

Song Info 2010 CD “Tunes In A Tropical Key”

We’re All The Same

When I learned we were doing a duet with my friend Cowboy Troy, I wanted to write a song that combined our two worlds, Trop Rock and Hick Hop. What I realized is that when all the smoke clears, we are truly all the same.

My Screen Saver

When I worked and lived in Chicago I think deep down I was always a tropical creature. I just didn’t realize it at the time. I remember so well those subzero temps and drifting away in my mind to somewhere warm. I had gotten a new computer at work and after a few minutes it went into idle mode and this wonderful picture appeared on the screen. I just sat and stared at the water, the blue sky, and the palm trees and imagined how it would feel sitting in one of those chairs. Somehow it made me feel warm.

It’s A Pretty Good Life

This song in some ways sums up my life in the Keys. I wake up everyday and realize how lucky I am. My beautiful wife, my dogs, family, friends and being able to live in the Fabulous Florida Keys is just amazing. I feel like the luckiest person in the world. One of my favorite things are the waters of the backcountry. There are thousands of little islands that come to life when the tide goes out. As the water recedes and the sand starts to protrude it is amazing because you never know what Mother Nature has brought in for you. And if you are really lucky, you find a little island that no one else knows about and it becomes your own little Shangri-La. Then you can write a song about it.

Clicking My Heels

I have heard so many people say, be careful what you wish for. I think the older I get the more that makes sense. I have had such unbelievable experiences in my life as I look back. From racing cars, to flying airplanes, pounding it out in the corporate world, to becoming an island boy and making music. While I am so thankful for everything, my favorite part of that story is living on an island with Cynderella, our dogs, friends and family. We have spent a fair amount of time traveling doing what I love, which is playing music, but there is always a tug of war because that pulls us away from our special place in the Keys. How can you be two places at the same time? I am still trying to figure that one out.

How ‘Bout Tomorrow

Kenny is my neighbor in the Keys and has the energy of a teenager. He is always working on or building something and is amazing. I on the other hand am amazing at doing nothing. Kenny is always asking if I want to do this or that and I would always say “how ‘bout we do that tomorrow.” He knocked on my door one day and said I know a song you should write. How About Tomorrow.

Get Your Own Cousin

Cyndy and I were married last year and it was a weeklong celebration with friends and family coming from all over the place. My brother and a bunch of our cousins came down by caravan. Starting in Indiana and stopping and adding cousins along the way. By the time they hit the Keys they had already been partying for several days in their travels. We were talking about all the great times we had growing up together in those Kentucky Mountains and how special it was to have a family like ours. Someone said I want to be in your family and my brother said jokingly, Get You Own Cousin so I had to write a song about it.

No Reason For The Blues

I just love the blues and was introduced to this music early as a teenager in Indiana by a guy named Pete. I had just moved from Kentucky and had entered a talent contest at our junior high school with my electric guitar and tiny little amp. After the show Pete came over and said “You’re in my band now.” He was just a little older than my 13 years but was much more worldlier. The next think I knew I was playing with him and a group of wonderful guys who at the time seemed 80 years old. Actually they were probably about my age now. Funny how that works. Anyway, I started writing this song and realized I didn’t really have anything to sing the blues about but I just love that music.

Staycation

American Airlines recently notified me that I had flown two million miles with them. As I sat and read their congratulatory letter and offer to fly anywhere in the world for free, I started thinking about where I would want to go. The best place in the entire world is right off my porch. I am not sure who loves the Keys more, Cyndy or myself, but we both understand the magic here. So we talked about where we would like to go and it was unanimous. "Lets just stay right here. So the letter and award went in a drawer probably never to be seen again. That's a pretty good feeling.

White Christmas In The Florida Keys

We were amazed when we learned that NBC and The Weather Channel were going to give us a "Guaranteed White Christmas" at our home in the Keys. Our grandson Michael, along with all the kids in the neighborhood had such a good time in the 40,000 pounds of snow they delivered on Christmas Day. They did live broadcasts from our home almost all day on Christmas so our friends and family throughout the country were able to spend Christmas with us in the Keys . The most wonderful part of the entire experience was getting to know Adam Berg, Michelle Birmbaun and the entire TWC and NBC crew.

A Christmas Present

I wrote this song probably 25 years ago as a present for my Mom and Dad. They were living in Kentucky at the time and I was in Chicago. Preparing to visit them over the holidays I was trying to find the perfect gift for them and just couldn't come up with anything worthy of all the wonderful things they had done for my brother and I in our lives. So this song was born. I really didn't intend to ever have this on an album but decided to put it on this one for my mom. Ma, you are still the world's best mother.

Tropical Nightmare

Sometimes I just feel like doing something wacky. I just can't help myself.

