

1 Your Love Is!

I suppose every singer-songwriter should write at least one love song. Here's mine.

From the day that I met you
you've been working in my heart
From the day that I met you
you been there from the start

*Your love is...
Your love is...
Your love is...
Beautiful, strong and good
Your love is...
Your love is...
Your love is...
Beautiful, good and strong*

From the day that you found me
You've turned my life around
From the day that you found me
There's new colour and new sounds

Chorus

From that day and onwards
There's hope and joy in my days
From that day and onwards
I will travel your ways

Chorus

When your love first hit me
It drowned me in its waves
burned through me like a flame
lifting me to live again

Chorus

3 Many Things

I left school with a piece of paper not worth the ink on it. Thankfully, I took my fathers advice and joined the RAF to get a trade. I then gained an Open University degree and for some years enjoyed being an expert in database systems. I had a mind set that I needed to be cleverer than everyone else!

Many things they are hidden
Many things they are revealed
Many things seem so complex
The Father says come simply like a child

Looking for the next great teaching
Looking for a miracle or two
Looking for a life that's worthy
The Father says come simply like a child

I learnt theories to impress
Confused facts with cleverness
I thought wisdom was knowing more
Than all the rest
All the rest
Maybe wisdom is knowing less
Maybe wisdom is taking rest

Yesterday it is behind me
Tomorrow is far away
Today's the day to sit with Jesus
The Father says come simply like a child

5 Time

I was a lecture at a local college and noting how students left every thing until the last minute. Actually, all the lectures talked about how students missed deadlines. This promoted me to write this lyric. Reflecting on the song I see that I need to warning and get on with what's important to me. Jane says this is my "Show Of Hands" style song.

*Can you hear the clock ticking?
Can you see the seasons turning?
Can you hear the clock ticking?
This moment will soon be gone!*

It's make your mind up time
A step of faith or will you bind
Yourself to the mast of fear

Chorus

It's deja vue been here before
Hidden behind your front door
Maybe find some courage next year

Chorus

Opportunity knocks less now
Missed the boat and still somehow
It's never ever been your fault
It's always been someone else's your fault

Chorus

Time is flowing, Your Chances are going
Time is flowing, Your Chances are going
Time is flowing, it'll never come again!
Time is flowing, Your Chances are going
Time is flowing, Your Chances are going
Time is flowing, it'll never come again!

Chorus

2 Punk Rocker

As a teenager I spent time with my uncles who were a couple of years older than me. Through them I heard Led Zep and Pink Floyd. I found Genesis, Yes and Rush and found my niche. However, after joining the RAF and meeting Peter from Belfast I was introduced to the great music of Stiff Little Finger.

Seventy seven that's one after seventy six
I turned on to the Ruts but I still liked Genesis
But I still like Genesis

*I wanted to be a punk rocker
To be in a punk rock band
And if I have a friend here
Then I think I'll make a stand!*

Never liked the clothes, it's one strap to far
I was hooked Mr Jones' electric guitar
Play that electric guitar my friend

Chorus

The best of punk it said the the CD
No Stiff Little Fingers just X T C
Who on earth are X T C?

Chorus

People say that punks alive to day
Mr Rotten you look like cabaret
Are you buying any butter to today?

Chorus

4 Death Is Waiting

I can't remember what the disaster was but all the radio programmes were replace by reporting this event. The next day it was stated on Radio 4's Today that the Archers had gone out as scheduled. They said that "The only thing that is certain is Death, Taxes and the Archers". Thinking about this I came up with this jolly song.

