





## 1. The People Make The Music

I drink my coffee in Brooklyn, so when I get to  
Manhattan I'll be ready to go, yea I'll be good to go **On  
and On.**

Make my money in motion, I'm a true man of action I  
don't ever slow down, cause this world keeps spinning  
**Round and round.**

I found my path underground, life laid my track  
underground, don't know where it's gonna lead, but  
there's a light that I **See so clear.**

Though I put my hands into it  
**The people shape the music**  
And I put my heart into it,  
**The people make the music.**

I put my soul in there so,  
**The people feel my melody,**  
I've got this song, **I've got to sing.**

I swing my drum sing my song. My voice, my arm, my  
will's strong enough to carry me on, enough to carry me  
**On and on.**

I keep this fire in my heart. It keeps me warm when I  
start to feel the cold wind of doubt, alone forgotten and  
**Down and Out.**

Though I put my hands into it  
**The people shape the music**

And I put my heart into it,  
**The people make the music**  
I put my soul in there so,  
**The people feel my melody,**  
I've got this song, **I've got to sing.**  
'cause

**You don't know just how long you're gonna have  
that voice.**

**The air's there longing to hold your music, but  
you've gotta take it and shape it, it's your choice.**

Though I put my hands into it

**The people shape the music**

And I put my heart into it, **The people make the music**  
I put my soul in there so, **The people feel my melody,**  
I've got this song, **I've got to sing.**

people move like the ocean and I watch them go by and I  
remember  
my home, I think of all that I left behind.

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verse melody is from "Sao Goncalo Do Amarante," a  
Brazilian folk song in the public domain, adapted from  
the recording by Luiz Paixao.

Lyrics and rest of music by Skye Steele.

Ilusha- gtr. Liam- acrd. Dana- vln. Skye- vln, vox, intro  
gtr, perc.

## 2. Hiromitsu & Yuko

for Lisa Diener

The Earthquake came at a quarter to six  
gave no notice like a jilted mistress  
walked in throwing plates and pictures  
setting off all those bombs we built and buried  
to keep within our midst.

I ran to you you're my doorway  
you held me till the shaking stopped  
then the wave came crashing down upon us  
so we ran outside and climbed up on the rooftop  
to watch our whole world get washed away.

Now this house is a shipwreck drifting with no mast  
and I sit upon the ruins to contemplate the massive face  
of the water, of the world, upon which we ride  
with no compass and no rudder and no time for pride.

And I don't know anything of any use in this madness  
All I have to offer you is questions and patience  
And I wish I could say,  
at least there's a song for you in all of this  
but then I'd have to leave you crying  
and go away and write it.

The day ends and I know I mustn't sleep  
there's a glowing from below at night.

Is it the ocean's incandescent life,  
or the god of great darkness come to claim  
the one who wasn't meant to get away?  
I felt like a stone when they took me on the third day  
and let you slip the sea's cold grasp.  
Still I write you letters that I carry in my chest.

Now this life is a shipwreck, drifting with no home  
And I'm clinging to the ruins,  
to contemplate your absent face  
just like water, all around, while thirst chokes me dry  
in the darkness, in the waves, I hear you sigh

And I don't know anything of any use in this madness  
all I have to offer you is questions and patience  
and wish I could say,  
"at least there's a song for you in all of this"  
but then I'd have to leave you crying  
and go away and write it  
But I can't leave, I've got nowhere to go.  
You and me, we'll sit out this storm,  
and if the only good thing about this time is that it's  
gonna end  
that's where we'll begin.

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I'll only sleep to wait for you.

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Ilusha- bjo. Liam- pno. Dana- vla. Skye- gtr, vox.

-=the bitterroot songs=-

### 3. No Matter Love

She said, “Why don’t you lie with me?  
I can’t sleep in peace with you moving to and fro  
about the home.

Don’t you wanna drift away with me?  
And return early dawn together, never alone.”

How could I explain—could I describe

How I long for that peace of solitude,

how I covet those quiet times

For my nocturnal ramblings and beatitudes.

Oh, how jealous I defend that dominion,

My borderland of waking and gone.

No matter love, I begrudge my companion

That new mind of morning who births my song.

When we were new and awesome

We’d lie entwined and shameless

strangling a day

Just to see the spectrum pendule

And fathom the still transformation

as light falls away.

