, make some ones night
I watch the big stars, under big lights
The corner of a small bar is my empire

(Chorus)

I love my woman and she loves me
She gives me rhythm –stability
She gives me reason to leave it be
Time goes so quickly when she's with me

(Chorus)

When I think of the friends that I still can behold
All of the things that so could have gone wrong

FREEFALL

Written in Airlie in 1999 and recorded for Mr Monsoon in 2000
At the Soundhouse Studios in Richmond, Melbourne
Always wanted to write a Blues

E A B E A B
An old friend called, he was blind and he was sad
E A B E A B
He said "She doesn't love me, but I'll always be their dad

E A B E A B
And I worry that I wont be around and I worry their world is crashing down
E A B E A B
And I worry, I'm sorry for myself and I worry, it's all my stupid fault"
E A B E A B E A B
I said " Freefall for a while, Freefall for a while, Freefall for a while
A B E
And we'll wait for your smile"

An old friend called, she was sad and she was stoned
She said " He doesn't love me, but I'll always be their mum

G A
We all fall in love with the best thing in town
Am B7
But if you want young ones have a good look around

A young friend called, she said "I'm on my own"
She said "They don't love me, and I feel so alone

HEAD TO BROOME

Written in Kunnunurra in Nov. 1989
Recorded during the 1st session for "One For The Road" (Chasing The Sun
Cassette) at Greg Ham's Curtain St Studio in Carlton, Melb in Feb 1991
Re-recorded during the 1st session for "Precious Ground" at Newmarket
Studios in Nth Melb in Mar 1995

A G D
Left the East Coast in the sun, ocean blue stretched out behind us
A G D
Set the mind to travel mode, sitting deeper, a can of Coke between us

Bm G
When big cities bore me, the Kimberley calls me
A E D F A
Every time I need some room, I tune my car and head to Broome

Through the Towers to the Inland Sea, at sunrise saw the Isa chimney
Fill up at 3 Ways and one with the lot, then North up the Northern Territory

F G D F G E
That full moon pulls me Westward, God knows I've got to go.

Turning left at Katherine town, the rugged West breaking up the skyline
500 Million years, Dinosaurs, Diamonds and the Dreamtime

Chinatown, the Orient feel, where the desert meets the Indian Ocean
Cable Beach, Sunset, yes I'm getting lost in the mystical emotion

I THINK ABOUT YOU

Written in Airlie in 1999,
Last track written for “Mr Monsoon”
Recorded at Soundhouse Studios, Richmond, Melb in Jan, 2000

Bm E Bm E A E DE
I was OK I was doing fine alone.
Bm E Bm E A E DE
I was in my bubble doing time alone
Bm E Bm E A E DE
I was happy as an individual,
Bm E Bm E A E DE
Then I met you girl and it's incredible

Bm E
There's no way I'll be able to sleep
Bm E
What the hell's wrong with me

A E DE AEDE
I think about you all the time,
A E DE AEDE
I can't get you out of my mind
A E DE
You run around inside my head,
A E DE
I'm infatuated

You live so far away it's difficult,
but we can hang in there it's no-one's fault
We have to make do on the telephone,
I love that time with you when I'm at home

I know that we'd be great together
I want to hold your hand forever
I'd walk all day to look into your eye
I love your sense of fun your wicked smile

I'M FREE

Written in Airlie in 1998 and first recorded for the Mr Monsoon album in 2000 at
Soundhouse Studios in Richmond, Melb. Later that year a different arrangement
was used for Airlie's Olympic Torch Ceremony and I decided to present this on the
Blue On Blue album.

