

Credits

Simon Kerr: Six and Twelve String Guitars, Vocals, Percussion (Track 4) Aurora Jane: Bass, Electric Guitars (Tracks 2, 4), B/Vocals (Track 2), Stomp (Tracks 1, 6), Percussion (Track 4) Kylie Morrigan: Violin (Tracks 1, 3, 8, 10) Tiya Beggs: Backing Vocals (Tracks 1, 3, 5) Scott Lewis: Keys (Tracks 3), Midi (Track 5), Piano (Track 9) Marley Berry-Pearce: Drums (Tracks 2, 3, 5) Paddy Montgomery: Mandolin (Track 2) Josh Bennett: Sitar, Tanpura and Tabla (Track 7) Soulsong Singing Group: Chorus (Track 5) Produced, recorded and mixed by Aurora Jane at Habenero Studios, Melbourne, Australia Drums and Bass for tracks 2, 3 & 5 recorded at Crosstown Sound Studios, Melbourne Piano and Vocals for track 9 recorded at Sunshine Recorder, South Melbourne. Mastered by Joe Carra at Crystal Mastering, Thornbury, Melbourne Initial cover design concept by Simon Kerr Graphics and layout by Irene Metter

Thanks and much aroha to:

Tiya, for tireless love and support; Kylie, for her beautiful violin and heart; Scott, for his creativity and gracious soul; those other sensational musicians, Marley, Paddy and Josh. Miche, for treasured friendship and fearless management!; Vincent, Jen and Marita for friendship and constant support; Richard Lawton and the Soulsong gang for singing on 'Moving a Big Sky'; my cherished song-writing buddies, Heidi, Warren, Rose, Melissa and Hannah. Immense gratitude to Aurora Jane for guiding me through this, my third record, with extraordinary commitment, consummate skill and constant belief in what we were trying to achieve

Finally, to those many and marvelous Pozible crowd-funding supporters who made this record possible. In particular, Jen Boyarski, Ben Hoffman, Emmanuelle Duglas, Gerard Kerr and Alan Corral, I offer you my deep gratitude

This album has been recorded at studio quality so it will sound its best on good quality headphones or decent hi fi equipment. So listen to it at least once when you:

I) have some time set aside;

2) have no distractions;

3) are sitting comfortably; and

4) are listening on quality headphones/speakers

Beautiful

My love flows through my garden My love reaches over tall buildings My love sparkles like starlight And my love precious as diamonds

And your love fires neurons in my brain And your love pulls me closer than a hurricane Your love fills the world with energy Your love your love is beautiful

Beautiful... so beautiful ... Beautiful... so beautiful

This love can be seen from outer space This love passes over continents This love it's a bond with those we love This love is all that's worth living for

And our love is bigger than a mighty whale And our love is brighter than the sun at noon Our love is faster than a bullet train And our love our love is beautiful

Beautiful ... so beautiful ... Beautiful... so beautiful

© Simon Kerr 8 October 2013

How to play

Put a capo on the 5th fret of the guitar neck, drop the E string (Fattest one) down a tone (this is called a drop-D), and play the D chord, then switch the first finger from the 3rd string/2nd fret to the 5th string/2nd fret. Then back to D. Other chords used are Em7, Asus, A, A5, A7. You will just have to listen to the transitions :-)

About this song

Originally titled, *My love, your love, this love, our love*, then abbreviated to *Love*, and then finally, after accepting a song title called *love* is rather naff, I renamed it 'Beautiful'

Many people think this is a love song

This is incorrect

Nevertheless, many people still see it as a love song. So be it...

For the official record, this is where the song came from ...

I was attending my singing group's annual weekend away, and I was thinking about the good vibes that existed within the group, the care, love, camaraderie, what I sometimes refer to as the BIG LOVE, not to be confused with individual-to-individual love. It was this collective experience that I was thinking about when the song popped into my head/guitar/ fingers

Sometimes the big love that comes from belonging to a community of decent, fun-loving and committed human beings is "all that's worth living for..."

Sometimes indeed

I subsequently dedicated this song to my mother, Fay Elizabeth, who died just as the recording for the album was coming to an end

It seemed the most appropriate song to remember her by...

