

STEVE BARTON - TIME HARD WON - STEVE'S TRACK NOTES

OFF THE GROUND

This was the first song written for the album. It deals with memories and how they differ from person to person. Something I remembered made me feel like you'd want me around, but I could have been wrong. You are never really in someone else's head.

SHE'S YOUR OCEAN NOW

I play all the instruments on this one. My longtime drummer Dave Scheff is on all of the other songs. Michael Smith did a stellar job mixing the album in London, and really made the drums sound good on this. This song is about someone drowning in obsession.

EVERYTHING LASTS FOREVER

In several of my songs over the years I've been intrigued by flipping common expressions around. So, rather than 'nothing lasts forever', I switched it to 'everything.' We are the sum of our experiences after all. We grow and change and forget and forgive. Some experiences cast a longer shadow or have deeper claws, but it is all in there, making us who we are. Everything Lasts Forever was written on the piano and for this recording I played the piano in the front room of my house in Portland, an upright from 1923.

LOVE IS SOUL

I misheard a lyric one day (it might have been "love is all") from an old 60s soul record. I immediately went home and wrote this song. Dave's drums on this are spectacular.

OURS AND OURS ALONE

I remember sitting in a cafe on a beat up couch, falling under love's spell. It ends up being about much more than that. People can make of the story what they will. To me, it talks about being willing to 'jump in' and see where it leads.

TIE ME TO THE TRACKS

I've had the line "you are a 45 rpm rainy day" floating around in my brain for many years. It has been in many failed attempts at songwriting. Once it appeared for this one, I knew it was in the right song. I really like the atmosphere on this number. Dreamy.

ANY ANYWHERE

I had the title for this song first. It all came from the title. I channel Colin Moulding from XTC for my bass part.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

This is really two songs going on at the same time. I was inspired by Talking Heads, where long melody lines would be sung over more clipped melodies. Kind of a cool vibe.

AFTER EVERYWHERE

A song about wanting things to change. Yearning. Pleading.

TIME HARD WON

Recorded by my old pal Ron Fair in Nashville (along with "Off The Ground" and "Ours And Ours Alone"). A piano song. This was the obvious choice for album title in my eyes. Really fits as the closing track. There is an existential quality to this album, a sense of longing. The concept of 'time hard won' seems to sum it up, so it became the album title.