G C F C G C F C
I've got a feeling, it won't go away,
G C F C G C F C
about waking up with you baby and living in the Whitsundays
G C F C G C F C
About standing up on an island, surrounded by the Coral Sea
G C F C G C F C
About doing all the things I want and being who I want to be

D C
And I don't care what people think, I wouldn't change a thing
G C F C G C F C
I'm free I'm a South-East breeze

I've got a notion down in my soul
Tells me to make the most of every day and forget about tomorrow
Cos who knows what's up around the bend and what's coming into view
Nothing bothers me too much my friend as long as I'm with you

I went to the city, I came back yesterday
I love to spend a week or 2 down there but there's nothing there to make me
Stay
I'm happy sitting on pioneer bay, staying right out of reach
I'm having me a fat old time just living here in Airlie Beach

KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU

A E
We're born alone, we die alone , Make your choices
D A
Keep your wits about you
A E
Love those who love you, avoid those who doubt you, Live every day
D A
Keep your wits about you
A E
Future uncertain, but it is certain, It's a crazy world
D A
Keep your wits about you

(Chorus) Bm G
Be responsible for your mistakes.
A Bm
You're in charge of everything at stake
Bm G
Keep a handle on your own fate.
A Bm E
We don't need a bloody Nanny State

Give love away, love all the way, But it's a lottery
Keep your wits about you

Hey pretty girl, you've got the world, But look around you
Keep your wits about you

It'll be all right, if not all right, It's not the end
Keep your wits about you

(Chorus)

Just be yourself, not someone else, Keep it real
Keep your wits about you

Hey Bully Boy, you think you're tough, You're not tough enough
Keep your wits about you

(Chorus)

LUCKY

Written in Airlie Beach in 1995, this is Kerrin's song near the end of 16 years
Marriage
with 3 outstanding kids. Recorded live to tape during the final sessions for
'Precious Ground'
At Newmarket Studios in Nth Melbourne in 1996

G (7th fret-D) F (5th fret D) C
Kisses in the moonlight, the power of the river
G F C
Promises whispered, heartbeat and a shiver
G D F C
We were young and brighteyed but didn't see it coming
G D F G Em
We hit the back road running, but could not deny what felt so right

A E
The best things I know don't come easy
Bm F# (Bridge, A# C G D)
And I'm as lucky as can be
G D C D G
When the angels made you ,They didn't know they made me

I knew the fear of fire, I thought nothing could touch me
But I came to my senses, and held you there beside me
And fun with you was easy, I thought I'd seen all life's highs
Then I heard the first cries, felt like the blind that could now see

MISSING YOU

Written in Airlie in 1998 after Claire went home. Recorded for the first Whitsunday Songwriters album the same year at Richard Kaal's studio in Airlie. Re-recorded for "MrMonsoon" in 2000 at the Soundhouse Studios in Richmond, Melb.

Em D C D
She says "I'm Canadian, you know I'm proud of that,
C D C D
My mountain lakes my winter snow,
Em D C D
But as an alien, Lost in your great Outback,
C D C D
I just wanted you to know"
G F C D
You were right about the sky, it's so blue
G F C D
You were right about the rock it rings so true
Am D
And I'm standing in a phone booth in Alice Springs
C D G F C D
And I love this land of yours and all it brings

She says "I'm a traveller, and I'm out to see the world,
I turn a page and have to go
But since I left you, my heart's been in a whirl,
And I just wanted you to know

*I was right about my heart I'm missing you
I was right about your love it rings so true
And I'm standing in a phone booth in Singapore
And talking to you makes me want you more

She says "I'll write to you, you know I'll keep in touch
Life goes on, the river flows
And though the memory of what we had's enough
I just wanted you to know

*

And I'm standing in the freshly fallen snow
And I'm wishing you were here in Toronto

MIST OF TIME

A

Take the reggae out of Jamaica
Take the blues from the Bayou
Take the country out of Kentucky
Take the rock from you know who

(Chorus)

F G Am
And we all come together in the mist of time
C G D
With the earth rotating through the harmony, rhythm and rhyme

Take the strings out of Vienna
Take the sacred Didgeredoo
Take flamingo out of Espania
Take the rap from you know who

Take the drums out of the Congo
Take the pipes from Dublin too
Take the brass out of Chicago
Take latina out of Peru

NORTHERN BOUND

Written in Byron Bay in 1991
Recorded during One For The Road's 2nd sessions
At Curtain St Studio Carlton Melbourne in Feb 1992

**Written about one of the many colourful
Characters I met in Darwin**

1st Place Annual Vic-Song Writing Awards 1993
3rd Place S.E Queensland Songwriters Awards- 1994
Performed in Starmaker Final -Tamworth 1994