Crossing the Line

If I touch you you might crack You're not as strong as you appear to be I am a man in control Light from your eyes has blinded me

Something falling Part of me said it never would Crossing a line When my head said I never could

There's a drug in your skin And you're addicted to my every touch My heart was never made of stone Now it channels your twisted love

We are prisoners to the deepest things We're the ones who threw away the keys In this dark heart I find in you In this darkness I embrace with you

Something calling Something deeper that we ever knew Crossing the line To a world I now share with you

So wrap your arms around me thrill me with your tongue Push me to my limits and I'll push you too Open up your body to the painful rush Feel the drug of pleasure when you fully trust

There's a drug in your body I feel it in your every move (Rpt) We may bind up our bodies We will never ever bind up our minds (Rpt) We will never never never bind our minds Bind our bodies But we will never bind up our minds

So wrap your arms around me thrill me with your tongue Push me to my limits and I'll push you too Open up your body to the painful rush Feel the drug of pleasure when you fully trust

> There's a drug in your body I can feel it in your every move (Rpt) We may bind up our bodies We will never ever bind up our minds (Rpt)

> > Simon Kerr © 3 August 2013

Credits

Acoustic Guitar - Simon Kerr Electric Guitars - Aurora Jane Bass - Aurora Jane Mandolin - Paddy Montgomery Drums - Marley Berry-Pearce Lead vocals - Simon Kerr Backing Vocals - Aurora Jane and Simon Kerr

Background

There are lines in life, ones that we draw ourselves, or are drawn by our family, our religion or social environment, that hold us back from the world of possibilities

This includes pleasure

Sometimes that means pushing our own limits to see where we can go into the dark places that our mind sometimes yearns for, if we are open and brave

Sometimes, our bodies provide pathways to our minds...

How to play

Capo on 2nd fret Am, C, G, D/F#

Beautiful Mystery

A boat sits silent in the bay Hoping for the breeze to drift its way A zephyr comes and touches my face Tonight mystery and I embrace

The forest glistens after rain The fresh damp of the earth it calls her name She wraps her arms around me again My heart I can no longer defend

Beautiful mystery she is tonight. Beautiful mystery and its all right. The heavens are full of secrets I don't see But tonight she is my only mystery

I wonder when the stars will lose their shine How water changes into wine Humbled by a glimpse of mystery Tonight all I have to give is me

Beautiful mystery she is tonight. Beautiful mystery and its all right. The heavens are full of secrets I don't see But tonight she is my only mystery

One day my body will be frail And life much slower than today If my mind is still full of mystery Then my heart will never be empty

Beautiful mystery she is tonight. Beautiful mystery and its all right. The heavens are full of secrets I don't see But tonight she is my only mystery

© Simon Kerr 1 Jan 2013

Background

Many people think this is a love song

They are correct

We all need a love song or two in our lives

That is all that needs to be known...

Credits

Vocals- Simon Kerr Backing Vocals - Tiya Beggs Guitar - Simon Kerr Violin - Kylie Morrigan Drums - Marley Berry-Pearce Bass - Aurora Jane Keys - Scott Lewis

How to Play

Capo on 3rd fret

Versus: G, C/G, G, C/G, G, D/F#, G, Em, C, G, C/G, D, C, G, C/G ...

Chorus: D, C, G, D, C, G, D, C, G, Em, C, G

Before the Storm

The moon is rising on the dark horizon I see people running I see black clouds a-coming *Before the storm, before the storm.* There's a hole in my heart think we need a new start There is trouble in the system seems few are listening *Before the storm, before the storm.* I'm holding on I'm just doing the best I can The sea is breaking over the embankment There's a judgement coming and prophets foretelling *Before the storm, before the storm.* My hearts near breaking and I feel like escaping Over the great ocean to god knows where, to god knows where I'm holding on I'm just doing the best I can

© Simon Kerr, 2 January 2013

At least in 2014 I don't have to reiterate the evidence, like I needed to in 2004 when I wrote my first song about climate change. But we, as a global community, have resisted, fudged the issue and ducked responsibility. Now, I just want to escape to somewhere safe and easy. ... You know, like, ah, ... Mars maybe?

