

# MEET ME DOWNTOWN ORIGINALS

ALBUM LYRICS

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# **GASOLINE**

2006 © 2022 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

Hey you – hey you  
At the slippery junction  
Hey you – staying low in your seat  
Hey you – with the tire malfunction  
There's a hole in the middle of the street

## **Chorus**

Gasoline is the new perfume  
Smells like money – smells like dead  
Here's what glory hallelujah said  
Gasoline is the new perfume

## **Bridge**

What is here – here – here today  
Will soon be gone tomorrow  
And all your sorrow now  
Will be your joy tomorrow

## **Verse 2**

Thank god - thank god  
For the wreckage and ruin  
Thank god – for the hole in my soul  
Thank god – I don't know what I'm doing  
I might have it under control

**(Chorus)**

**(Bridge) 2x**

## **Tag**

Gasoline is the new perfume  
Gasoline is the new perfume  
Gasoline is the new perfume

# **SURVIVING YOU**

2006 © 2007 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

Rudder – rudder – without a rudder you can't steer your  
Boat in – clutter – if you don't clear away the clutter  
Thoughts and feelings start to weigh you down

## **Bridge**

If you take a tree branch and you start to shake it  
(Isolated leaves fall to the ground)  
Isolated leaves start falling down

## **Chorus**

Tell me your troubles and I'll sympathize  
Cry me a river and I'll dry your eyes  
But I've learned to stop caring or apologize  
That I'm still surviving you  
(I'm still here)  
Yes I'm still surviving you

## **Instrumental**

## **Verse 2**

You give reasons – but you don't have to have a reason  
(You don't have to have a reason)  
To give up the illusion of control  
Habits - habits – habits that have served their function  
(Outlived usefulness sometime ago)  
Outlived usefulness sometime ago

## **Bridge 2**

I tried moving the Empire State Building to Texas  
And I worked my fingers to the bone  
(and I worked my fingers to the bone)

## **Chorus 2**

Tell me your troubles and I'll sympathize (sympathize)  
Cry me a river and I'll dry your eyes (dry your eyes)  
But I've learned to stop caring or apologize (apologize)  
That I'm still surviving you (surviving you)  
Yes I'm still surviving you (surviving you)  
Yes I'm still surviving you  
Yes I am  
Yes I am  
Yes I am

# **BOTH PLACES AT ONCE**

1996 © 2017 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

I heard a story 'bout the walls of Jericho  
How an encircled city tumbled down  
And the power of spirit was in the evidence they found  
Of the shattered stones buried underground

## **Verse 2**

It makes me cry when I listen to the *Song of Bernadette*  
'Cause I yearn for the warmth of your touch  
And the miracle I long for is to lie with you in bed  
If I could just be both places at once

## **Chorus**

Both places at once – both places at once (now) – both places at once  
Both places at once – both places at once – both places at once

## **Bridge**

I found a field of four-leaf clover  
It's the best it gets when I found you  
You gave me love that is true  
It makes it hard to be apart from you

## **Verse 3**

The myths and legends tell the tale of a hero's quest  
How the moon is reconciled with the sun  
Comes a time when mother's sword and father's tongue are put to rest  
In deference to the knowledge of a new union

## **Verse 4**

To the top of the heavens – from the bottom of my soul  
I send love across the continent  
And if the power of contradiction was under my control  
Then I'd be both places at once

**(Chorus)**

**(Bridge)**

## **Tag**

If I could I'd be  
Both places at once – both places at once  
If I could I'd be  
Both places at once – both places at once

# STOVE UP

2000 © 2017 Roger Lienke

## Verse 1

Enid, Oklahoma – Duncan – Durant  
I pick up on what the other one can't  
Stove up – store it in the body  
Stove up – ain't no luddy doddy  
Ordinary life is like a puzzle to me  
Why I even bother is a mystery  
Stove up – stove up – stove up