La, La, La, La, La Lah, Lah La Lah

If you're young or if you're old
The time you have, you'll never know
Have you years or only hours
Is it a car crash or a slip in the showers

*La, La, La, La, La__ Death is Waiting
La, La, La, La, La__ Death is Waiting
La, La, La, La, La__ It's the only thing that's Sure
La, La, La, La, La__ Death is Waiting
La, La, La, La, La__ Death is Waiting
La, La, La, La, La__ Death is Waiting for you*

Actors want eternal reruns
Films repeated 'til the kingdom she comes
Stars dying to be remembered
With needles, gun shots, or stomachs distended

Chorus

Though the destination's final
People still gaze at their navel
arguments about God are blazing
Experts will find the truth amazing

Chorus

Would you rather ignore it,
Do you fear it
I'm sorry that I mentioned that

Chorus

6 Across My Heart

*I wrote the lyrics for this before
the music and it only seemed to*

work as a country song. This is the song that I mention a football team. Regarding football: When I was old enough, my dad took me to see the local football team a few times, as this is what blokes are supposed to do. Eventually we worked out that neither of us were enjoying the experience. We build model aircraft, went to the cinema and fishing together instead.

I don't need a new year's resolution
I don't need to swear some kind of oath
I don't need a binding legal contract
As You have signed Your name across my heart

*Across my heart
Across my heart
You have signed Your name across my heart
Across my heart
Across my heart
You have signed Your name across my heart*

I don't care if people say I'm a star
Try not to cry when they put me down
only one opinion that matters
And You have signed Your name across my heart

Chorus

It's was once a new car but it's worn out
My football team has fallen out the league
The only thing I know that will last
Is that You have signed Your name across my heart

Chorus

7 Internal Job Vacancy Blues

Due to Jane and I sharing the car to work I used to arrived a good hour early. To fill this time I would spend half and hour in prayer using the site www.sacredspace.ie. This particular day I was having an interview for the post of Interim Head of MIS. The site included a section with a reading.

Matthew 7:6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

The question what does this mean to you today? At the time it meant nothing! However, by the evening when they had asked me if I could help out in MIS and continue with a full-time teaching role, it made sense.

They said to me
They said to me
You didn't get job
You're the best we can see
They said to me

They said to me
They said to me
You don't quit fit
But would you do a bit
Do it for free

I remembered the book
wisdom came to me
Don't be casting your pearls
At the feet of swine
So I said it won't be me

The day after that
The day after that
The Man who got the job
Said I wish I had not
The day after that

9 Carry On Up The Khyber

This song took me two years to complete. To start with we did the Salisbury Cathedral Tower Tour and we were shown a set of bells commissioned by a regiment returning from the first Afghan campaign. These bells for remembrance of their fallen comrades were disconnected. I felt this was worth writing about! However, I couldn't seem to find the ideas needed to complete the lyric. Early one Sunday morning the Street Pastor Team I'm part of met a group of soldiers, near the Chapel nightclub. The Chapel is on Milford Street. These young men were about to go to Afghanistan. In particular they said they were disappointed that there were very few girls out that night.

They called it the great game
A folly with Lord Auckland's name
Blair stepped in now Cameron's deeds
Snakes n' ladders, IDEs
Wrong move, Game over.
Another young soldier
Flying into Brize
Carried home again

We Carry on
We Carry on
Sending fathers, brothers, sons
We Carry on
We Carry on up the Khyber

Fictional heroes you can name
Flashman's playgrounds just same
Whilst the fort goes up in flames
Dress for Dinner cries Sid James
No longer the Silk Road
Oil is the important load
In front line ord'nary blokes
Front page heroes

Chorus

Leave the Chapel at three o'clock
Comrades who will soon will embark
They've trained out on the plain
Sunday morn Milford again
To few girls for so many men
Mob handed clubbing not the best plan
Wanted comfort one last stand
Before going to Afghanistan

Chorus

And the bells in the spire, they are silent it seems
They were put there for the fallen, of the first Afghan campaign
And I wonder when we'll send them again

Chorus

11 Naked In The Garden

At Soul Survivor, I was on the Enabling Team. This is effectively a safeguarding role, for people praying. I was sent to the Soul Mister seminar led by Tre Sheppard of One Hundred Hours. Tre started the session with the statement, "We were designed to be naked with naked woman in a garden. Taking this as starting point, here is Genesis to Revelation in just over four minutes.