If you are interested in recent analysis, I recommend Naomi Klein's 2014 book, This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate

> To play, tune to DADGAD with Capo on the 5th Fret. If anyone wishes to create tablature for this song, they are welcome, but please let me know

Moving a Big Sky

The wings on the plane dip left and through the fractured clouds I see the benevolent sentinels scooping up the air in graceful revolutions

Sending energy loops flying to cities where lights banish the dark and cells phone beep

I am moved to tears, these brave beautiful artisans singing to the horizon their song of a better tomorrow

A tomorrow less choked with those invisible wastes that foul our sky ... and our future

Moving a big sky, blowing a white wind, singing a bright song for everyone

But you, you raise your fist in disgust and talk of a desecration of the skyline and that you can't sleep with the terror of those whirling giants

You don't want then here, not here, not where you can see them

And you speak of creatures that may die in desperate collision, while the ham in your soup still whispers that you feed off its suffering

Moving a big sky, blowing a white wind, singing a bright song for everyone

Tear them down you say for I want the world as it always was

And you rehearse the fantasy that there is an unchanging past

So let the wind escape and let us dig from the black ground and leave giant scars both here and in the atmosphere

But in the end your unwillingness to pay will come back to haunt y

When you stand before your grandchildren who ask 'why did you oppose the graceful white sentinels?

Cause they are ugly, you spit, don't you see?

They do see, but with different eyes

They do see

only too clearly

Moving a big sky, blowing a white wind, singing a bright song for everyone

© Simon Kerr 19 May 2012 (Germany)

Moving a Big Sky

By the way ...

Germany has a renewable energy target of between 55-60% by 2035

But this is a soft target ...Mark Jackson from Stanford University and Mark Delucchi from University of California, Davis, have authored a detail road map showing how 100%of the world's energy, "for all purposes, could be supplied by wind, water and solar resources by a early as 2030"

The University of Melbourne, where I currently work, in conjunction with Beyond Zero Emissions, have produced a highly plausible plan for transferring *totally* to renewable energy within 10 years

So don't believe the arguments that we can't live without coal

There will be, one way or another, a revolution in the way we organise our energy systems, if we are to survive with any quality of life I flew into Copenhagen and as the plane turned to land I noticed dozen's of very large wind turbines standing in straight lines just off the shore line. It was a sight I shall never forget and seemed to me to be extraordinarily beautiful. The beauty was not only aesthetic but was embedded in the notion of clean energy, because clean energy is our future, and our only salvation from an overheated planet

I wrote this little discourse on a high speed train on the way to Berlin, and this photo was taken on that trip. But it took me a few goes to find the right music format. It was my producer, Jane, who thought up idea of the hip-hop drum groove

> Guitar - Simon Kerr Bass - Aurora Jane Drums - Marley Berry-Pierce Midi - Scott Lewis Vocals - Simon Kerr, Tiya Beggs, Soulsong Singing Group



Secret Garden

She brought me flowers in the morning Sweet as they could be Laid them in a bowl of crystal Their scent washed over me But snow was falling at my door So where did she find them She grew them in her secret garden A long way from here A long way from here

Every day brought a new treasure A secret recipe Covered me with her sweet fragrance A magic remedy But I couldn't find her beating heart Amidst the pleasure She kept it in a secret garden A long way from here A long way from here

In that garden she would wander Through the shady glen She would stop to pick a flower Hold it in her hand And when the moon did rise To the beating in her heart Safe in her secret garden A long way from here A long way from here

© Simon Kerr 2nd May 2013

Play it in DADGAD

Guitars and Vocals - Simon Kerr Stomp - Aurora Jane Guitar Arrangement - Aurora Jane

Photo - Fiona Owens

Sometimes, for all sorts of reasons, we keep our heart safe by hiding it in a special secure place

Sometimes that is a wise thing to do ...

And sometimes we stay there too long ...

I am only a songwriter, I can't judge which is right for you, I can only tell this story ...

Never Gonna Die

never gonna die always gonna hold on while I have life never gonna die never gonna die

never gonna die never gonna hold back and waste the light never gonna die never gonna die

die now never gonna die now never gonna die always gonna live never gonna die always gonna hold on while life is here

> die now never gonna die never gonna die always gonna live never donna die never gonna die

I *will*, of course, die one day, when my body gives up and I breathe my final breath and my atoms (are they really 'mine'?) finally float back into the universe

I am unconvinced there is any justifiable reason to think that 'we' come back, or that we can possibly continue to exist in any meaningful sense once our brain stops working

But ... as Nietzsche tried to tell us, living in the face of ultimate futility is where life is most present

So I don't plan to die before that day; I will not sit back and stop living, I will not lower my expectations for myself or my world, I will not accept a slow death. I will keep growing and loving and learning, until I finally stop

That's what I mean in this song...