Em Bm A# Dm
Break of day at Alice Roadhouse, kick the tyres ,check the load
G# Cm F D
Mind on his sweetheart, another day he'll be home.
Em Bm A# Dm
Red eyes see the sunrise, the radio plays that song,
G# Cm F D
Sixty-two humming wheels rolling home sing along

A E Bm D E A E Bm D E
Northern bound hmm the desire, homeward bound, hmm the desire
A E G A Bm D/A D/A
Tonight they'll lie with the Timor Sea night sky on fire

**Doggie Randel's a driver, got a bulldog on his arm
He's rough-cut but he's diamond, and he don't mean to cause alarm
Born and bred West of Sydney, had a Long Bay holiday
He got out and got to Darwin, now he drives roadtrains**

**Kate McGee was Doggie's saviour, gave him love he'd never seen
Like him she's taken hard knocks, and it's said they're quite a team
They're trying for a baby, she wants Doggie home
They'll be running and rolling in the warm ocean foam**

NOVEMBER

Written in 2010 in Airlie. Recorded at Damon's Studio in Melbourne the same year

(Capo 5th Fret)

D A
The whales have headed South, the Northerlys are comin
Em G D
Cyclone Season's closing in

A
Another winter's over, the sweat's on my shoulder
Em G D
Time to stay or throw it in
(Chorus)

D A
When November comes around
D A
The road is calling out for me
Em Em7 G
Though you try hard not to show
Em A D
Your eyes are saying please don't go
We agreed early days, we'd keep a distance
I made no promises to you
Know you're believing, I'm the man you're needing
Wish I could give it all to you

**There will come a time when I'll be leaving
Yes I've got that travelling bone
You call it treason, I call it reason
We have to make it on our own**

OLD MAN

Written in Airlie Beach in Sept. '91. Originally recorded as "The Kids Will Show The Way" in Feb '92 during the 2nd sessions for "One For The Road " and released on "Don't Look Back " cassette. Re-recorded in May '96 for "Precious Ground" at Newmarket Studios in Nth Melb.

A D A G D Em
200 years and Sydney-town's come a long way
G A
We've all left our signature
A D A G D Em
A hotter sun is setting now on the old ways
G A
The dawn of a brand new century

C A# F G D A
Old Man of Southern Oceans, wipe those tears away
C A# F G D A
Great Land of Southern Oceans, the kids will show the way

**The early nomads loved the land that they walked on
But the secret garden disappeared
We all came living for now not the long run
The signs were there but never read**

Em D Em D
Children of today you hold the power in your hands
C D C D A
Tomorrow's children have a right to sing with the Old Man

**Sands of time take us back to the Dreaming
Show us a different view of worth
Show us just what we need to believe in
An awakening to Mother Earth**

ONE FOR THE ROAD

Written in Byron Bay 1991. Recorded in the 2nd One For The Road sessions at Curtain St Studio, Carlton, Melbourne in Feb. 1992

**Written in a caravan at the First Sun Caravan Park
Never quite happy with how it turned
out in the studio**

Am G
I grew up in the Great Divide, there was a mile to the neighbour's door

Am G B7
Worked on the land dirt on the hand felt a part of what I saw

Am G
From the mountain side you could see for miles the horizon caught my eye

Am G B7
I was off like a shot motor running hot had to see it from the other side

A **D** **Bm**
But old man time, he's waiting in line he'll catch me one day and then
A G D Bm E - A
He's gonna take me back where the cool water flows and sit me right down again

**Now all my plans have an old Sandman cos I'm happy when I'm out on the road
My lady and me we love to feel free we don't live by the every day code
So we throw in the amps the kids and plants and we toss to see who drives
We've sold the lot we've lost the plot but we're having the time of our lives**

G D A G D A
One for the road One for the road

**I don't know if it's right or wrong to have no fixed address
But while there's time to see life shine I can tell you I don't care less
Doing one night stands as a one man band sure has it's highs and lows
But when your sights are set and you're doing your best it's amazing how things just flow**

