

If Not Now

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ALOHA - 3:37
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Special thanks to

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Michael Croiter, Billy Bivona, Martin Howley,
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Cameron Moncur, and my forever school friends.
Your guidance, support and artistry made this
album possible. I love all of you very much and
am eternally grateful.

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www.brucejohnsonmusic.com

Bruce Johnson

If Not Now



In my estimation, sharing music with someone is one of the greatest gifts. Whether it is introducing someone to a new artist you like, getting a mixtape from a friend, pointing out something particularly cool in your favorite song, your brother-in-law giving you a pair of old drumsticks because he knows you like to play air drums, or singing at the top of your lungs with a friend while driving down the road. Music brings us together.

Growing up in Iowa, my mother filled our home with music. I don't think she realized the extent to which she was either singing or humming to herself, but it warmed our home. I shared a bedroom with my brother Grant growing up, and I remember him saving to buy stereo components. My life forever changed the moment he put his headphones on my head and played The Beatles for me. I never knew music could sound so good and it just filled my entire being. He took me shopping for my first album. Of course I didn't have a stereo, so I think I was just buying him another album for his collection, but the concept of having music I could listen to over and over again was thrilling to my little kid head.

I listened to Grant sing solos in the choir and thought nothing could be greater than that. I wanted to sing like him. His voice was clear and effortless. I have gotten the pleasure of singing with Grant only a handful of times, and they are cherished memories.

Then came the next big gift: twenty of Grant's favorite albums recorded onto ten cassette tapes for

me to listen to while driving. James Taylor, Kenny Loggins and James Ingram became my voice teachers. Then friends started recommending singers to me, something which continues to this day. Al Jarreau would change the way I looked at what a voice could do. It was inspiring listening to him use his voice as an instrument. And the happiness it brought him sharing his gift with others was infectious.

In college I met Jay R McAlexander and had the good fortune of him playing the piano with me while I sang a solo. I say "playing the piano with me" instead of accompanying me, or playing for me, because that is exactly what he did. He was with me breath for breath, emotion for emotion. It is a musical feeling I have chased my whole life.

Found in moments like singing the balcony scene from West Side Story with Christine Toy Johnson or with less than twenty-four hours notice going on for the lead in The Secret Garden in a theatre with over one thousand people in the audience and looking at McCrae Hardy conducting in the pit and everything about his gaze back at me saying, "We're in this together, so don't worry. I got you." To really "make music" with people is pretty rare, but it's truly an amazing feeling.

As a listener, it's an intangible thing you just feel. Great musicians, can play a song together and it sounds great, but it may feel like it's missing something. But when they connect and all those hours of practice become second nature and the emotion and joy of making music as a single unit comes through, you just feel it.



Doug Schuster Grant Johnson

That was the goal of this album for me. To have fun and find the joy in making music with thoughtful, talented artists who invited the challenge of my crazy ideas about reimagining the singers and songs that have influenced me throughout my life. I was lucky to get to hang out with world class musicians from the Broadway and National Touring companies of COME FROM AWAY. These gifted cats took my ideas and never failed to come back with something better than I could have hoped for.

These songs all represent huge moments in the mosaic that is my life. I leaned into my Scottish roots and my love of acoustic live instruments and sounds, mixed it all together with R&B, Pop, Jazz, and Folk to create a unique Rockabilly/Bluegrass sound, and with the help of these great artists hopefully produced something that you enjoy because you hear that intangible connection I've felt "making music."