For those interested in such matters of souls and self, I can recommend no better book that Douglas Hofsteder's epic 'I am a strange loop'

> <u>Credits</u> Simon Kerr - 12 string guitar Josh Bennett - sitar, tampura, tabla

Guitar is played in the following tuning - DADDDD. The Sitar, for the most part, tracks the guitar melody

© Simon Kerr 16 May 2007

Helsinki (and other places)

The sun it never sets on Helsinki's summer sky And the colours of the country drift on through the light And icebreakers in the harbour rest up for a while Till colours all fade into white and dark takes back the night

Dublin streets are full of music making, crack and lies Tall stories of literary heroes like the one I heard about Oscar Wilde And dire warnings they are given about some potent backyard brew, If ya drink two nips of that son, you'll turn into a leprechaun

From Edinburgh castle into the Highlands The secrets of Loch Katrine and the feisty people of this land In the summer mountain meadow I see a maiden fair With her wild mountain thyme and flowing black hair

From subways buried deep to the Empire State so high The High Line flowing gracefully over street below The vastness of this city seeps in and numbs my mind But its pulse still beats in my heart though I am long gone

Light dispels the night through the window of my plane Each hour brings me closer, closer to my home The city I've come to know and the people that I love If home is where my heart is, tonight ... it's Australia

© Simon Kerr 1 Sept 2013

Play in open G (DGDGBD) Capo on 3

This song is a series of poetic postcards that reminds me of a trip I undertook in 2013. While a work trip, it also brought a fantastic series of adventures and new experiences, visiting places I had never been to before. Each verse highlights a place I visited (there were several more, but the song can't really be 20 minutes long)

I 'found' the chordal structure and melody late at night while watching the twilight envelop the outskirts of Helsinki. Sounds can act like smells and trigger instant memories, so every time I play this tune, I am instantly (and I mean instantly) transported back to those places

If you have been to any of these places, I hope the song will trigger your own memories. If you haven't, then I hope the song will let you experience them, at least a little

Kylie Morrigan added the beautiful violin that reflects the aural experience of each place

By the way, I am a Kiwi, so the last verse was particularly significant to me in feeling an emotional connection to Australia for the first time in the 6 years since moving here



One Last Run

Sitting at this table lights down low Staring out the windows over the snow When I was young it never seemed so cold Now I am old these shivers (have) taken hold Every few hours the nurse comes to me Wanting to know and wanting to see She says she's worried about my heart That if it stops and she can't make it start I tell her, 'don't worry it's been broken before But it always comes back when it hears life's call'

But I don't tell her what I really know That I've run out of time and not just out of luck And I don't think I'll make it to the spring And I would do almost anything To feel your touch upon my skin. You have left but not this longing

I never thought it would be this hard I can't even walk out to the yard But if I could I really would take flight Break out of here I'd be gone tonight Hitch a ride on a cattle truck He'd drop me on a mountain and wish me luck I'd find a tree by a rippling stream And I would seek you in my dreams Then for a moment there's a break in the clouds I remember what it is to have you around

Chorus

I'll make a run for it, one last run for it I'll make a run for it, one last run for it My last run I have been watching old people die in recent years

This is a song gathered from witnessing the ravages of ageing in the lives of a number of people over the last decade

It is me imagining an old man wanting to escape to the solitude of a better place, and that realisation that his time is almost up

Written on guitar, and initially recorded with guitar, we changed to piano and my friend Scott took up the challenge of translating guitar strings to piano keys

Recorded in one night by Jane at Sunshine Recorder, South Melbourne on a magnificent old grand piano, complete with the quiet clunk of the pedals, if you listen carefully

Grand Piano - Scott Lewis Vocals - Simon Kerr © Simon Kerr 21st April, 2013



Flourish

A little skin off your knee will not kill you

A little pain in your heart will not destroy

A little suffering can make you strong and brave

We can love we can love we love we can flourish

© Simon Kerr May 2013

This is the shortest song I have ever written, but one of the most important

It ends the record as a meditation on wellbeing, what psychologist Martin Seligman calls flourishing. My friend Tiya Beggs was the original inspiration for the idea

The song finishes with the guitar fading out to leave you in the hands of the gorgeous soaring violin of Kylie Morrigan. So sit back with decent headphones, shut your eyes and relax ...

...and may you flourish in your life, through the challenges, loses, opportunities and the unexpected that makes our lives what they are...

Played with capo of 3rd string, Em, G, with bridge of D and Cadd9