Living On Key West Time

I first wrote and recorded this song in 2005 before I had a band. As the band has progressed so has this song and I just wanted to record it the way we perform it now.

The Other Side Of The Rainbow

As you can tell by listening to this song it's just my guitar and me. The original plan was to make more of a production of it but when I recorded this raw version in the studio everyone there suggested just leaving it the way it was and we did. Guitar out of tune and all. This story has happened to me over and over again from people that seemingly have it all, however, deep down they want to chuck it all, slow down and go to the other side of the rainbow.

My Screen Saver

You know that I never did fit in up there
Those winter winds and skies were always grey
When it seemed that there was just no hope in sight
I could always get away

In my screen saver, you know the one that I mean
Two palm trees on a beach, a hammock in between
A couple of yellow chairs, faded by the sun
Wake me up later, I'm in my screen saver

I'd leave work and scrape the ice off of my car
Then I'd head straight for home
I couldn't wait to get the key into my door
Then I'd turn my computer on

To my screen saver, you know the one that I mean
Two palm trees on a beach, a hammock in between
A couple of yellow chairs, faded by the sun
Wake me up later, I'm in my screen saver

One day I said I just can't take it anymore
Loaded up my things and headed south
Drove the car to the end of the road
Now I don't get my computer out

Cause my life is a screen saver, You know the one
that I mean
Two palm trees on a beach, a hammock in between
I got a couple of yellow chairs, they're faded by the
sun
Come down and see me later, I'll be in my screen
saver

We're All The Same

Little bit of trop rock, little bit of Hick Hop
Put it all together, what have you got
A little bit of ocean and some high top boots
Pretty girls wearing cowboy hats and bathing suits

Chorus
See we're not that different, after all
The things that divide us are small
Doesn't matter from where you came
We're all the same

A little bit of steel drum, little bit of pedal steel
Cornbread and lobster, makes a pretty good meal
Nashville Tennessee, and The Florida Keys
The more you open your eyes, the more you see

That we're not that different, after all
The things that divide us are small
Doesn't matter from where you came
We're all the same

(Rap)
We're all singing from the same sheet of music
Keep the party rocking and you don't want to loose it
Enjoy what you're doin' and live while you can
Cause you're three steps ahead of the undertaker
man
We all arrive differently but in the same boat
Take heed to the words comin' out of my throat
Cowboy Troy's the one that said it so you better
believe
Mile Marker 24 is rocking down in the Keys

We're not that different, after all
The things that divide us are small
It doesn't matter from where you came
We're all the same

Put your hands up high, wave from side to side
Do it like that all day and all night

We're all the same

Put your hands up high, wave from side to side

Do it like that all day and all night

We're all the same
Let me see those hands, just let me see 'em
Hands up high and you know...
We're all the same

It's A Pretty Good Life

There's a little island, nobody knows but me
It only comes to life when the tide goes out to the sea
Walkin' on that beach... oh... makes everything OK
I bury my feet in the sand and my troubles just wash away

It's a pretty good life I'm living, won't hear me complain
I'm just hoping tomorrow, I get to do it all over again

If there was a genie, my wishes she would bring
I know what I'd ask for, I'd say honey don't change a thing
There's something about the ocean, and the smell of banana trees
I just wanna spend my days and nights, here in the Florida Keys

It's a pretty good life I'm living, won't hear me complain
I'm just hoping tomorrow, I get to do it all over again

Solo

Bridge (Breakdown)

There's a fish in the boat, beer in my hand
Grouper on the grill, *sounds like dinner plans*

It's a pretty good life I'm living, won't hear me complain
I'm just hoping tomorrow, I get to do it all over again
Let's all do it over again

Clicking My Heels

Be careful what you wish for
Sometimes it comes true
Then you gotta choose
What you really want to do
Thought I had it figured out,
Had a good plan
But I just didn't understand

Now I'm clickin' my heels, closing my eyes
Dreaming 'bout paradise
Scotty beam me back, it's been too long
All I wanna do is just go home

Sitting in the bus, everybody's gone home
Starin' at a picture on my cell phone
A sunset from the dock, feel the salt air
Oh I just wanna be there

That's why
I'm clickin' my heels, closing my eyes
Dreaming 'bout paradise
Scotty beam me back, it's been too long
All I wanna do is just go home

All the things I wanted, lookin' so hard to find
But the end of the rainbow was right here all the time

That's why
I'm clickin' my heels, Closing my eyes
Dreaming 'bout paradise
Scotty beam me back, it's been too long
All I wanna do is just go home

How 'Bout Tomorrow

The roof is leaking, move the bucket over that way
I know I should fix it, but just not today

Oh but,
How 'bout tomorrow, that'll be the plan
Today I've got my heart set on, an island with some
sand
How 'bout tomorrow, we'll get'er done
Today I'm goin' on my boat, I'm gonna chase a little
sun

