

August 10, 2023 Collaborative Songwriting Sharing

[Zoom Link](#)

WELCOME:

Thank you to sponsors & participants & everyone who is watching live or the recording.

Oakdale Choir goals

Summer songwriting goals

This model can be adapted in many ways.

WELCOME MUSIC: Over/Under by Lyndsey Scott featuring Anthony Rhodd

Beauty before Me (Oakdale Community Choir)

- Where This River Flows by David Frazier & Ritt Henn (7 minutes)
- Feel the Rain by Dan Hicks & Grace Bergstrom (2:38)
- The Person You See Is Not Me by Efrain Umana & Naomi Self (2:52)
- Lyrics to Resilience by Brad Woods
- Evermore by Mark Morgan & Eva Fisk recording (2 minutes)
- Not a Home by Bruce Pollard & Ted Messerschmidt (3:31)
- Mercy Sown, Mercy Reaped by Michael Blackwell & Naomi Davis (4:30)
- Purposed by Sammy Clayton & April Thomas (5 minutes)
- I Still Cry from Songs in the Key of Free (featuring Bizzy Blackwell incarcerated in Pennsylvania, August Tarrier, founder of Songs in the Key of Free 3:41)
- MAY YOU WALK IN BEAUTY (Oakdale Community Choir)

LYRICS for AUGUST 10, 2023

“Over Under”

Lyndsey Scott & A Rhodd, producer Michael Linder: <https://hatpineapple.com>

“To accept this call, press 5...to refuse this call...”

Over/ under

All the way through

Over/under

Back to you

Over/ under

All the way down

Over/ under

Lost then found (repeat)

I AM THE LOVE THAT DOESN'T LEAVE

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

FEEL THRU THE DARK IS HOW WE SEE

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

WE ARE REMEMBERING HOW TO GRIEVE

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

YOU ARE A PART OF MY FAMILY

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

ARhodd: So the hardest part about being incarcerated is dealing with stigma in that there is so much opportunity, there is so much talent & Love inside prisons that people never ever get to see. And I think that the prison system in general tries to hide that as much as possible. Because if people knew that there are people in prison who can contribute and who can offer humanity and Love, I think that they would have to drastically change the way the prison systems work in the US. I am not sure they are ready for that. The hardest part about being in prison is that your humanity is stymied.

I AM THE LOVE THAT DOESN'T LEAVE

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

FEEL THRU THE DARK IS HOW WE SEE

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

WE ARE REMEMBERING HOW TO GRIEVE

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

CAUSE YOU ARE A PART OF MY FAMILY

/// WE DO THIS TIL WE FREE US!

BEAUTY BEFORE ME

BEAUTY BEHIND ME

BEAUTY ABOVE & BELOW & ALL AROUND

Oakdale Community Choir from April 28, 2018 "Finding Forgiveness, Kindness, Peace, and Gratitude Inside the Fences" Concert inside Oakdale Prison

"Where This River Flows" 7 minutes

9 singers, guitarist, percussionist, bass player, keyboardist, and Ritt

— written by David Frazier & Ritt Henn

[prelude]

Following this river

This river that is always changing

Following this river

This river that is always changing

[verse]

We moved around a lot

When I was a kid

It was hard to put roots down

No matter what I did

I'd start makin' friends

Start feelin' I belonged

Next thing I knew,

We'd be up & gone

[chorus]

How can we leave

Leave what is ours

Go on to new places

Places we don't know

Please, let there be

Fields of wild flowers

And loved ones standin'

On the banks

Where this river flows

Where this river flows

[verse]

Ev'rybody has pains

That they hide inside

Sometime we get lucky

Find someone to confide in

To share our troubles with
Lighten up our load
Break free of the cages
That take their toll

[chorus]

How can we leave
Leave what is ours
Go on to new places
Places we don't know

Please, let there be
Fields of wild flowers
And loved ones standin'
On the banks
Where this river flows
Where this river flows

[Instrumental Interlude]

[chorus]

How can we leave
Leave what is ours
Go on to new places
Places we don't know

Please, let there be
Fields of wild flowers
And loved ones standin'
On the banks
Where this river flows
Where this river flows

Following this river
This river that is always changing...

FEEL THE RAIN: Dan Hicks & Grace Bergstrom
Sitting here waiting for the rain to come again

To wash away this pain I feel inside
I want to know you, I want you to know me x2
Feel the calm as the rain washes over us x3
Washes over us

My life is an open book
I want to share it with you
Let the rain show you that we have nothing left to fear
I want to know you, I want you to know me x2
Feel the calm as the rain washes over us x3
Washes over us

Take a look at me, please don't be ashamed of me
The rain has washed me clean
This life is a new beginning,
I want to know you, I want you to know me
I want to know you, I want to share life with you
Feel the calm as the rain washes over us x3
Washes over us

INTRO: from Efrain

"About eight billion people live temporarily in our planet. We are all different and unique from each other, and yet each of us have been created individually (according to my belief) with so much precious beauty. That beauty that should have adorned and paint our world majestically with colors. Every person who comes to this world never loses its value and worth before His Creator, even after he or she makes bad choices.

The Person You See It's Not Me is an appeal to everyone but especially to those in power in every level, to give themselves a chance to look deeper into someone's life and discover the treasures hidden deep inside of sons and daughters; fathers and husbands; grandfathers and grandmothers of our society. Let us all discover the treasures inside of each other.

We can discover beauty and mighty potentials inside a person, only by being human to another human."

