

Stephanie
MARTIN



April Snow

Produced by Chad Irschick

Recorded by Michael Haas and Chad Irschick

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Mixed by Chad Irschick

Mastered by Chad Irschick and Michael Haas

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except for Freedom written by Stephanie Martin, Chad Irschick and David MacDougall

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www.stephaniemartin.ca



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*When will you ever bloom if
not here and now?*

Angelus Silesius



Thank you to everyone who helped make this recording. Your love, your energy, your talent, your contribution, however big or small...all are in here. I'm so very proud of this music and so proud of us for making it.

Stephanie

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Warmth of the Sun

There is a place on earth
Where the peaks are so high
They block out the light
For the people below
The young and the frail
The mountain they scale
Up they go

Year after year
The struggle they share
They know that they need
What's plentiful there
The mountain they climb
One step at a time
To breathe the air

And feel the warmth of the sun
Though it must seem it can't be done
Hope keeps their spirit alive

There is a frame of mind
Where winter sets in
My vision gets dark
My outlook is dim
I try but I fail
My demons prevail
Down I go

Day after day
As shadows appear
I know what I need
Won't visit me here
A mountain to climb
Oh every time
My heart to heal

And feel the warmth of the sun
Although I'm lost and come undone
Hope keeps my spirit alive
That I can touch the sky
Get maybe one more chance to fly
Higher than ever before

The wind's at our back
The sun's in our eyes
We're blind to the fact
We've already arrived

Sometimes with people we love
The gulf between us so wide
We barely know how
To bridge the divide
A loving embrace
The smile on your face
So bright and real

That you feel the warmth of the sun
And to no mountain will succumb
Hope keeps your spirit alive
To reach and touch the sky
You can't win if you don't try
To fly higher than ever before

To feel the warmth of the sun
To feel the warmth of the sun
The light of the sun shine on you

Tom Szczesniak BASS

David MacDougall DRUMS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick RHODES

Steve O'Connor PIANO + HAMMOND B3

Neil Donell BACKGROUND VOCALS

Roundabout

Rough night twisting turning
All alone I curse the morning
Smooth it out
Why for some it seems so easy
But not for me

If life is a roundabout
Going round and round and up and down
You better get good at jumping in
Life is a roundabout
Always round and round it won't slow down
You better get good

Hold tight, I'm still learning
Don't give in to thoughts recurring
Breathe it out
Why, for some it seems so easy
But not for me

Chorus

Stuck in time
In the very same old side line
This lazybones grunts and groans

Pop and fizz is all there is
You're moving on till you're dead and gone
Till your days are spent
You'll miss the main event

When you're in the groove
Nothing to prove
It's insane like blood coursing through your veins

Get the courage up
Got to get to must
Get the courage up
To write another song
Write another song
Write another song
You can sing along

Chorus

Tom Szczesniak BASS + PIANO + ACCORDION

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick RHODES

April Snow

Firelight
Music low
Lips lick sweet-tasting wine
Touching hands
Baring souls
Flames flicker in each other's eyes

Like an April snow
Soft and slow
Falling on the pines
This is love's first kiss
There's nothing quite like this
I know

Broken vow
Secret flame
Heart sick from telling lies
The truth confessed
You tried your best
But quick you avert your eyes

Like an April snow
Change winds blow
Turning into rain
This is love's loose grasp
It wasn't meant to last
Too long

Our love affair can't last
The dreams we shared will pass
While in the hills the daffodils
And snowdrops are popping up everywhere

The more I learn
The less I try
To trick the hand of fate
For the day alas
Is coming fast
Time's ticking will melt away

Like an April snow
One last show
Winter gives to spring
This is life's swift song
Before you know it's gone

Before you know
Like an April snow
It's gone

Tom Szczesniak BASS + ACCORDION

David MacDougall DRUMS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick PIANO

No Hard Feeling

So you say you can't fly in
That you're stuck out on the coast
And that you knew I'd understand
And catch you later babe
You're the one I love the most
No hard feeling
No hard feeling