OUT ON THE WATER

Written in Airlie during 2009. Recorded at Damon’s studio in Melbourne

Em A7
I like my beer, I like green grass
C7 B7 Em
I’m a country boy at heart
Em A7
I love the smell, of Summer rain
C7 B7 Em
And spending time down on the farm

F G D
But when my spirit needs repair
Am G D
And my soul love and care
F G D
That’s when you’ll find me out there
Em
Out on the water

I spent some time, an urban man
Found the rock in every hole
But when I pick up my guitar
It sorta comes out Country-Soul

There’s something wondrous bout the sea
Beauty, strength and mystery
Though I mean nothing much to her
She floats my little boat and me

POTENTIAL DERRO

Written in Airlie in 2002 First new song for the Blue on Blue Project - much to my partner at the time’s disgust. 98 bpm

*Em,C, Em, C, D,C,D,C,B7.

Walking home at daylight the birds are singing and he sings along
Been a bad boy all night he’s a separated soul
He’s got two girlfriends but he loves to play around
He got sprung tonight they locked him in the pound they said

#E,A,E,A,E,A,B7
You’re a potential derro
Your prospects are sub zero
You’re an apprentice derro
And he said yeh but I’ll get there

Walking home at daylight the birds are singing and he sings along
Been a bad boy all night he’s a separated soul
He has to walk now cos he lost the big V8
He gave his licence to a grumpy magistrate he said

Walking home at daylight the birds are singing and he sings along
Been a bad boy all night, he’s a separated soul
He likes to work hard but she keeps him in the bed
I’ll have to let you go his boss went all red he said

Walking home at daylight the birds are singing and he sings along
Been a bad boy all night he’s a separated soul
He don’t mind cooking but he loves to go and dine
He eats at Molly’s who’s astonished every time he says

Walking home at daylight the birds are singing and he sings along
Been a bad boy all night he’s a separated soul
He found religion and he studied in Tibet
He got deported he was teaching them roulette they said

PRECIOUS GROUND

Written in Darwin in 1994

Recorded during the first sessions for “Precious Ground”

At Newmarket Studios in Nth Melbourne in April 1995

During Land Rights Debates it occurred to me that our Indigenous Population were once migrants to this land the same as everybody Else, hence giving us a sense of connectivity

2nd place in Australian Songwriters Association’s National Songwriting Contest 2000 – Song For Reconciliation Category

Em Am
Way back when time began, a people came across the sand
G D
And made their homes on mountains and the plains
Em Am.
They lived by simple means ,but their sense of home was keen
G D C/D
And this love affair can still be seen in caves.

G Bm C G D
Freedom in a strange land ,a big heart and a dream.
G Bm
With the spirit of a demon, they were Australian
C D Em D Em D,
And carried their torch across this Precious Ground

***Then the tall ships came, with convicts and the game,
They did it hard along the distant shore.
Celtic refugees, adventurers,Chinese,
Came digging holes but searched for more than gold.

***Lucky to be alive in 1945,

The shattered ones came the sea.
And since Vietnam we took the Asian hand,
They joined the extended family.

***For 50,000 years, through sweat, blood and tears,
We’ve built a home for all the world to see.
It’s alright to sing the multicultural thing,
And common ground is our identity

REBELS RIDE AGAIN

Written in Darwin in 1995

Recorded during final “Precious Ground” sessions at Newmarket Studios

In Nth Melbourne in 1996

Have always felt an affinity with our Revolutionaries – many of whom did not
Die in vain , some caused enormous social and Legal progression

A pub favourite, especially with a few REBELS Bike Club members around

Am G F C G
Try and understand our history, the squatters’ greed the aborigine
Am G F E
Pigeon made a stand he took them on, it wasn’t long they shot him like a dog

Try and understand the early creed, there was no need to crush the refugee
Ned Kelly knew the pain he knew the law, he knew the score, and fought a freedom war.