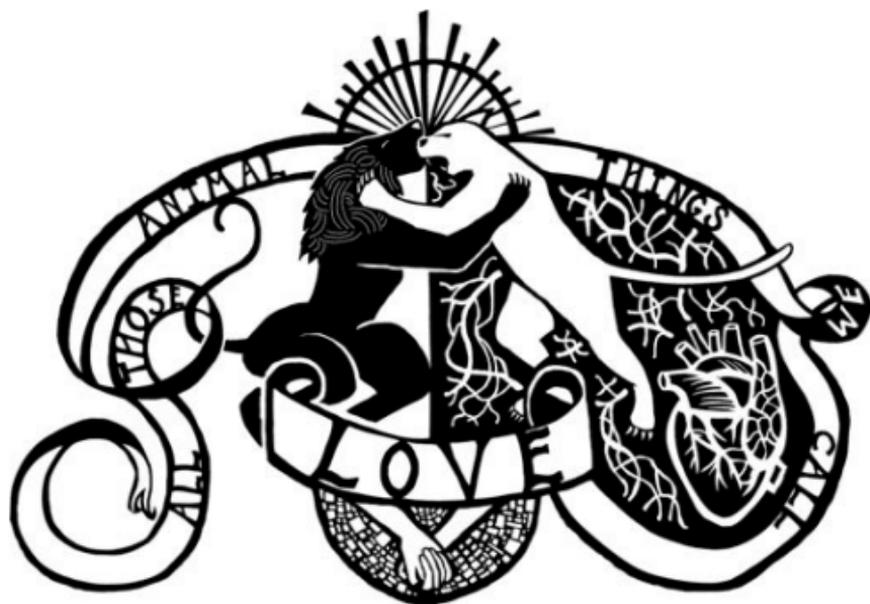
How can I explain my despair

And relish and tumult to see those days  
Racing over, laying bare  
My precious resolve corrupted so many ways  
Gone now that ardent joy for surrender,  
as I backslide to old lonesome song  
No matter, love makes time tender  
And she'll settle accounts before long.

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Ilusha- gtr. Liam- accrd. Dana- pno. Skye- vln, vox.

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#### 4. Wild We've Been

This coat still carries a trace of your scent,  
though days go by and I'm turning within  
I reach for your face in the dark of my bed.  
**But shadows won't fill the palm of my hand.**

When I was a child I was haunted by blood  
in my ears in the dark like an onrushing flood  
now a man, my blood seems cooler at last.  
**But the waters of memory are rising fast.**

Deep in the sound of the woods in the night,  
I heard your voice and the way we fight  
The wild we've been, the hurt we've done.  
**All those animal things we call love.**

Will I see you again in the city of stone?  
Will our eyes meet and pass, has it been so long?  
My face and my hands seem the same to me,  
**but you might not recognize this heart, I'm sorry.**

Now the ice is melting down from the roof  
and the path in the snow's showing patches of earth.  
My time's not long in this place of peace  
**so I'm wringing my pen for every last drop of her ink.**

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Ilusha- gtr. Liam- acrd. Dana- vla. Chris- bs. Skye- vln, vx.

## 5. Wild Mind

I awoke in a wild mind with no memory of my dream,  
My heart beating in time to a terror I could not see.

I arose and I fell

as my strength failed

And I tumbled like I'd been bound and tied.

Shadows disturbed the quiet as my morning hours bled  
by,

A nagging premonition hidden from my waking eyes.

Though I walked through my day

Unimpeded unafraid

I could sense this presence biding time.

Oh, evening sitting alone,

dark rushing fast

Through memory's creaking door

that dream I saw at last.

And there I laid a prisoner, and my captor over me,

His face obscure but his figure I knew intimately.

Now he turned and I saw

Grim visage, visions too,

Both the jailed and jailor wore— and that face was mine.

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Skye- gtr, vox.

## 6. New Mind/Old Mind

New Mind never knew Old Mind was his master.  
New Mind played the riddle game well, but Old Mind  
played it meaner.

New Mind always trusted in himself at least.

Old Mind sniffs the wind— he knows when to flee.

**New Mind, Old Mind were twins in the end.**

**New Mind, Old Mind loved the same thing.**

They both know the power of wearing the ring.

Snowfall in the pines on a blue-sky day,

If it's sharp and cool you don't need clouds—the wind  
works in many ways.