I hang up after goodbye
Your words ringing in my ears
I finally start to realize
And I'm amazed the fool I've been
Blinded all these years with
No hard feeling
No hard feeling
No hard feeling

I got no hard feeling
Easy for you to say
You are the one who is always away
Me I'm home
Alone, with...
No hard feeling
No hard feeling
No hard feeling
I got no hard feeling
And I'll tell you what's hard
Hard not to suspect
With the way you've been acting
What do you expect

You've been sneaking around
Behind my back
It's lowdown
I really feel like a tiger
Caught up in a cage
I've been clawing the curtains
And seething with rage
I have found out the key
To break from you
Dirty lowdown
It's lowdown (3x)
Got no hard feeling
No feeling left at all
Soon you'll be the one
Who will be missing my call
A turn of the key and
Oh, please you give me...

No hard feeling
No hard feeling

*Tom Szczesniak BASS + HAMMOND B3
David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS
Brian Barlow PERCUSSION
Michael Francis ELECTRIC GUITARS
Chad Irschick PIANO + RHODES + BACKGROUND VOCALS
Neil Donell BACKGROUND VOCALS*

A Thousand Goodbye Letters

In my mind I've written you
A thousand goodbye letters
And I have failed to send a single one
'Cause in my heart I'm looking for
A way to make us better
To find the place of hope we started from

Baby I'd be lying if I didn't tell you
How hard I've been trying to forget
Believing that our dreams of 'forever after' had gone
Oh but it'd be a crime if I didn't show you
You've caught me crying, now I owe you
To let you see what pushes me on
I've put it in a song

In light of day, people say
To laugh at disappointment
Cover scars and hide your hurt away
I laugh but still the darkness will not
Forgive my missed appointment
With these tears you see rolling down my face

Baby I'd be lying if I didn't tell you
How hard I've been trying to forget
Believing that our dreams of 'forever after' had gone
Oh but it'd be a crime if I didn't show you
You've caught me crying, now I owe you
I'll let you see what pushes me on
Oh this can't be wrong

Oooo when I'm close to you
Oooo when it's just us two
A move deep in my soul
Like stirring up a pot of gold
And after all our ups and downs
Shooting stars and broken crowns
I can't let you go, I know

Baby I'd be lying if I didn't tell you
How hard I've been trying to forget
Believing that our dreams of 'forever after' had gone
Oh but it'd be a crime if I didn't show you
You've caught me crying, now I owe you
I'll let you see what pushes me on...

Baby I'd be lying if I didn't tell you
How hard I've been trying to forget
Finally I'm sure that it's in your arms I belong
I know that it's a crime if I don't show you
How much gratitude I owe you
It's plain for me what pushes me on
I've loved you all along
I've never loved someone so strong

Tom Szczesniak BASS

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Steve O'Connor PIANO + HAMMOND B3

Neil Donell, Chad Irschick BACKGROUND VOCALS

Circle of Elders

A circle of elders beating on their drums
Warmed by the rays of the California sun
Their withered faces, feathered dress
And tireless voices radiating timelessness
A sea change in the heart of man
Many people gathered there
That fateful morning in a campus square

And the words went out into the crowd
Thrilled the willing and punctured the proud
Skipping stones skimming the calm
Unbroken waters, rippling

The year was 1969
Protest of war was a sign of the times
I was just a kid back then
Knew nothing of the brutality of men
Drawn by a sea change in the heart of man
I left my mother's side where I had been
The circle opened up and let me in

And the words went out into the crowd
Thrilled the willing and punctured the proud
Skipping stones skimming the calm
Unbroken waters, rippling

Later on the sun turned hot
The riots broke as we left the parking lot
And on the news, unfolding hell
Where I had stood, those wise men fell
For a sea change in the heart of man
Circle of elders beating on their drums
Caught in the crossfire of so many guns

And the words went out into the crowd
Thrilled the willing and punctured the proud
Skipping stones skimming the calm
Unbroken waters, rippling
More guns, more wounds, more wounds, more war
More pain, more fear, more fear, no more
Fear no more