A G D A G D A
Stormy nights the Rebels ride again. They come from hell, they know they died in vain
Bm G F# Bm G A Bm
Gave their lives to change, the beaurocratic chains, but still the thunder rolls

1854 in Ballaratt, The Union Jack pushed good men in the back
The miners stood their ground and paid the cost, the underdogs beneath the Southern
Cross

A G D A G D A
Run for your life, don’t let them get you . It’s your own life, don’t let them hurt you

And today we see that nothing’s changed, just rearranged, big brother still remains
Thousands with their backs against the wall, giving their all, with the spirit of Ben Hall

RUNAWAY RIDE

Written in Airlie Beach in 1992

First recorded during final sessions for "One For The Road" at Tallowood

Studio in Greensborough , Melb (On Cassette) in Jan. 1993

Rerecorded during final sessions for "Precious Ground " at Newmarket

Studios in Nth Melb. in April 1996. A late night after thought on Dallimore's slightly out of tune 12 String

A Em
She got a ride to the Gold Coast Monday,

D F A
Left a note, there wasn't much to say

 Em
I've got the blues bad and I'm running away

D F A
Things will be better where the rich people play

A# C G A
I need a runaway ride, I've got to get away

F G D
It all looks better on the other side

She got on to a wealthy boy
And held him tight like a long lost toy
He lived on his ego and didn't have enough
To come the goods when the going got tough

A yachtie said Baby I can please ya
I need a deckie for a trip to Micronesia
She gathered up her things And said goodbye
Then held the rudder while a drug-runner died

Bm A Bm A
We gotta make it right here, make it right now
Bm A G D E
Make it in our own space or we won't make it anyhow

The telephone rang just yesterday
A little voice said I'm in Hervey Bay
I've hit rock bottom, I need an old mate
I'm coming back say it's not to late

SALVATION CATHERINE

Written in Airlie in 2003 for Blue on Blue.

93bpm

Am,C,G
On the run , on adrenolin, the devil on my back
A wicked man with a withered hand pointed down the track
It's all one way boy from here he laughed and shook with glee
He had time on his side I was aimless, I was lonely

Bm,A,G
Salvation Catherine,you saw me through the rain
Missing in action, you pulled me from the train
Salvation Catherine we were custom made

On the street seven gigs a week the words running through my head
Every song reminds me of things I still regret
Desperate faces in desperate places with nothing much to lose
Another night on the darker side surrounded by the Blues

Em C G C D
I can see her, standing on the platform
Like an angel, in the eye of a cyclone

Morningside low tide barefoot in the sand
It's unreal but I can feel the touch of another hand
All the rough rhymes in my mind suddenly disappear
All the static coming down my line is all at once quite clear

SORRY

Written at Simmons St in 04. Something I'd wanted to write for a while
Recorded in 05 for BLUE ON BLUE
128 bpm

G, D C D
There's an eagle on the wing, there's a feeling in the wind
G Em/G F D
I'm trying hard to comprehend what you went through.
G D C D
I feel your spirit all around, as I walk your sacred ground
G Em/G F D
And if I found you crying here disillusioned and confused

G D C D
I would say sorry, for what they did to you
G D C D
Even though it probably, would sound ridiculous to you
C D G C
As I kneel to wash your wounds, and get a handle on the truth
G D C G
I would say sorry, that's the least that I could do

There's a full moon on the hill, the earth's amazing will
The seasons come and go, in their haste they just don't care
They saw the white man come, and the terrible things done
And if I found you dying here, in heartbreak and despair
*

There's a river down below, where a million teardrops flow
All that suffering grows to an ocean deep
But there's a rising tide, a whole nation realize
When we find you struggling to get back on your feet
We can say-----

* F, C,
It's blowing in the wind tonight
F C
It's all over baby blue
F C
There's nothing here to win tonight
F D
Just tomorrow shining through

SWEET HEART FROM SWEDEN

Written in 2010 and recorded at Simmons St in one afternoon with Damon

E A E
Sweetheart from Sweden, I'm too old for you
A E
You like the way I sing, I like the way you do
A E
Those bedroom eyes, will bring this all undone
A E
You've travelled round the world, but darling where's this going

(SOLO) G D A
Am G B7

Morning brings the daylight, and I've lost my shoe
You think its funny, I've lost my shirt and shoe
You tell me stick around, but I'll be on my way
You've got so far to go, you know I have to stay

Sweetheart from Sweden, I still think of you
I wonder where you are, I wonder what you do
Every now and then, life's a sweet surprise
I still can see you when I close my eyes

THE DEALER

Written in Airlie Beach in '99
Recorded for "Mr Monsoon" in Jan 2000 at Soundhouse Studios
In Richmond Melb.