New Mind knows the tracks he sees, he can read them  
like a code.

Old Mind don't care what's ahead, he just knows which  
way to go.

**New Mind, Old Mind were twins in the end.**

**New Mind, Old Mind loved the same thing.**

And they ran down the day, circling away

From the prize they both longed to hold—

They've touched it, but never seen the face before.

And they don't know the price of wearing the ring.

As night fell they made camp, and their fire bit the dark.  
New Mind curled up to sleep, with Old Mind standing guard.

New Mind suffered fitfull dreams, he woke up feeling pretty weird.

Old Mind whispers the night away, pouring thoughts into New Mind's ear.

**New Mind, Old Mind were twins in the end**

**New Mind, Old Mind loved the same thing.**

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And if you want to find love  
You better love the right stuff.

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Ilusha- gtr. Liam- accrd. Dana- pno. Chris- bs.  
Skye- vln, vox, drms.

## 7. My Mountainside

Got up early  
Blue snow morning  
Something from my dream lingered  
Around the corner

But hidden from my eyes  
Were the secrets of my mind

Walked out early  
Lofted burdens  
Hoisting them to my spine—  
Testudine.

In the shadows of my head  
Something moved, something fled  
Though I turned to face full  
Our shared axis turned too.

Onward upland,  
I malea,  
Snowfield feathered and serpentine  
Over falling stream.

As water builds a storm  
My blood was transformed  
In the mountain's shady thigh  
Each step stranger grew I

On the mountain's dizzy heights  
I brought my old ways to die.

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mans fall echoes mountain trembles crystal to stone

                  echoes                  man falls                  tremble  
                                  tremble                                  f  
o tremble                  fall                  echoes                  a mountain  
h                  crystal                                  tremble                  l  
c                                  man                  to stone                  l  
e                  fall  s to stone

mountainechoesmansfalltremblescrystaltostonestonetostostone

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Up mountainward through the snow  
My tracks will remain until the thaw  
And in green times you'll think of me  
Wherever you climb there I'll be  
As water rolls, Earth set your speed  
Choose not the path, stay by the creek  
You'll know the place when you arrive  
Clouds circumflex where I lie  
But stay with me an hour not more  
Return before dark to the valley floor  
And carry me back home to lie  
Just in your breast  
On my mountainside  
Leave me to rest.

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Ilusha- gtr. Liam- accrd. Dana- pno. Chris- bs. Mathias-  
drms. Skye- vln, vox.

## 8. You Be Yours

Another long night disagreeing;  
and we're both lying awake.  
I feel it in my neck and shoulders,  
this body needs a break  
from tussling trying to make sense of how we got here  
from where we've been.  
Let's close our eyes for now  
and take a little rest.

All the light is gone, and everything's wrong.  
We're both trapped in our minds.  
But we'll see by day another way--  
You go yours and I'll go mine.

I hope the neighbors didn't hear us crying  
and what we said.  
But the walls are thin in this house—  
it's not much but we did our best  
at hustling trying to make a go,  
this town's hard on you, I know.  
Just lay it down for now—  
we'll pick it up tomorrow.

When the morning comes we'll be gone,  
But you'll be yours and I'll be mine.  
And we'll see by day another way—  
You go yours and I'll go mine.

When we swore forever we both meant it, didn't we.  
All those beautiful things we said, I'm trying to believe,  
But what you did high that night,  
brought the cold truth home,  
And I cried myself to sleep on our wedding bed  
all alone.

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I'm not your savior now,  
But you'll be fine—  
You be yours  
And I'll be mine.

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Ilusha- gtr. Liam- pno. Dana- vla. Chris- bs. Skye- vln,  
vox.

## 9. In The Sun

Like snow clings to the trees,  
Then falls in the slightest breeze--  
One moment in the sun,  
Bright shining and then it's gone--  
**For that moment in the sun,**  
**For a moment in the sun,**  
**We were born.**

Just frozen bits of sky  
That gather on boughs of pine—  
From formlessness lended shape,  
Then light and warmth evaporate—  
**For a moment in the sun,**  
**For that moment in the sun,**  
**We were more.**

Unnumbered and multiform  
Issue of same birthing storm  
Arms outreach and interwov'n,  
Join bodies dissolve into snow  
**For a moment in the sun,**  
**For that moment in the sun,**  
**We were one. We were one.**

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Ilusha- bjo. Liam- accrd, pno. Dana- pno. Skye- gtr, vox.