Michael Croiter

THE ARTISTS

- Bruce JohnsonLead Vocals
- Billy BivonaAcoustic & Electric Guitar, Band & Vocal Arrangements
- Steve HollowayBodhrán, Snare, Drum Kit, Shaker
- Michael CroiterDrum Kit
- Martin HowleyMandolin, Banjo, Band Arrangements
- Kiana June WeberFiddle
- Max CalkinUpright Bass
- Sean RubinUpright Bass
- Isaac AldersonUilleann Pipes, Flute, Whistle
- Taaja WarbelowFiddle
- Adam StolerBouzouki, Mandolin, Electric Guitar
- Jay R McAlexanderPiano
- Christine Toy Johnson, Jennifer McVey, Danielle K. ThomasFeatured Vocals
- Roosevelt André Credit, Caleb Grissett, Christine Toy Johnson, Julie JohnsonVocals
- Joshua Zecher-RossVocal Arrangements
- Bobby CroninVocal Arrangements
- Tyler JonesVocal Arrangements
- Dave McCraeRecording Engineer
- Third Eye Studio, Santa Fe NM
- Steve RizzoRecording Engineer
- Stable Sound Studio, Portsmouth RI
- Josh LealRecording Engineer
- Sun Studios, Tempe AZ
- Bruce JohnsonRecording Engineer
- Moongate Studio, New York NY
- Lien Bao DoRecording Engineer
- Women's Audio Mission, San Francisco CA
- Rob MillerRecording Engineer
- Spokane Productions, Liberty Lake WA
- Tom GardnerRecording Engineer
- Rift Studios, Brooklyn NY
- John MontagneseRecording Engineer
- Carriage House Studio, Stamford CT
- Matthias WinterRecording Engineer
- Yellow Sound Label, New York NY
- Michael CroiterMixing Engineer
- Yellow Sound Label, New York NY
- Michael FossenkemperMixing Engineer
- TurtleTone Studio, New York NY

1. ONE MORE RHYTHM

*Songwriter - Rodney Lynn Temperton
Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Max, Tyler*

Mighty music light me up tonight
I can feel the good times comin' on
Out on the street the beat is burnin' bright
And every fantasy is filled inside a song

Your inhibitions slowly slip away
The look inside your eyes can say it all
Can't hide the magic of a night like this
Got to get on up, give in to love
It's easy when you fall because there's

[chorus]

One more rhythm to start you dreamin'
There's one more groove you can try
Got to keep on dancin' 'til mornin' light
Because there's one more rhythm to ride

The band is stompin', smokin' to the beat
A perfect time for lovers everywhere
And when I hold your body close to me
I know it's more than just tonight
we're gonna share!

Shinin' figures, dancin' in a dream
A boogie ballet bathed in candlelight, oo
This is a moment only love can see
Gotta take a chance on this romance
And never say goodnight because there's

[chorus]

You know the party's never over
As long as love is in your heart
Girl, everything you do

Just keeps me wantin' you
This is the time to let that magic rhythm start

Dig in Max! Get it!



There's always *[chorus]*

One more rhythm to start you dreamin'
There's one more groove you can try
Got to keep on dancin' 'til mornin' light
Because there's one more rhythm,
there's always dreamin'
There's one more rhythm you can ride!

2. COUNTRY ROAD

*Songwriter - James Taylor
Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Max*

Take to the highway
won't you lend me your name
Your way and my way
seem to be one and the same

Mama don't understand it
She wants to know where I've been
I'd have to be some kind of natural born fool
To want to pass that way again
But you know I could feel it
On a country road

Sail on home to Jesus
won't you good girls and boys
I'm all in pieces, you can have your own choice
'Cause I can see a heavenly band full of angels
And they're comin' to set me free
I don't know much about the why or when
But I can tell that it's bound to be
But you know I could feel it, child, yeah
On a country road

I guess my feet know where they want me to go
Walking on a country road

Take to the highway
won't you lend me your name
Your way and my way
seem to be one and the same
Mama don't understand it
She wants to know where I've been
I'd have to be some kind of natural born fool
to wanna pass that way again!
But I could feel it!
On a country road

Walk on down, walk on down, walk on down
Walk on down, walk on down a country road

La la na na na na na na
na na na na
na na na na na na
da da da da doh dow (3x)



3. BLACKBIRD

*Lyrics - Paul McCartney
Music - John Lennon
Bruce, Danielle, Billy, Max*

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see
All your life
You were only waiting
for this moment to be free

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly
Into the dark black night

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly
Into the dark and lonely night

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life

You've (I have just) been only waiting
for this moment to arise
You've (I have just) been only waiting
for this moment to arise
You've (I have just) been only waiting
for this moment to arise

You've been only waiting
for this moment to arise
To arise
To arise
Moment to arise

Into (I am) the light,
of (in) the night...