Tom Szczesniak BASS + HAMMOND B3

David MacDougall DRUMS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick RHODES

Neil Donell BACKGROUND VOCALS

The Sweater Song

Comes to pass by and by
Each of us asking why
Why things work out the way they do
Maybe they just do
Another empty holiday
Filled with words we feel we ought to say
Why do they come out like they do
Maybe they just do
There comes a time when all words end
To say goodbye to a cherished friend
Is the saddest thing I've had to do
If only it weren't true
So with a mangled lullaby
My sole intention was not to cry
But smooth your furrowed brow and gently coo
Like new mothers do

All I take is a memory
Yours was the warmest embrace
It put a smile on my face
I'd sink into your sweater
There was rarely some place better
A shield from heavy weather and what's more
A shelter from the storm

To build a fire and watch it burn
Was what you so wanted me to learn
To get down on my knees and play
Get caught up in that way
And how your spirit would not yield
You knew the simplest things could heal
How can I go on without you?
What can I do?
Maybe I just do

All I take is a memory

.....
Tom Szczesniak BASS + PIANO

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick RHODES + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Anonymous

The more I go, the more I get further into you
Anonymous, who knew you'd be back here again
Anonymous, you are the author of this pain
Anonymous is how I thought you would remain
Anonymous, you read my mind so well this time
Anonymous, you promised me the light but now I'm blind
Anonymous, you drew the veil I stand behind

Done my best to keep up with the times we are living in
On the web got a site you can find out just who I am
And though my face is plastered everywhere
My whole life laid bare for all my friends to see
Still I'm sitting here, lonely and waiting for someone to play me

A blade of grass, a grain of sand
A hungry child in some far off land
Anonymous is how you choose to play your hand

Made a pact, long ago with the wind and I went along
In my throat with your breath on my lips, I have sang your song
And though you've always had the upper hand
Yes, you're in command, you are the boss of me.
Still I'm sitting here lonely and waiting for someone to play me

Anonymous, who knew you'd be back here again
Anonymous, you are the author of this pain
Anonymous is how I thought you would remain

Anonymous, you read my mind so well this time
Anonymous, you promised me the light but now I'm blind
Anonymous, you drew the veil I stand behind

Oh anonymous
The more I go, the more I get further into you

Tom Szczesniak BASS + PIANO

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick RHODES + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Come in From the Cold

When this world has strung you along and luck's
not come your way
You've given up your heart and soul, you've got
nothing left to say

Come in from the cold
You've been shut out, I've been told
I've been hearing all about it
How you've weathered every storm
Now it's time to get you warm
Get you warm

O the howling wind
Known to fools and those who've sinned
Favored by the disenchanted
Who've used up all their second chances
O the bitter trend
To turn your back on your best friend
I don't need to know how it happened
This is the best place for you to land in

Come in from the cold
You've been shut out, I've been told
I've been hearing all about it
How you've weathered every storm
Now it's time to get you warm
Come in from the cold

In this time of much confusion
Where everyone looks just the same
On the basis of that illusion
You hold everyone in disdain
Have the heart to care a little
Keep some hope alive
It will keep you in this game

O the endless night
You've grown too tired to lead this fight
Savor now at last surrender
Leave the crown to the next pretender
O the sweet release
The rush of blood and the hush of peace
Air is filled with words unspoken
Here I am, my arms wide open

Come in from the cold
You've been shut out, I've been told
I've been hearing all about it
There's nothing left here to decide
Leave the world and step inside
Take my hand, it's yours to hold
Come in from the cold
Come in from the cold
Come in from the cold

Tom Szczesniak BASS

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS + MANDOLA

Chad Irschick PIANO + RHODES + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Steve O'Connor HAMMOND B3

Imperfect

Imperfect and so alive
Addicted and undermined
Rough edges, misunderstood
Hard angles, can do no good
Come morning, get up and...

Try to not be afraid
And I'll try along with you
Greet and mourn each passing day
No matter what you do
Just try to not be afraid
And I'll be there with you

Connected, still all alone
Protecting a heart of stone
Distracted, sense overload
Suspended, out of control
Come morning, get up and...

Chorus

Here's the door
Follow through
Leave behind
What's before you
Give it space
Out of time
In your heart
You'll find proof

Get up and...

Chorus

Imperfect and so alive

Tom Szczesniak BASS + HAMMOND B3

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick RHODES + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Neil Donell BACKGROUND VOCALS

Walk in the Light

Walk in the light from now on, from now on, from now on
Walk in the light from now on
Let your hand be guided and your will be strong
Skirt the shadows from here on in, here on in, here on in
Skirt the shadows from here on in
There's a sun and it's burning deep within

Open your eyes, open your eyes
As you walk in the light
Open your eyes and when you do
As you walk in the light
It will shine on you

Walk in the light from now on, from now on, from now on
Walk in the light from now on
Let your hand be guided and your will be strong
Open your eyes, open your eyes
As you walk in the light
Open your eyes and when you do
As you walk in the light
It will shine on you

The ground may give way and the sky might fall,
The sky might fall, the sky might fall
The ground may give way and the sky might fall
If you can keep smiling through it all

You've got to raise up your voices, notes under words
'Cause these are the noises that will likely be heard
Dispelling the darkness creeping today
As all other choices fade away

Walk in the light from now on, from now on, from now on
Walk in the light from now on
No more running
Walk in the light from now on, from now on, from now on
Walk in the light and it won't be long
Till your light shines through another song
Till your light shines through another song
Till your light shines through another song

Tom Szczesniak BASS + WURLITZER + HAMMOND B3
David MacDougall DRUMS
Brian Barlow PERCUSSION
Michael Francis ELECTRIC GUITARS
Chad Irschick PIANO
Neil Donell, Shelley Walters, Mark Stephenson BACKGROUND VOCALS

Freedom

Getting right out of my mind
Going to leave, leave the past behind
Have a half-price sale off everything I own
It's a dream I have to be light to be whole

Freedom

To try something new
Don't let the fear of changing
Get the best of you
Get ready to start again
And find something new
Your one and only life
Is waiting right in front of you

Weighing up 'cause it's time
Every dream dreams me closer to find
Find the strength I need
To push away from home
The bigger I dream, the further I'll roam

Chorus

'Cause when I'm fancy free
I want the comfort cage
And when I'm shackled down
I want to fly
I think one more day
And it hasn't happened yet
What am I waiting for and why

Chorus

It's only love that sets us free

Tom Szczesniak BASS + WURLITZER + HAMMOND B3

David MacDougall DRUMS + BACKGROUND VOCALS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick PIANO + BACKGROUND VOCALS

No One in Particular

You are the mountain, I am the valley
You are the stars, I am the moon
You are the flower, I am a single seed
You are the lover for whom my heart does bleed

You are the answer to all of my questions
You are the space between these lines
You're big like an ocean, I am a grain of sand
Resting in the palm of your hand

You are the one, I am no one in particular
You need less while I want more
You are the fire that burns the midnight sky
I am the shadow cast upon your door

You are the desert constantly changing
Constantly shifting sea of sand
I am a drifter all of my life laid low
Searching for what I will never know

You are the one, I am no one in particular
You need less while I want more
You are the fire that burns the midnight sky
I am the shadow cast upon your door
Oh and I'll be standing by, I'll be waiting here
For you, for you to arrive
Meantime, I see everything as new

You are the one, I am no one in particular
You need less while I want more
You are the fire that burns the midnight sky
I am the shadow cast upon your door
I'll be the shadow dancing at your door

Tom Szczesniak BASS + STRING ARRANGEMENT

David MacDougall DRUMS

Brian Barlow PERCUSSION

Michael Francis ACOUSTIC + ELECTRIC GUITARS

Chad Irschick PIANO + RHODES

Steve O'Connor HAMMOND B3

Neil Donell FEATURED VOCALIST