THE PERSON YOU SEE --IT'S NOT ME. By Efrain Umana & Naomi Griffin Self

Sometimes what you see
Isn't what it seems to be
If you look deeper --just look deeper
First impressions disappear.

CHORUS:

THE PERSON YOU SEE --THE PERSON YOU SEE
PEER DEEPER --PEER DEEPER AND YOU'LL FIND
THE PERSON YOU SEE --IT'S NOT ME

VERSE 2:

Don't rush to judge my wrongs
Who'll throw the first stone
Look beyond, what's afar
And you'll (finally) find. CHORUS

VERSE 3:

Nobody is a beast
We're trying to find our best
Believing, grasping, hoping
To be embraced by Love. CHORUS

VERSE 4:

Our world has turned dark
No one sees, people just pass me by
Some glance, but don't really see
Most will never know the real me. CHORUS

NOT A HOME: Bruce Pollard & Ted Messerschmidt

Not a Home
We could feel broken
And say we don't care,
Give in to anger
And live with despair,
But here is our moment;
It's our chance to shine.
Let's seize the day
As we serve out our time

We thought we were defeated,
Now we see the truth:
With peace through love,
We can never lose.
If we stick together,
We'll never be alone.
We may live with fences,
But prison's not our home.

We could feel bitter
And live with regret.
We could give up,
But we'll choose instead
To smile more often
And help others see
That this may be prison,
But inside were free.

We thought we were defeated,
Now we see the truth:
With peace through love,
We can never lose.
If we stick together,
We'll never be alone.
We may live with fences,
But prison's not our home.

Resilience by Bradly Woods

Keep pushing, gotta move on, if I stay where I'm at the sooner I'm gone, gotta keep pushing gotta move on, if I stay where I'm at, the sooner I'm gone

I am what I am made up of every moment I've lived, can't worry bout regret or all the what if's, can't live in the past wishing for another chance, I did what I did now I gotta live out the consequence, searching for meaning and purpose in the choices I make, try not to get down on myself when I make a mistake, it is what it is and crying won't make it go away, keep my chin up and own what I do, right or wrong what comes next is only up to you, it can be lessons learned or another wasted day, something I've picked up, hard work always pays, **problems are just opportunities in disguise**, made up like that to keep away the flies, buzzing around bugs always on a lie, eating shit and passing it off as wise, but you know Better deep inside, you've known it your whole life and see it now with open eyes, enlightened ain't easy, you see its all a sham, what you do next shows where you stand.

Evermore lyrics by Mark Morgan & music by Eva Fisk

It started one day when I walked out the door;
Not knowing that I wouldn't live there no more.
I met lots of people, some I can call friend.
From all walks of life, from around every bend.

Heartaches and troubles I found along the way
Taught me how to be humble, taught me how to pray
Through every struggle, my heart stays the same,
I will not break.

Now many years later I walk out a new door
My life has been changed, for now and evermore.
No Longer in prison I'm set free again
But I'll never forget just where I have been,

Heartaches and troubles I found along the way
Taught me how to be humble, taught me how to pray
Through every struggle, my heart stays the same,
I will not break

Mercy Sown, Mercy Reaped

Lyrics by Michael E. Blackwell, Sr. Music by Naomi Davis

(Chorus)

Mercy sown, mercy reaped
When power shuns it
The people weep
Mercy sown, mercy reaped
Unforgiveness
Means mercy sleeps

(Verse 1)

When the Power that lives on High
Gives power across the land
It's an invitation to imitate Him
To every woman and every man
How beautiful on the mountains
Are the feet that bring good news
Every human has room for change
From dank cells to glorious pews

(Chorus)

(Verse 2)

When power lacks compassion
And hardness rules the heart
Love gets lost in anger
And obedience falls apart.

To reward a changed life
To the world will bring no harm
It is the essence of His character
The extension of His arm

(Chorus)

(Bridge)

Toss your disdain in Mercy's well
Allow your power to wield chance
Let mercy be freed from its jail
And in your heart be enhanced
Understand time turns impulse into patience
Strength is what faith brings
Hope springs eternal radiance
Because Love is the greatest of all things
LOVE is the greatest of all things.

Chorus x2

PURPOSED

Lyrics by Sammy Clayton Music by April Thomas

Verse 1

*My story? Truth be told, I don't know where to begin.
Back and forth from Mississippi to Chicago wasn't easy for me way back when.
South Side of Chi-Town:
You gotta eat or get ate, fight or ya get beat down.*

CHORUS

*It took living my life upside down to live right side up.
God didn't put me here.
But I'm purposed and I have a role to play.*

Verse 2

*My mama raised 3 boys when there was no man around.
How she gonna raise us up to be real men when she can't give what she never found?
She tried her best.
But where the gaps remained, the streets filled in the rest.*

CHORUS

*It took living my life upside down to live right side up.
God didn't put me here.
But I'm purposed and I have a role to play.*

Verse 3

*Fifteen - I met my pops. It was hard to call a stranger "Father."
Men on the streets of southside Chi-town had been more of father-figure.
But I was wrong.
The real man was "pops" and by me he's stood strong.*

Bridge

*Even though I'm inside, I'm stronger.
What you see outside reflects the change within me.
The way I was living my life, would I have made it to tell my story?
God at work in me - I'm transformed.
God at work in me - reborn.*

Verse 4

*Eighteen years inside, and I took responsibility.
I've become a motivator, educator, fighter for those within my community.
The tables turned:
Instead of taking life, Life's flowing through me.*

SONGS IN THE KEY OF FREE Presents: "I Still Cry" featuring Bizzy Blackwell