Em C
Yesterday I saw a hungry boy,
D Em
hopeless acceptance in his eyes
C
An innocent victim of circumstance,
D Em
and before he'd really lived he had to die

Yesterday I saw a homeless girl,
Vacant distrust in her eyes.
She'd never heard the words "I love you"
Continuous abuse and endless lies

G A
Go to your waterfall, dance under your moon
C G D
But remember every freedom has its price
G A
Keep your wits about you, don't think that you're immune
C G D
Cos the dealer has the devil in his eyes

Yesterday I saw a civil war
A product of hatred and despise
Unbridled prejudice weaves its evil web
When neighbours up and take each others lives

Yesterday I saw an overdose
A young man in the prime of his life
Bad company no direction home
Self destruction, call it what you like

THE BOXER and THE CLOWN

Written in Airlie in 2009. Recorded in Melbourne at Damon's. Post Nuclear Fantasy

A E D
There's a hole in the sky today, we're so fragile
A E D
A family died in a war today, a new projectile
A E D
The greedy and the zealots have their own agenda
A E D
Planet Earth is tripping out, a dangerous bender

Am C G
The Boxer and the Clown stagger down the highway
Am C G
They have hope and they have faith it's the right way
Am Em
They know what lies in wait
Am D
They've been to Satan's gate
Am C G
But together they can take us to a new way

There's a Boxer with a swollen eye, but he's still fighting
There's a Clown that wants to cry, but she's still smiling
Everywhere there's someone there to burn your soul out
They hate the fact that you're intact and they have sold out

There's a shadow on the moon tonight, but it's still shining
There's a cloud in the sky tonight with a silver lining
Like the Boxer we have to fight with every detail
And like the Clown we won't lay down, let darkness prevail

THE BUTTERFLY

This began as a poem in 2006. Recorded in Melbourne—Vocals done Simmons St

Fret 2

D (E) Em (F#m)
A Butterfly sat on his shoulder
G (A) D (E)
Lost and alone, begged him to hold her
 Em (F#m)
Fragile and vulnerable, naive but wonderful
G (A) D (E)
He fell in love with her

Time went by, she flew with the breeze
Fading now, never at ease
Selfish and vulnerable, driven but wonderful
He cursed his stupidity

 C (D) G (A) D (E)
 You don't know where you're going
F#m (G#m) Em (F#m) D
 But I know where you've been
 C (D) G (A) D (E)
 There's a beauty there inside you
F#m (G#M) Em (F#m) D (E)
 I don't think you've ever seen

The Butterfly found someone new
Frantic now, options were few
Damaged and vulnerable, scheming but wonderful
He fell in love with her

Time went by, she took off again
Her colours now , hard to sustain
Egotistic and using, unconscious abusing
He cursed his stupidity

The Butterfly found someone new -- F#m Em D

THE FIRE

Written 2003 for Blue On Blue

G,D,C,D
She gives to me, unselfishly
She cradles my soul in her hands
And she loves, me so willingly
I'm so lucky to be in her plans

She shines bright, she's my harbour light
There's an aura that comes from within
With a single smile, I feel I could fly
When I'm with her my heart wants to sing

A#,F,C,G/D
You reignited the fire that burned in my heart
You reinstated the faith that was there from the start

She's poetry in motion to me
There's a rythum in all that she does
And she gets me, she laughs easily
With a word we both know it's because

She stimulates me , spiritually
She shows me things I've never seen
She motivates me, intelligently
The moon only shines from the sun

THE TRAILER BEHIND

Written and recorded with Mark Roberts at his place in Airlie during 2008

Intro and Solo G G7 Em Am7 C GD

Em D
My heart's as heavy as the trailer behind

Em D
I'm a muso with a lot on his mind

Em D
I make a living making sad people sing

C D
Right now I need the same thing

G D
Here I am on stage tonight

Em C
Belting it out like I'm all right

Am C G D
No one knows my mind is miles away

G D
I'm standing on thin ice tonight

Em C
The lighting rig's too hot and bright

Am C G D
If I go down, who gives a damn anyway

The road is foggy like the thoughts in my head
Analysing all the things that you said
I've struggled hard to get what you need
But you don't love me and you're packing to leave

All I own is in the trailer behind
My PA, Fender and a Shure Beta mic
I'm heading home but there'll be no light
Never dreamed I wasn't flying your kite

TOO EASY

There were 2 songs on Blue On Blue that were true to plan---live recordings. Long Run was at home on Damon's Laptop (with the bloody dog next door) and this one was with dear friends of mine on a dangerous Monday afternoon in Paddy's Irish Bar on Vimmy's stuffed 8 Track-----bit rough, but under the circumstances not too bad.

130 bpm
ADGD

A D G D
First pink on the water, first light of the day

A D G D
First smoke in the morning, blows the night-time away

A D G D
The sweet scent of contentment, fills the room where I lay

A D G D
The little bird at my window sounds so far away

A G D G D
Too easy, Too easy , Too easy , the way it should be

A G D A
Too easy, Too easy , Too easy Just me and me

First northerly this year, but my verandah is cool
Everyone's waiting for Mister Monsoon
Whales play in the sunset, a maxi leans in the breeze
There's a saxophone next door, sounds better each week

SOLO

First rain of the season, watch every thing grow
First glow of a full moon, lights dim for the show
Life goes while I plan it, miss the plane every year
I used to worry about it, now it's all crystal clear

VICTORIAN SOUL

Written in Airlie Beach in 1992
Recorded in the final One For The Road sessions
at Tallowood Studio in Greensborough Melbourne
in 1993

Every summer we used to head South for a
couple of months

A C#m Bm E
Bm G A F#m E D
Woke up yesterday on Catseye Beach, and focussed on the bar
Bm G A G D E
I need a break from this insanity before it gets too far

A C#m Bm E D E
Back to the Southland for the summer, got a wandering heart
A C#m Bm E D E A
Back down the Southbound for the summer, got a Victorian soul

When springtime melts the alpine freeze. and the crystal rivers flow
When the blossom's on the wattle trees that's the time for me to go

G D A G D E
I love to run to the Northern sun But I'll always be Victorian

So it's down the coast on brand new tyres, see old friends every night
Old man Murray gives that knowing smile as we cross that borderline

WAKE UP COLD

Written in Broome in 1992
Recorded in the final sessions for One For The Road
At Tallowood Studios , Greensborough ,Melbourne,Jan,1993

Could feel my childhood
Disappearing.

A
In '56 Just yesterday, a boy was born in the January rain
G Bm A
As the thunder rolled, he was taken home alive
A
And life was sweet for a kid on the land,that mountain range always looked so grand
G Bm A
Saw the eagle fly, he saw reasons why some survive

To the river bend he'd often go,in the simple things,answers were shown
Every brand new day,he celebrated life

D C
Sometimes, on his own in the dead of night
G Gm
He goes back there and feels the light
F C
Feels the glow from that mountain home
G Bm A
And then it's gone, and he wakes up cold

Well a boy leaves home,becomes a man and he's got life in the palm of his hand
And the years roll on,he can't wait to see them move on
But then one day,he's feeling strange,he turns around someone's turned the page
And he can't go back,the boy he knew is gone

Well nothing's fixed and nothing's sure,somedays this world makes him feel so small
And he learns to grow, to stand alone,be strong

BABY, WHAT HAPPENED

Written By Paul Hazelgrove in Byron Bay. Recorded in Melbourne at Damon's in 2011

A D A
Baby, what happened to your bum
 D A
You always said that you would get it done
E D
These days on the beach, your bum looks like a peach
A E A
Baby, what happened to your bum

Baby, what happened to your lips
They used to look like two thin smiley strips
But these days in the sun, they look like two finger buns
Baby, what happened to your lips

Baby, what happened to your nose
The old one would have made two of those
These days when you cough, your sunglasses fall off
Baby, what happened to your nose