I have a hole in my screen, from a hurricane
That was five years ago, and it still looks the same
My to do list is on, the 'frigerator door
It keeps growin' and growin'; it's almost to the floor

Oh but
How 'bout tomorrow, that'll be the plan
Today I've got my heart set on, an island with some
sand
How 'bout tomorrow, we'll get'er done
Today I'm goin' on my boat, I'm gonna chase a little
sun

I used to be the head of productivity
But that was before I moved down by the sea
Island life has become such an infatuation
Now the only thing I get done is procrastination

Oh but
How 'bout tomorrow, that'll be the plan
Today I've got my heart set on, an island with some
sand
How 'bout tomorrow, we'll get'er done
Today I'm goin' on my boat, I'm gonna chase a little
sun

Get Your Own Cousin

Livin' in them Kentucky hills
We didn't have a whole lot to give us thrills
200 people in my town

When it came time for the prom
We didn't have a whole lot to choose from
So we'd start to look around

If you want a little luvn', Get your own cousin
But I'd suggest you stay away from mine
I play the banjo and guitar, The family tree don't
branch that far
If you want a little luvn', get your own cousin

By now you probably figured out this song's for fun
But I needed one more to get the album done
To all my cousins: I'm the one to blame

But Cynderella and I were talkin' last night
Something came up that gave us terrible fright
Her mom and mine have the same last name

If you want a little luvn', Get your own cousin
But I'd suggest you stay away from mine
I play the banjo and guitar, The family tree don't
branch that far
If you want a little luvn', Get your own cousin

Solo

If you want a little luvn', Get your own cousin
But I'd suggest you stay away from mine
I play the banjo and guitar, The family tree don't
branch that far
If you're lookin' for some luvn', Get your own cousin

If you want a little luvn'
Get your own cousin

Got No Reason To Sing The Blues

Horn Intro

Woke up this morning sun was shinning bright
Thinking 'bout the cocktail I'll have tonight
The dogs came out and jumped in the ocean
I might too if I take a notion

I got no reason, I got no reason
You know I got no reason to sing the blues

Pretty girl hangin' on my arm
Kiss from her works like a charm
She can turn a grey sky blue
I couldn't complain if I wanted to

You see
I got no reason, yea I got no reason
You know I got no reason to sing the blues

Solo Sax
Solo Harp

Livin' on an island on Key West time
Everybody here's a friend of mine
There's no reason when you get down to it
I just love the blues that's why I do it

Chorus

Solo (Bass)
Solo (Guitar)

Woke up this morning sun was shinning bright
Thinking 'bout the cocktail I'll have tonight
The dogs came out, jumped in the ocean
I might too if I take a notion

I got no reason, yea I got no reason
I got no reason to sing (sang) the blues
I got no reason to sing (sang) the blues
I got no reason to sing (sang) the blues
I got no reason to sing (sang) the blues

Staycation

I sat down and made a list, of the things I wanna do
This is important, and I need to talk to you
We've been runnin' seems like every day
I think we need to get away

Let's go on staycation, just you and me
I know a great place to go, it's right by the sea
Room service straight from our fridge, every day
I've made our reservation, let's go on staycation

I know the owner fairly well
He said we could have the place all to ourselves
The dogs can come along too
Seems like the perfect spot for me and you

Let's go on staycation, just you and me
I know a great place to go, it's right by the sea
Room service straight from our fridge, every day
I've made our reservation, let's go on staycation

Searched around the world to find this place
Think it's the perfect getaway
No need to pack your bags my dear
Cause we're already here

Let's go on staycation, just you and me
I know a great place to go, it's right by the sea
Room service straight from our fridge, every day
I made our reservation, let's start our staycation

White Christmas In The Florida Keys

We couldn't believe what we'd heard
The Weather Channel with Adam Berg
Comin' down to our little island
They've got everyone here smiling

With a
White Christmas In the Florida Keys
We've got snow under the coconut trees
We've still got our tropical breeze
But it's A White Christmas in the Florida Keys

Slurpy drinks are all around
Just dip your glass down to the ground
Michael's used to playin' in the sand
Now he's making a real snowman

With our
White Christmas In the Florida Keys
We've got snow under the coconut trees
We've still got our tropical breeze
But it's A White Christmas in the Florida Keys

There's no way of mistaking
The Weather Channel is history making
We've never ever had snow down here
We're just in the wrong hemisphere

But it's a
White Christmas In the Florida Keys
We've got snow under the coconut trees
We've still got our tropical breeze
But it's A White Christmas in the Florida Keys

A Christmas Present

We searched our minds and we searched our soles
But we really didn't know what to get you for
Christmas

Had to be a special thing Not a suit of clothes
Or fancy rings - that wouldn't due from us

So we thought a lot about what to get
And we hoped we were not wrong
Cause mom and dad for Chrstitmas I'm giving you
this song

C is for the courage you gave to me and big brother
H is for the honor you taught us to give to one
another

R is for the right thing you made us stand up for
I is for Incredible – you both are you know, and so
much more

S is for sincerity – you never put on a face that
wasn't you

T 's a word you very seldom heard from us – Thank
you

M is for Mom and Dad – the best anyone could ever
have

A is for Apologies you should have heard but never
have

S is for the slaving you did to give us a decent life.
Dad working double shifts and coming home so late
at night.