4. CALLING YOU

Songwriter - Bob Telson
Arranged by Joshua, Bobby, & Bruce
All vocals Bruce

I am calling you.

A desert road from Vegas to nowhere,
Some place better than where you've been.
A coffee machine that needs some fixin'
In a little café just around the bend.

I am calling you.
Can't you hear me?
I am calling you.

A hot dry wind blows right through me.
The baby's crying and I can't sleep,
And we both know a change is coming,
Coming closer sweet release.

I am calling you.
Can't you hear me?
I am calling you.

A desert road from vegas to nowhere,
Some place better than where you've been.
A coffee machine that needs some fixin'
In a little café just around the bend.

A hot dry wind blows right through me.
The baby's crying and I can't sleep
And I can feel a change is coming,
Coming closer sweet release.

I am calling you.
I know you hear me!
I am calling you.

A desert road from vegas to nowhere...



5. I BELIEVE IN LOVE

*Songwriters: Alan & Marilyn Bergman/
Kenny Loggins*
*Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Sean,
Isaac, Julie*

I see faces
Covered up and empty eyed
Empty spaces
Where there used to be soul inside
Nothin' and no one ever gets to them
Seems the wind could blow right through them
Believin' in gods that never knew them
I believe in love

[chorus]

I believe in love, I do!
I believe I'm feelin' good
I'm feeling love! (feeling love is feeling good)
I believe in love
Feeling love is feeling good!

Worry
Climbin' up your money tree
You got to hurry
Monkey do what the monkey see

You're on a one-way street and you're speedin'
Missin' signs you should be readin'
Passin' things you'll later be needin'
I believe in love

[chorus]

I'm feeling love! (feeling love is feeling good)
I believe in love!
Feeling love is feeling good!

I'll never be lonely!
Sleepin' in an empty bed
Shouldn't be only, just a place to rest my head

But I don't want to find myself one day
Wakin' up and lookin' at Monday
With some 'what's-her-name' left from Sunday
I believe in love

I believe it, nobody sold me
Always knew it, nobody told me
I believe in someone to hold me
I believe in love

[chorus]

Oo-oo-oo-oo (feeling love is feeling good)
Feelin' love is feelin' good
Feelin' love is feelin' good

6. RIBBON IN THE SKY

Songwriter - Stevie Wonder
Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Max

Oh, so long before this night I prayed
That a star would guide you my way
To share with me this special day
Where a ribbons in the sky for our love

If allowed may I touch your hand
And if pleased may I once again
So that you too would understand
There's a ribbon in the sky for our love

This is not a coincidence
And far more than a lucky chance
But what is that was always meant

Is a ribbon in the sky for our love
 Love, we can't lose with God on our side
 We'll find strength in each tear we cry
 From now on it will be you and I
 And a ribbon in the sky
 Ribbon in the sky
 Ribbon in the sky for our love

There's a ribbon in the sky
 Ribbon in the sky
 Ribbon in the sky for our love

7. WALKIN'

*Songwriter: Bryan Duncan
 Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Sean,
 Isaac, Julie*

Met an ugly man in Reno
 Ladies hangin' on his arm
 In a lipstick-red Porsche downtown,
 sellin' his charm
 Dealin' out a new prescription
 A faster way to make things pay
 "Step into my bargain basement, Boy.
 Let me show you my tray."
 He says, "Heaven is a long way later.
 These'll keep you flyin' high."

Well I'll keep walkin', thank you
 Yeah I'll keep walkin', thank you hehe
 A skinny man in horn-rim glasses
 Chokin' on a power tie
 He's rolled up in a Wall Street Journal, hmm
 "You disinform, you don't lie."
 A gamble on a speculation
 Redefine a cardinal sin
 "You're runnin' on a fast-track theory, baby

You gotta cheat to win"
 He says, "Heaven is a long way later
 You gotta run to beat the bottom line."

Well, I'll keep walkin', thank you
 I'll keep walkin' thank you! Whoo!

Cannibal who thinks he's Moses
 Underneath a fine toupee
 A handle on a revelation baby
 "Righteousness the easy way"
 A vision and a confirmation
 Emotional in every plea
 "Take a precious few to Gloryland
 'cause everyone's wrong but me."
 He says, "Heaven is a long way later.
 Get a ticket on the Glory Train!"

