

Songs From A Lonely Chair



James Fraser

Welcome to my first collection of songs.

These were all written and recorded between 2007 and 2008 in my little home studio, on my lonely chair. Hopefully they demonstrate the gradual development of home recording techniques and song construction.

Most of my songs have been written for internet music forum contests. This means that they are made to a theme and a time limit.

I have grouped them into several loose categories. Songs 1 to 4 have been influenced by work I have been involved in with my local regeneration group.

I have included a set of folk standards with 5 to 7. Songs 8, 9 and 19 all have personal tales to tell. Songs 10 to 13 are all short pieces written to themes whereas songs 14 to 18, although written to themes, have an element of fun attached to them!

I would like to dedicate this collection to my family who have suffered my musical invasions with great dignity.

Special thanks go to my friends at Kara-moon.com



The Long Streets.

My home area, which used to have a thriving industrial heritage of shipbuilding and mining, was decimated in the '60's due to a general slump in engineering. The whole area became duntrodden and was made worse when a new highway was built through the middle of it. The local regeneration programme is about physical rebuilding along with community cohesion....trying to get the spirit back into the residents. This is the inspiration for this piece.

Looking Back (to move on)

There has been a real struggle recently to attempt some regeneration of my town. My local regeneration group had a recent project known as 'Images for change' where a group of local residents took photographs of the decline and compared these with old pictures of the area and gained anecdotal evidence from their older generations about how their past experiences could help the future.

The River Flows.

Another tune inspired by my surroundings.

Every Old Frame.

Another song about the decline of my town. Over recent years so many familiar old places have disappeared and people don't seem to care anymore. It's a general grumble about the downturn in social standards!

Red Red Rose.

Unashamedly sentimental, this was recorded specially for a Valentines Day contest, and dedicated to Denise. This is my re-working of the traditional Scottish song, My Love Is Like A Red Red Rose.

Lord Inchiquin.

This is a 'short' version of a classic Irish tune from the legendary 17th century blind harpist, Turlough O'Carolan. This is the very well known 'Lord Inchiquin' which, in a session, would normally be played twice through then key-changed to another tune to make up a set.

Si Beag Si Mor.

This is a traditional tune by the 17th century blind Irish harpist, Turlough O'Carolan. It is called Si Beag Si Mor (*pronounced Shebeg Shemore*) and is said to be about two hills on which a great battle took place and is reputed to be the first tune that O'Carolan wrote.

This House.

I wrote this song as a sort of commentary on the work that I have done in our home over the past ten years or so. It has been a steadily evolving restoration of a Victorian house where we have re-created a different time period in each room. The words refer to murals and artworks which accompany the various styles. It is an ongoing project which will never finish!

Lilah (May Queen)

I was inspired to write this tune when watching a set of children at a May Queen celebration. This is for my daughter, whose birthday is in this month. She is my May Queen!

Octobersong.

Wedding Waltz

Are all 'shorts' written for themed contests on internet music sites.

Autumn Equinox

March Wind.

.The Ghost of Caviar

Will You Be Mine

Again, are 'shorts' written for themed contests, but this time a bit of fun is attached. Much mimicry and humour is applied !

All Together Now

Broken Bottle Blues

Free For All (no whistle) Blues

The Tall Ships.

This tune was inspired by a visit of 'the Tall Ships Race' to the River Tyne, on which I live. Scores of these beautiful vessels were moored to the quayside for the public to inspect. The splendour and majesty of this sight gave me the idea for the tune. As I play it I try to imagine the feeling of being on the ocean with the sound of the seabirds and the wind in the sails.

All tracks, except 5, 6, & 7, which are traditional, written by James A. Fraser,

Acoustic guitars, electric guitars, acoustic bass, electric bass, penny whistles, mandolin, bodhran, tambourine, spoons, jug, keyboards, drum programming all played by James.

Recorded and mixed at OffTheWall Studios by James between 2007 & 2008

Songs From A Lonely Chair

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|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1 -- The Long Streets. | 5.43 |
| 2 -- Looking Back (to move on) | 4.57 |
| 3 -- The River Flows. | 4.08 |
| 4 -- Every Old Frame. | 4.30 |
| 5 -- Red Red Rose. | 2.00 |
| 6 -- Lord Inchiquin. | 1.41 |
| 7 -- Si Beag Si Mor. | 3.01 |
| 8 -- This House. | 4.32 |
| 9 -- Lilah (May Queen) | 2.00 |
| 10 -- Octobersong. | 2.00 |
| 11 -- Wedding Waltz | 2.00 |
| 12 -- Autumn Equinox. | 3.06 |
| 13 -- March Wind. | 2.00 |
| 14 -- The Ghost of Caviar. | 2.00 |
| 15 -- Will You Be Mine. | 1.00 |
| 16 -- All Together Now | 1.00 |
| 17 -- Broken Bottle Blues | 1.00 |
| 18 -- Free For All (no whistle) Blues | 2.00 |
| 19 -- The Tall ships. | 5.09 |



OTW 101

© All tracks,
2008 James A. Fraser
except 5, 6, 7
traditional, Arr. Fraser.

Recorded and mixed at
OffTheWall Studios,
South Shields,
Tyne & Wear

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO