



Southern Wind - Dean Owens

'Celtic spirit, Country soul'

TRACK LISTING

1. The Last Song (04:00)
2. Southern Wind (04:29)
3. Elvis Was My Brother (03:46)
4. When The Whisky's Not Enough (03:46)
5. Bad News (05:10)
6. No Way Around It (05:56)
7. Louisville Lip (04:39)
8. Anything Helps (03:55)
9. Mother (03:35)
10. Famous Last Words (04:25)
11. Madeira Street (03:03)
12. Love Prevails (04:03)

**AT THE HELM
RECORDS**

Catalogue Number:

ATH197020

Release Date:

16th February 2018

deanowens.com

Southern Wind Song Notes by Dean Owens

The Last Song

The first song Will Kimbrough and I wrote together. We bonded through our mutual love of Ronnie Lane and The Waterboys. We wanted to write a kinda pub rock song for the end of the night and we just sat jamming and throwing in names of some of our heroes.

Southern Wind

This is the song that got the whole ball rolling for this record. Over to Will for this one: Dean and I wrote Southern Wind in a flurry of creativity. Ideas were flying. I am from so far south that Nashville is eight hours north. Dean is more of a northern man. I feel like we both understand the call of home and the contrasting call of the muse. My Southern Wind calls me to a long left behind home; I like to think that Dean's Southern Wind calls him South to create in Nashville, Joshua Tree, New Mexico. The lure of home. The lure of the muse. Both romantic and hard to reach. That's Southern Wind.

Elvis Was My Brother

After my sister died a few years back, a dear friend of mine wrote me a letter telling me how sorry he was, but also how envious he was of my relationship with my siblings. He had been raised by his mother, didn't really know his dad. He moved around a lot as a kid and found comfort in some old cassette tapes of his mum's. The one he loved most was an old Elvis Presley tape. He said Elvis felt like the only male figure in his life. His friend, his brother.

When The Whisky's Not Enough

This song came to me out of the blue. I just started singing 'you're the name on my heart babe' and about half an hour later it was done. I like to think I was channelling a little bit of that Townes Van Zandt feeling of hopelessness.

Bad News

This was inspired by some characters in an old movie. I'm warning the female character not to go back to her abusive husband. I love that Will and I swapped instruments on this. I'm playing the electric and he's playing all those beautiful acoustic licks.

No Way Around It

While I was working on this Will joined me in his front room. He picked up the banjo and instantly started playing the riff that you hear on the record. It was just perfect. I wanted to write something a little spiritual, defiant and uplifting. Something that Will could really let rip on.

Louisville Lip

I was somewhere around Amarillo, Texas when the news came through that Muhammad Ali had died. I got back to Nashville in the wee hours and wrote this song. Ali meant so much to me growing up and was the reason I wanted to become a boxer. I remember him floating around the ring in those white shorts with the black stripes and thinking 'I want a pair of those'. RIP The Greatest.

Anything Helps

My friend Joshua Britt and I were on our way out to Hendersonville, Tennessee. We were stopped near the entrance to the freeway and I noticed this homeless guy. He was holding up a sign that read 'Anything Helps'. It got stuck in my mind and when I got back to Nashville I told Will about it. We wrote this one together in his little studio.



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Mother

My mum used to jokingly have a go at me for not having written a song about her so this started out as just a bit of fun. Every now and then my mum comes out with these sayings like 'you can't break a cracked cup'. I felt I had to get that into a song. Will and I got together on it and it was just about there, but was still missing a few words. I was considering just setting it aside for another time, but then went on tour with Danny & The Champions Of The World in the UK. I was messing around with it in the dressing room one day and Danny said he really liked the sound of it and encouraged me to try and finish it. So while staying at Danny's one night he helped me fill in the missing words.

Famous Last Words

Think I've been to too many big weddings where the vows and speeches last almost as long as the marriages. My gloomy I Will Always Love You.

Madeira Street

I sat with my big sister Julie while she took some of her final breaths. I talked and sang to her. It was a very emotional time. Madeira Street was the street in Leith where we grew up and had a very happy childhood. Julie fought a brave battle with cancer, but she ultimately lost that battle and there's not a day goes by where I don't think of her.

Love Prevails

I'll leave it to Will to tell you about this one: Love prevails was written to order. But we were too close to the deadline, so the song was never used in the art show for which it was intended. We wrote the song based loosely on Rodney Crowell's memoir, 'Chinaberry Sidewalks'. I was on tour with Rodney while he worked on the book and while he only occasionally let me take a look at what he was working on, he told me a lot of stories of his childhood. So I wanted to write about a family devastated by violence, stuck in poverty. In this very real story, love did and does prevail. And doesn't Dean sing it with such a sweet hurt?

MUSICIANS

Dean Owens – voice & acoustic guitar, electric on Bad News

With

The Southern Swamp Orchestra:

Will Kimbrough – guitars, banjo, mandolin, backing vocals, bass and piano (track 1)

Dean Marold – bass

Evan Hutchings – main drums & percussion

Neilson Hubbard – second drum kit, bass, piano, various bits & pieces

Plus

Danny Mitchell – piano, organ, keyboards & trumpet

Kira Small – the big voice (tracks 2 & 6)

Audrey Spillman Hubbard – harmony on Bad News

Worry Dolls – harmonies (tracks 2 & 11)

Joshua Britt – mandolin (track 12)

Southern Wind was produced, recorded and mixed by Neilson Hubbard at Mr. Lemons, Nashville, Tennessee

Mastered by Jim DeMain at Yes Master, Nashville

All songs written by Dean Owens, except tracks 1, 2, 8 & 12, written by Owens/Kimbrough and track 9, written by Owens/Kimbrough/Wilson

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s, press tickets etc.... : jeremy@atthehelmprr.com