Well I'll keep walkin', thank you
 Yeah I'll keep walkin', thank you! Wow!

Heaven is a long way later.
 Don't you wanna walk with me?
 Heaven is a long way later. Walk with me
 He says heaven is a long way later, Baby.
 Come on... Walk with me
 Ha! Heaven is a long way later, Baby.
 Don't ya wanna walk with me?

Sing it (Heaven is a long way later)
 (Heaven is a long way later)
 Heaven is a long way later, Baby.
 Walk with me.
 Come on...(Heaven is a long way later)
 Don't ya wanna walk with me?
 He says heaven is a long way later...
 Walk with me
 (Heaven is a long way later)



8. SHE'S HOT (BURNING UP)

*Songwriter: Jonathan Butler
 Bruce, Billy, Steve, Sean, Taija, Max,
 Michael, Adam, Roosevelt, Joshua*

She stepped into the picture,
 grabbed a hold of me
 I've had some pretty girls,
 but she's the best I've ever seen
 She can stop a truck
 rolling down a hill
 I'd be cold out right now
 if good looks could kill!

[chorus]

(Ooh-ooh) got me burning up
 (She's hot, she's hot) burning up, (she's
 hot) baby babe
 (Ooh-ooh) got me burning
 (She's hot, she's hot) burning up, (she's
 hot) yeah

I am on a mission
 to make her mine exclusively
 I got plenty of competition -
 that don't mean a thing to me
 Gonna knock them down,
 they better run for cover
 I'll be alone with her
 when this evening is over

[chorus]

When I'm with her
 time just flashes by
 Eat your heart out, fellas,
 'cause I'm riding high

[chorus x4]

9. ONLY A MIRACLE

*Songwriters: Kenny Loggins/Michael McDonald
Bruce, Jay R, Taija, Adam, Billy, Max*

I've always said that I believe
anything can happen
Lately I've been wonderin'
if that's really true
For a boy, time can be a lovely dance
Then suddenly the music can fade
And leave the man alone and dreamless
Until he only sees
that he's used up all his chances after all

'Til now only a miracle could do
to save the man I've turned into
Won't somebody let me know,
where's my miracle?

Love, it always seemed so easy
Just like a child who plays with
imaginary friends
I could see the face of someone I believed
But only in the words of a song
And then she came along and got me dreamin'
And that's when you began
And when I held you,
I held a miracle in my hands

'Til now only a miracle could do,
I've found the boy I was in you
You've come to let me know there are miracles

And now only a miracle could do
what I have finally found in you
I've gotta let you know I believe again

Miracles can happen in the end



10. MILLWORKER

*Songwriter: James Taylor
Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Sean,
Isaac, Jennifer, Christine, Joshua*

My grandfather was a sailor
He blew in off the water
My father was a farmer and I, his only daughter
I took up with a no good millworking
man from Nova Scotia
Who dies from too much whiskey
And leaves me these three faces to feed

Millwork ain't easy
Millwork ain't hard
Millwork, it ain't nothing
but an awful boring job
I'm waiting on a daydream
To take me through the morning

And put me in my coffee break
where I can have a sandwich
And remember...

Then it's me and my machine
For the rest of the morning
And the rest of the afternoon
And the rest of my life

Now my mind begins to wander
To the days back on the farm
I can see my father smiling at me
swinging on his arm
I can hear my granddad's stories
Of the storms out on the ocean
Where vessels and cargos and fortunes
And sailors' lives were lost

Yeah, but it's my life, has been wasted
And I have been the fool
To let this manufacturer use my body for a tool
I'll ride home every evening
staring at my hands
Swearing by my sorrow that a young girl
Ought to stand a better chance

So, may I work the mills
just as long as I am able
And never meet the man
whose name is on the label

It's still me and my machine
For the rest of the morning
And the rest of the afternoon, gone
For the rest of my life



11. WE'RE IN THIS LOVE TOGETHER/ALOHA

*Songwriters: Keith Stegall / Roger Alan Murrah
Bruce, Christine, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana,
Sean, Isaac*