## Verse 2

Sing for a nickel – sing for a dime  
I think I'll go out and get a bottle of wine  
Stove up – tight as a turkey  
Stove up – like a stick of beef jerky  
I know what you're thinkin' – I need new shoes  
I gotta keep drinkin' – till we lose these blues  
Stove up – stove up – stove up

## Chorus

I got tied in the middle of a railroad track  
I can hear the engine comin' clickety clack  
But your high heels are shiny as a Cadillac  
You look fit as a fiddle to me – you look fit as a fiddle to me

## Verse 3

Cheers for the hustle – cheers from the crowd  
Might as well cuss as say my prayers too loud  
Stove up – closed for the summer  
Stove up – I was an up and comer  
But it don't amount to nothin' – nothin' at all  
It don't pay fussin' 'bout the height of the wall  
Stove up – stove up – stove up

(Chorus) x2

## Tag

Stove up – I'm all stove up  
Shoo anxiety  
Ow

# TOO MUCH MUSIC

2006 © 2017 Roger Lienke

## Verse 1

You say you got a problem – you say it’s pretty bad  
You say you got the mis’ries – like none you ever had  
Don’t you know anyone can prosper – any fool can see  
As long as you got the right music – it will surely set you free

## Chorus

But there’s too much music – there’s too much music in this world  
And every time I think about it – it’s getting more and more clear to me  
That there’s too much music in this world

## Verse 2

Johnny Cash sang about the pris’ners – the outcasts of society  
Stevie Wonder sang about “Superstition” – stronger than piety  
The Blue Yodeler - Jimmy Rogers - sang about a hobo on a train  
And Don and Phil Everly sang about “Crying in the Rain”

## (Chorus)

## Verse 3

On the juke box in the honky-tonk – Elvis Presley’s “Heartbreak Hotel”  
On the muzak in the elevator – Paul McCartney’s my “Michelle”  
The Stylistics [O’Jays ;)] on the oldies station singin’ she “Use Ta Be My Girl”  
And Herman’s Hermits heard it first from Skeeter Davis  
Don’t you know it’s “The End of the World”

## (Chorus)

## Tag

Too much – too much music – it’s too easy to ignore  
There’s too much music – people don’t seem to let it sink in that far anymore  
(Hey) there’s too much music – to hear the music of circumstance  
There’s too much music – not enough silence of grace and chance  
There’s too much music – there’s too much music  
Too much

And every time I think about it – it’s getting more and more clear to me  
That there’s too much music in this world  
Too much music – too much music  
In this world

# **STUBBORN LOVE**

1996 © 2022 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

It's my stubborn love that won't let go  
It's my stubborn heart that needs you so  
It's my stubborn dream that comes at night  
And my stubborn arms that hold you tight  
It's my stubborn love – my stubborn love – it's my stubborn love

## **Verse 2**

It's my stubborn love that will not cease  
It's a stubborn urge that seeks release  
It's a stubborn voice insisting I  
Have a stubborn love that will not die  
It's my stubborn love – my stubborn love – it's my stubborn love

## **Verse 3**

It's my stubborn hope that never learns  
It's a stubborn flame that always burns  
It's my stubborn wish I keep alive  
That your stubborn love will soon be mine  
It's my stubborn love – my stubborn love – it's my stubborn love

## **Verse 4**

It's my stubborn pride that won't turn 'round  
It's a stubborn wind that won't die down  
It's a stubborn truth – it's you I love  
With a stubborn love I'm speaking of  
Such a stubborn love – my stubborn love – it's my stubborn love

## **Tag**

My stubborn love – it's my stubborn love  
My stubborn love – it's my stubborn love

# **INNOCENCE**

1978 © 1980 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

Oh my innocence - you're not who you think you are

(No - no - no - no - no)

Innocence - you're not who you think you are

## **Verse 2**

Oh my innocence - you're not who you're known to be

(No - no - no - siree)

Innocence - you're not who you're known to be

## **Chorus 1**

There's a you in there you ought to show

Come and share the things you know

Innocence - you're not who you're known to be

(La - la - la - la - la - la)