So you see the problem that I had – what do you get
to repay your mom and dad?

Watches, rings, and fancy things just wouldn't due,
not for you

So instead I have just three simple words:
I Love You

Tropical Nightmare

The other night I fell asleep, the way I always do
I usually dream of palm trees and beaches, and
bikinis too
But this one was different, right away I could see
When this man walked up and said, son you now
work for me

It was a tropical nightmare, there was ice and snow
everywhere
I was even wearing underwear, talk about a real big
scare
Driving a big Cadillac, tailored suit was on my back
Somebody wake me get me out of here, I'm in a
tropical nightmare

He said we've taken away your band, and we've
done away with all your fans
You're gonna sell widgets door to door, just like you
used to do before
I was thinkin' bout my tiki bar when he said "man,
you no longer can play your guitar"
If you don't believe it's true, here's one let's see
what you can do

Solo

Well I tell ya, I don't know about that, I think that's
one of the best performances I've ever had, you
didn't take that away from me, now.
He said we've replaced you with an accordion,
You're gonna be the Mile Marker 24 youpers. Ya
hay dare, Crimany Pete

It was a tropical nightmare, there was ice and snow
everywhere
I was even wearing underwear, talk about a real big
scare
Driving a big Cadillac, tailored suit was on my back
Somebody wake me get me out of here, I'm in a
tropical nightmare

Wait.. Is that Frankenstein over there? wait he's
wearin' my hat, my flip-flops and Cinderella's
holding his hand. And that's Darth Vader driving my
boat. I tell ya before I go to bed I gotta stop drinking
Glen's painkillers and margaritas, and coconut rum
and Tennessee moonshine, and Pinot Noir wine,
and I say I'm kind of a red wine person, I will drink
white wine occasionally, I like the taste of both.,
what am I talking about? Wake up , wake up, Wait, I
hear steel drums Dave, bring me back buddy. Come
on Wake up Wake up Wake up Wake up Wake up
Wake up, Howie. wake up
Man, I'm glad that's over... Good morning.... Huh?
Oh no.

Livin' on Key West Time

Howard M. Livingston

I've been around this world a few too many times
There's one place I never want to leave
It's an island 'bout 90 miles off of Havana
I've found paradise I believe

That's why I'm livin' on Key West time
Got a smile on my face that you can't erase
And I'm feelin' fine

There's something I think you need to know
If you come down here you gotta take it real slow
So put your watch in your pocket, there's no place
you need to be
'Cept sittin' on an island watchin' the sun set down
into the sea

That's why I'm livin' on Key West time
Got a smile on my face that you can't erase
And I'm feelin' fine

Every night's a Saturday night, everyday's a perfect
ten
When the sun goes down and the moon comes up
We get to do it all over again

Solo

Some people used to call me a city slicker
Now I'm referred to as that ol' guitar picker
And if you hang around here you know it won't take
very long
Before we drag out this old six string and start
singin' a song

That's why I'm livin' on Key West time
I've got a smile on my face that you can't erase

And I'm feelin' fine

Every night's a Saturday night, everyday's a perfect
ten
When the sun goes down and the moon comes up
We get to do it all over again

I'm livin' on Key West time
I'm livin' on Key West time
I'm livin' on Key West time
I'm livin' on Key West time

The Other Side Of The Rainbow

We were playin' at the Fair that night
So much fun we all were feeling right
A man came to me and said what a good time he
had
Recognized him from a newspaper ad

He was famous, he had it all
Lived in a mansion surrounded by a wall
He said I really like what you do
Can I talk to you?

What's it like on the other side of the rainbow
Sending your stress with the tide?
Can you tell me, how it feels livin' by the sea
What's it like on the other side

He said I've made some money, done real well
And I'm prisoner in my own jail
No matter what I do, I just can't break away
I keep saying some day, some day

What's it like on the other side of the rainbow
Sending your stress with the tide
Can you tell me, how it feels livin' by the sea
What's it like on the other side

Made it home the next week I walked to my dock
Sat there with a glass of wine
The dogs ran out, my little girl held my hand
What he said was running through my mind

This is what's it like on the other side of the rainbow
Sending your stress with the tide
Can't believe its me, livin' by the sea
This is what's it like on the other side