It's like a diamond ring. It's a precious thing
And we never want to lose it
It's like a favorite song that we love to sing
Ev'ry time we hear the music

And we're in this love together
We got a kind that lasts forever
(A L O H A - A little Aloha in our day)
We're in this love together
And like berries on the vine
It's gettin' sweeter all the time
(A L O H A - A little Aloha in our day,
Spread a little Aloha around the world)

It's like a rainy night and candlelight
And ooh, it's so romantic
We got the whole thing working out so right
And it's just the way we planned it

And we're in this love together
We got a kind that lasts forever
(A L O H A - A little Aloha in our day)
Don't you know we're in this love together
And like berries on the vine
It's getting sweeter all the time

We're in this love together
We got a kind that lasts forever
(A L O H A - A little Aloha in our day)
We're in this love together
We got a kind that brings to mind
a favorite song! Yeah, yeah.



(A L O H A -
A little Aloha in our day)

Aloha means hello. And Aloha means goodbye
And Aloha means I love you
and I want to take you higher!
With a little Aloha!
Don't you know we're in this love together
We got a kind that love that opens up the door.
Yeah, yeah.

Let's spread a little bit of Aloha,
put a little love in your heart
Take a little trip to the ocean - oh yeah, uh huh

12. LIVING IN THE MOMENT

*Songwriters: Jason Mraz / Richard W. Jr. Nowels
Bruce, Billy, Steve, Martin, Kiana, Max,
Christine, Caleb, Julie*

If this life is one act
Why do we lay all these traps?
We put 'em right in our path
When we just wanna be free

I will not waste my days
Making up all kinds of ways
To worry 'bout all the things
That will not happen for me

So I just let go of what I know I don't know
And I know I'll only do this by
Living in the moment. Living my life
Easy and breezy. With peace in my mind
Peace in my heart. Peace in my soul
Wherever I'm going, I'm already home
Living in the moment

I'm letting myself off the hook for things I've done
I let my past go past
And now I'm having more fun
I'm letting go of the thoughts
That do not make me strong
And I believe this way can feel the same for everyone

And if I fall asleep
I know you'll be the one who'll always remind me
To live in the moment. To living my life
Easy and breezy. With peace in my mind
Got peace in my heart. Got peace in my soul
Wherever I'm going, I'm already home

I can't walk through life facing backwards
I have tried, tried more than once to just make sure
And I was denied the future I've been searching for
I spun around and hurt no more
By living in the moment. Living my life
Easy and breezy. Got peace in my mind

Got peace in my heart. Got peace in my soul
Wherever I'm going, I'm already home

I'm living in the moment (I'm letting myself off)
Living my life (the hook for things I've done)
Taking it easy (I let my past go past)
With peace in my mind (and now I'm having more fun)

Got peace in my heart (I'm letting go of the thoughts)
Got peace in my soul (that do not make me strong)
Wherever I'm going, I'm already home
(and I believe this way can be the same for everyone)

I'm a living in the moment (I'm letting myself off)
I'm a living my life (the hook for things I've done)
Just takin' it easy (I let my past go past)
Got peace in my mind (and now I'm having more fun)

Got peace in my heart (I'm letting go of the thoughts)
Got peace in my soul (that do not make me strong)
Wherever I'm going, I'm already home
(and I believe this way can be the same for everyone)

I'm living in the moment (I'm letting myself off)
Living my life (the hook for things I've done)
Just takin' it easy (I let my past go past)
Got peace in my mind (and now I'm having more fun)

Got peace in my heart (I'm letting go of the thoughts)
Peace in my soul (that do not make me strong)
Wherever I'm going, I'm already home
(and I believe this way can be the same for everyone)

Living in the moment (I'm letting myself off)
Just living my life (the hook for things I've done)
I'm takin' it easy (I let my past go past)
Got peace in my mind (and now I'm having more fun)

Got peace in my heart (I'm letting go of the thoughts)
Got peace in my soul (that do not make me strong)
Taking it easy, just easy and breezy
(and I believe this way can be the same for everyone)
Living in the moment



Isaac Alderson

Bruce Johnson

Billy Bivona

Steve Holloway

Sean Rubin

Kiana June Weber

Martin Howley