We should be naked in a garden
Men and woman living free
No external law to show us up
Joy in love's simplicity
We used to walk
We used to walk
We used to walk
With our God
On a young Earth

Lost it all through our pride
This is arrogance you see
We focus on our rights.
No responsibility

Chorus

Clothing no longer hides our shame
On TV and Tangled Webs
A glimpse of sex might titillate
Respect for marriage ebbs

Chorus

On that day it will be different
On that day there will be change
Then we'll answer judgement
But the price has been paid
Then the old order
Will melt away
All things are recreated
Relationships Restored
We will walk
Yes we will walk
We will walk
With our God
On a new Earth

8 Salisbury Cathedral

Taken from a comment in the Miles Kington's last book. This was read by Micheal Palin. The chorus is accurate, Salisbury Cathedral is 2 centuries older than Machu Picchu.

The writer knew he was dying, wanted an idea, for one last book
He look at the publishings of others, read a few, took a look
He there was one about living with cancer
And all those bucket lists
It told of places all should visit
Found he'd been there and his thoughts where this

I've already been to Machu Picchu
I was disappointed to say the least
It was built much later than Salisbury Cathedral
And Salisbury Cathedral is complete

Many lists of things to do, before this birthday or that
Places to go, films to see, reasons why, interesting facts
All those great bands, to experience this side of heaven
The top ten cities to visit, where I live is number seven.

Chorus

My inspiration for this collection of English phrase
Was the great author of Let's Parler Franglais!
Miles Kington played double bass and in Private Eye he made me laugh
Mr Palin read your words I wonder who told his dog at last

Chorus

I've been to Salisbury Cathedral
I've been to Stonehenge
I've walked on Old Sarum
And I recommend it to you my friend

10 I Cannot Judge You

This came from an experience of an open mic. I was pressured by my friends into playing guitar for a transgender woman. I didn't want to do it as I was concerned that I would make a mess of it. However, it when well.

I cannot judge you or I will be judged.
By my standards I will be judged
I have no experience of what you been through
You have the right to become the real you
When you talk of loneliness I understand that
A square peg in a round hole to my youth it takes me back , it takes me back

I cannot judge you or I will be judged.
By my standards I will be judged
Should not need the facts I see it in your eyes
There's different genders, different colours and different size
When you talk of loneliness I understand that
A square peg in a round hole to my youth it takes me back, it takes me back.

I hope that if I spend some time with you that I'm not a Philistine
I hope that if I spend some time with you that I'm really spending time
And if I spend some time with you it's not for the pride in this heart of mine
I hope that if I spend some time with you that I'm really spending time

Did you know you are made in the image of God x3
Do you realise you are made in the image of God

And he wants your heart, yes he wants your heart
And he gives his heart.

Did you know you are made in the image of God x3
Do you realise you are made in the image of God

I cannot judge you or I will be judged.
By my standards I will be judged

12 The Message

When you write a song it is a creative act. Sometimes this is about purely enjoying the art of creating something. However, sometimes the song is about communicating a message. Having listened to this song along with one I wrote with Chris Newman (Staring at the face of Jesus) performing as Gracious G, I realised that I had to live up to my words. Therefore, these songs led to me becoming a Street Pastor.

I have message I want to tell it
I have message I want you to know it
I have message I want to shout it
I have message now I'm part of it

Out in the town and it's is true
Someone needs help and words won't do
I have a message I want to shout it
This is the message now I'm part of it

I hope the contents still the same
I hope the truth still remains
I have a message I want to shout it
This is the message now I'm part of it

Living by the faith in what we know
Always keep the truth on show
I have a message I want to shout it
This is the message now I'm part of it

But I'm not going to preach
And I'm not going to push
And if I live how the message said I should
Maybe you'll ask me about it

I have message I want to shout it
I have message and I'm part of it
I have message I want you to know it
I have message I want to tell it
I have message
I have message ...