Baby, what happened to your teeth
They used to look like loose piano keys
These days when you smile, you're a pretty crocodile
Baby, what happened to your teeth

Baby, what happened to your tum
It used to wobble every time you run
No doubt that weight reduction, was a Bali Lyposuction
Baby, what happened to your tum

Well baby, you don't have to do it for me
This thing you've got with plastic surgery
But if it makes you feel OK, go and have it anyway
Baby, what happened to your Bum

WHITSUNDAY SHORE

Written in Broome in 1989
Recorded during the 1st One For The Road sessions
At Curtain St Studio Carlton Melbourne in 1991
Redone with Lee Davidson for Blue on Blue in 2005
Looking forward to getting back to Airlie

Am G Am G
Sunlit sand aqua sea
Am G F G
Rainbow reef rainforest breeze
Am G Am G
Music floating across the bay
Am G F G
Laughter drifting there's angels at ease

C G F C
Sail me to Whitsunday Shore
F G F G
Sheet the breeze it's not too far
C G F C
Sail me to Whitsunday Shore
 F G C G C G
And join me in some R and R

Work for years, ruled my life
Chasing dollars by day and by night
Stepping back I looked around
Saw the vacuum then I saw the light

I like to move I get around
Feeling better on tropical ground
Set the mainsail catch the wind
Catch the sunset we're paradise bound

WITH YOU IN BYRON BAY

Written in Darwin in 1994

Recorded in March 1995 during 1st sessions for Precious Ground

At Newmarket Studios in Arden St. Nth Melb

One of my best efforts and a punter favourite

m/G/D/A

E G D A E G/D

We walked the beach on that balmy moonlit night

E G D A E G/D

Watched the surf crash under the velvet sky

A C D

This crazy world was left behind

A C D

Felt so good with your hand in mine

Bm G D A Bm G A

Last night I had a dream I was with you in Byron Bay

Bm G D A Bm G A

Just now I closed my eyes and it blew my blues away

There's a rainbow in everybody's eyes

We swore as one we'd reach the other side

We swam that river as darkness fell

Took a chance and ran like hell

I walked a road in the Southern winter rain

I walked a city when I had my dues to pay

You picked me up when I'd had too much

Took me in I was losing touch

I need to feel that warmth need to kiss that smile

I need to see the light in the velvet sky

I've got a pocket full of desert dust

I've got a ticket for a midnight bus

WRECKED AGAIN

Written in Airlie Beach in 1994

Recorded at the end of "Precious Ground" sessions at Newmarket Studios in Nth Melb in April 1996

Finalist in the 1999 Queensland Songwriters Competition

Became an Airlie anthem

G D C D G D C D

Kicking back with a bottle of Jack in paradise

G D C D G D C D

Mr Monsoon's coming round again

G D C D G D C D

Sticky heat, sticky feet and bug eyes

G D C D G D C D

Another year and I'm here again

A

I got a sailboat, she got the car. I took off round the world, I didn't get far

D C G D A Em

Oo Lord I'm getting wrecked again. Wrecked in Airlie Beach again

D C G C G D

Oo Lord I don't care less again. Wash me up and wash me down

City days are just a haze, and so are you.

I wasn't ready for a ring

I was young, chasing fun and lost you.

And now all I do is drink and grin

I know I should and there's days I wish I could

Finish this trip around the bloody world

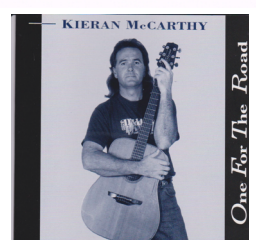
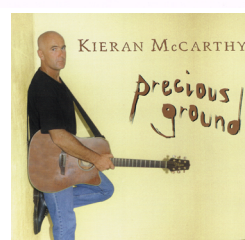
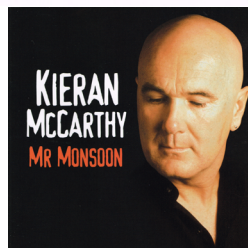
But every time I make my mind to come good

I get caught up with some naughty girl

Kieran McCarthy



BLUE ON BLUE



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