Cockroaches of the New Millennium

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All Songs written and recorded by John T. Wurzer

Lead Vocal on The Sky Is Falling by Susan Haefner

Cover Art by Brad Davis

Extensive research has revealed that the stinkbugs actually come from China.

I wish they would go back.

When I was growing up, the biggest threat to the planet was all out nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. We used to joke that even if it happened, the cockroaches would survive and perpetuate life on this planet. Based on my interactions with stinkbugs over the last several years I’d say that the cockroaches have been replaced.

As for the biggest threat to the planet today…

Pick your poison; nuclear war, climate change, fanatic terrorists, anarchy brought on by global economic collapse, or a chance encounter with one bad-ass asteroid. It really doesn’t matter; I’m convinced that the stinkbugs will survive. All of this, however, has very little to do with what this CD is actually about or the two people it’s dedicated to. This album is dedicated to the memory of two of my most avid fans, my father in law Ronald Martin Gray and my longtime friend Teresa Triplet who both passed away in the fourth quarter of 2012. Here are the songs that make up the Cockroaches of the New Millennium. They somehow helped me heal. I hope they do the same for others who knew these two exceptional human beings.

1. Whiskey and Gin Part 3 – I started writing the music to this song but the only lyrics I had were “I gotta gal who remembers whiskey and gin.”. I was drawing a blank as to how the song would come together. It was then that I thought to myself, “Self! There’s probably already a song out there called Whiskey and Gin.” So thanks to the wonder of the internet I found several. I pulled up the lyrics to a song recorded by Johnny Rae and stole most of the words for this composition from that song. This one goes out to my wife Diane because she still manages to find a way to make life fun, even in the face of intense pressure and heavy workloads in our professional lives.
2. Stinkbugs – They just won’t go away!
3. If You Must Leave – This is one of the more creative blues songs that I’ve done in quite some time. I set out to write a song about my boss retiring, but pieces of my memories of Martin and Teresa kept creeping into the song to the extent that it really isn’t about my former boss at all.
4. Healing – I wrote this song in a hotel bar in Chicago in April; then went back up to my room and recorded it acapella using the voice recorder on my phone. At the time it was a slow ballad about missing my wife while I was out of town. Eventually the words and the music morphed into this song that compares stages of grief caused by the death of a loved one to a healing scar on one’s skin. That’s probably too much information. Still, I like the song. Healing is a long process; but in the grander scheme of things, we find ways to carry on.
5. Blues Are On the Ceiling – I was trying to imitate a Tom Waits song from his “The Early Years” collection. I recorded this with a classical guitar that I inherited from my Grandpa Wurzer and then added a bunch of stuff later. This is what came out… and that’s all I have to say about this.
6. The Sky Is Falling – This song was written at T-Bonz Bar and Grill down the street from our house the day before the shooting atrocity in Sandy Hook, CT. That’s pretty weird, huh? Special thanks to my cousin Susan for learning the song and singing the lead vocal for me. We’re still planning on a “five years later” follow up to the 2008 CD “Get Disconnected” but finding time to devote to that project is a constant challenge.
7. The Last Guy Got Shot Here – On a much lighter note; my ex-boss Bill Schanes is now officially “dead to me”. He knows what I mean. This one’s for you Bill. Thanks for everything you’ve done for me. Have a great life!
8. Top of the Hill – Written after a particularly bad day at work. Bob and Patrice Faust introduced me to my wife Diane. We were lucky enough to have them and their two children stop by our house for a visit this June. I was also lucky enough to share a cup of coffee/hot chocolate with one of my former college roommates Frank Brooks this April. Both of these encounters made me realize how much I really miss spending time with friends. I think I just need to try harder to have a life outside of my career.
9. Sticky Piece of Tape – I’ve become a “runner” over the last two and a half years. I often wonder what I’m running from or running towards. I think I’m just afraid of admitting that I’m getting old. I’m focusing on living in the moment and treasuring those moments when the rest of life seems so very less important.
10. Stuff – I’ve had this idea in my head for about 5 years now and was finally able to make a song out of it. If you allow yourself to sit and reflect on them; most of the STUFF we think we absolutely MUST HAVE is relatively unimportant. The important thing, after all, is helping other people make their way through this thing that we call life.

Lots of love,

Keep hoping for Peace and living in the moment.

John