## **Instrumental**

## **Chorus 2**

There's a you in there you ought to show

Come and share the things you know

Innocence - you're not who you think you are

## **Verse 2 (A cappella)**

## **Verse 1**

## **Chorus 2**

## **Tag**

You are - you are

You are - you are - you are

You are - you are - you are



# **BEELINE TO BETTY**

2003 © 2017 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

You know I'm walking straight and steady  
Because I'm red hot and I'm ready  
I'm on a beeline – beeline to Betty

## **Verse 2**

She's wearing glossy boots and a teddy  
I feel like tossing some confetti  
I'm on a beeline – beeline to Betty

## **Bridge 1**

She moved into my neighborhood last week  
I want to tell her she's so fine  
But my tongue gets tied when I try to speak  
Words of love that are gonna make her mine

## **Verse 3**

She's spicy meatballs and spaghetti  
And she's like poetry by Ferlinghetti  
I'm on a beeline – beeline to Betty

## **Bridge 2**

She's no ho humdinger – she can ring my bell  
Like nobody ever could  
(And) When she's out walkin' - you can always tell  
She leaves people talkin' - cause she looks so good

## **Verse 4**

Can't keep my heart beat – beatin' steady  
Because I'm red hot and I'm ready  
I'm on a beeline – beeline to Betty  
I'm on a beeline – beeline to Betty  
One more time  
I'm on a beeline – beeline to Betty

# **RUN TOGETHER**

1976 © 1993, 2007 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

Through the grassy fields and the violet haze  
We'll run together – we'll run together  
Like water on the streets on a rainy day  
We'll run together – we'll run together

## **Pre-Chorus 1**

Like paint upon a canvas or colors in a rainbow  
The die they use in madras or raindrops on a window

## **Chorus**

Two streams become a river that travels through a canyon  
Heading toward an ocean where rivers run together

## **Verse 2**

Through an open door to the valley below  
We'll run together – we'll run together  
Like thoughts we had before only moments ago  
We'll run together – we'll run together

## **Pre-Chorus 2**

Like waves upon the shoreline or shadows after sunset  
The things that haven't happened and dreams that are not born yet

**(Chorus)**

**Instrumental**

**(Pre-Chorus 1)**

**(Chorus) 2x**

# **IF THE FILLY WINS**

© 1993, 2007, 2017, 2022 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

When the rain starts to fall on the tin  
And the mournful coyote call  
I'm a rocking horse rider alone with the wind  
I let the chips fall where they fall  
But my luck has been no good at all

## **Verse 2**

There's no home any more on the range  
Where the buffalo roam  
And the names of the owners of farms have all changed  
My future is gnawed to the bone  
And I'm too many miles from my home

## **Chorus**

If the filly wins – I'll be out from under  
If the filly wins – things are gonna change  
The filly runs – she runs like thunder  
My life begins – if the filly wins

## **Verse 3**

I'm a lonesome traveler with nowhere to go  
I spend all of my time on my own  
And the chances of having somebody to hold  
They come twice in this lifetime I'm told  
And the first was a long time ago

**(Chorus) 2x**

## **Tag**

My life begins – if the filly wins

# **HOT LINE TO HEAVEN**

1975 © 2017 Roger Lienke

## **Verse 1**

I'm on a hot line to heaven  
I gotta find me an angel  
I gotta get me some help today  
All my troubles seem to pile up on me  
I need a special love today  
So come on – please heed my call  
I need you – and that is all  
Don't tell me all of the lines are dead  
I'd leave my number if you promised to call  
And help me rest my head

## **Verse 2**

I'm on a dead run for cover  
Cause I lost me a lover  
Who meant more than the world to me  
I drank my water til the well ran dry  
And now I'm deep in misery  
So come on – give me a buzz  
I don't know – what good it does  
For me to go on and live this way  
Please tide me over til the storm has blown by  
Taking all my blues away

## **Bridge**

It's so understandable – why you'd run away from me  
But now I'm down on my knees  
And I'm begging you please  
To come home – to come home – to come home

## **Instrumental**

(Bridge)

(Verse 1)