Tom & Nilda's house on Bear Creek Trail. Victor, MT.  
January 2-26, 2013.

## 10. Your Silence

Today I get up early, make the coffee, and go back to bed  
For a while.

Get back up, delete some email, drink the coffee, think  
about the groceries

I need to buy.

I'm doing all the things I do

On all the days when I don't hear from you.

And wonder when waiting ceases,

When a day is just what it is—

Life I live, your silence.

Life I live, your silence.

Check my phone, check the mail, check the laundry,  
check my hair—

Nothing's changing.

Walk a circle, take a breath, tell myself to stop and then

Start again.

I'm doing all the things I do

On all the days when I don't hear from you

And wonder when waiting ceases.

When a day is just what it is—

Life I live, your silence.

Life I live, your silence.

That was another time,  
you and I like two trees falling  
I envied you your twisted roots,  
you coveted my poise.  
We ~~fa~~elled each other time and again,  
took to it like a calling.  
We two, alone in the woods,  
no one there to hear our noise.

So I'm doing all the things I do  
On all the days when I don't hear from you.  
And I'm saying all these thing I say,  
And only I know I said them all yesterday.  
And I wonder when waiting ceases.  
When a day is just what it is.  
Another day of empty spaces.  
Maybe that's all that a day is.  
Life I live, your silence.  
Life I live, your silence.

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Skye- gtr, omnichord, vox.

## 11. Growing Song

Creation comes  
like blood around in circles,  
so we're one  
becoming two my little you  
will dance upon this holy loop  
and stretch it out into a wire  
you walk along above the burning lights,  
your shadow hurled into the  
sky lands upside down against a  
cloud so soft that even shadows  
wouldn't break upon it,  
so you reach the other side to find the  
line you crossed you cannot leave  
behind connects right to your heart. The  
shadow joins you once again, these  
two constant companions,  
in the end when you're alone,  
you see are one so take the rope in hand and  
coil it gently... as you go

Crying aloud, into the future where you'll be  
Crying again, tied to a world unraveling  
Crying aloud, into the future where you'll be  
Crying again, into the future.

Faces betray  
a longitude an attitude  
that brings me over from my side—  
the line I, stumbling, obscure  
and set the hook in like a jerk—  
your hands, a reel, move in a  
circle I feel and watch my world stand  
still while I fly waterborn. We  
are all fishes till eviction hurls us headlong into what we  
are all fishes till eviction hurls us headlong into what we  
are all fiction till existence hurls us headlong... and we roll

Crying aloud, into the future where we breathe  
Crying again, drowning and blind until we scream  
Crying aloud, into the future where we breathe  
Crying again, into the future.

Places we've been  
like songs forgotten still I sing  
into a new old melody  
that loops around too short in my sleep  
I see a crowd of lovers, a stage  
where everybody sings and stomps.  
A circle breathes and breaks apart,  
the song is all us singing,  
not a code a map pierced with a  
pin, together but not in the  
same place so the melody is

orbiting-- velocity or  
else location-- never at the  
same time never at the same time  
never at the same time never  
at the same time never at the  
same time never and forever  
to the same place... where we roll

Crying aloud, into the future and we sing  
Crying again, for all the voices that we dreamed  
Crying aloud, into the future and we'll be  
Crying again, into the future....

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inspired by the poem "Growing Song" by Ladypajama.  
Ilusha- bjo. Liam- acrd. Dana- pno. Mike- drms. Skye-  
vln, perc, vox.



photo: Josh Wagner

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The performers are Dana Lyn, Liam Robinson, Ilusha Tsinadze, Chris Lightcap, Mathias Kunzli, Mike Loren Lavalle, and Skye.

Lyrics and music by Skye Steele, except as noted.

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The band was recorded live on September 5-6 2013 at Peter Karl Studio by Peter. Vocals and overdubs were recorded at Calisota by Skye. Additional recording by Drew Brody. Mixed by Mike Loren LaValle at Calisota. Mastered by Nate Wood at Kerseboom Mastering. Produced by Skye Steele with Mike Loren LaValle, with additional production by Ben Cassorla.

Artwork by Andrew Benincasa.

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***Up From The Bitterroot.***

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