

Hidden Gems Album Credits

Musicians:

Jan Garrett: Vocals, Shaker
JD Martin: Vocals, Piano, Track Programing
Rick Cowling: Acoustic Guitar
Brent Rowan: Acoustic Guitar
Marcy Baruch: Vocals
John Michel: Drums

Photos: Jamie Houston

CD Cover Design: Scott Johnson

**All songs mixed and mastered by
JD Martin & Jan Garrett**

Songwriting Credits And Stories as told by Jan Garrett

1. What Matters in the End

Words and Music by Jan Garrett, JD Martin, Lisa Firestone © 2014

2014: Our dear friend Lisa Firestone was living in a beautiful old log cabin on the Dark Horse studios just outside of Nashville. JD and I showed up for a couple of days between gigs to play music with Lisa, and there she was, brilliant singer-songwriter, bad boyfriend, great piano. Perfect set-up to pool our talents and write a song about what really matters in the end! We all loved how it came out, but JD and I couldn't find a way to include it in any of the CDs we were putting together at that time. So it somehow got lost in the mists of time until we re-discovered it very recently and fell in love with it all over again. We kept the original vocal but changed the groove, and it seems like now is the perfect time to put it out into the world. "What will we do with our wild and precious life? Hanging in the balance with our souls on fire...."

2. The Silence in the Sound

Words and Music by Jan Garrett, JD Martin, Rick Cowling © 2024

January 2024. We were staying with our co-writer Rick and his wife Sherry at their home near Thousand Oaks, California. It was a beautiful sunny Saturday, and Sherry had to go off on some extended errands. We were already organized for our concert the next day at their spiritual center, so Rick, JD, and I had the whole Saturday afternoon to hang out and play around with song ideas. In my experience, musical inspirations (what I like to call my song angels) often sneak in when you're not looking. I was in the kitchen searching for a snack, and JD was noodling around on the piano....playing some beautiful spacious open-ended chords. Halfway between the peanut

butter and the jelly, without any effort on my part, I started hearing these lines in my head, "The quiet behind the noisy world, the silence before the sound. The love that fills the emptiness in the spaces all around." Wow! I quickly wrote it down. Perfect lyrics for a first verse, and it rhymed without me having to think about it. How does that happen? This song poured out in the next couple of hours with JD on piano, Rick on innovative guitar and strong lead vocal, and me chiming in, singing whatever words seemed to fit at the time. In the end, we all contributed to the lyric, and together we sketched out some gorgeous harmonies for the chorus. When we recorded it later in our home studio, I took over the melody, and Marcy Baruch joined JD on harmony vocals. Rick's beautiful energy comes through in his haunting guitar work, and now the song has taken on a life of its own. "Here in this holy moment I stand on higher ground. And I listen for the whisper...the silence in the sound."

3. Alive

Words and Music by Jan Garrett, JD Martin, David Roth © 2020

The Covid 19 Pandemic lock-down began in mid-March of 2020, as we all know. Those first couple of months were incredibly stressful for JD and me because all of our live gigs were instantly cancelled. And I had to send all my students home too. So, Zero income. And nobody knew what was really going on with the Coronavirus. Was this like the Spanish Flu of 1918? There was no vaccine at that time. The news just kept reporting that people were dying all over the place. The locals in our town took it seriously, and everybody pretty much stayed inside except for emergencies. There was almost no traffic on the streets. To keep myself sane, I began taking long walks around the neighborhood by myself, and in spite of the bad news on the radio I found myself relishing the wild spring blossoming everywhere. Without any judgement I began to notice a curious thing: With the humans out of the way, it was clear that the natural world had started to flourish. A month or two into the lockdown I heard songbirds that I hadn't seen in Colorado since I was a kid. Everywhere I looked the world was alive! We heard reports that a mountain lion was seen sauntering down a street in Boulder. JD and I had earlier begun writing a song via Zoom with our good friend David Roth, who was living in Cape Cod, but after a couple of online meetings our ideas started diverging. Sometimes that long distance thing works and sometimes it doesn't. We ended up writing 3 separate songs. This one, which I ended up simply calling "Alive" still makes me smile, in the midst of whatever else may be happening in the world. "We're alive, and we're already home."

Thank you to Brent Rowan for the amazing guitar tracks.

4. Dirt Rich

Words and Music by JD Martin, Bobby Mason, Kim Nuzzo © 2008

Way back in 2008 JD and I were in an intimate 'Artist Way' group (based on the book by Julia Cameron) with our good friends Bobby Mason, Kim Nuzzo, and Julie Wyckoff. One random Tuesday morning, Kim, a longtime counselor in the substance abuse recovery community, brought us a powerful poem he had just written which included the words "Dirt rich in dollar town." JD

locked eyes with fellow musician Bobby Mason, known locally as "The King of Rock & Roll. They knew instantly that they could write a great song with that idea, especially since we were all sitting in the town of Aspen, Colorado. This is an anthem dedicated to the heart and soul of hometown musicians everywhere, alive and well, who survive and appreciate what really matters in the thick of....well....an uber-wealthy place like Aspen....Dollar Town.

5. On the Wings of a Song

Words and Music by Jan Garrett & JD Martin © 2023

When we were in the grips of the Pandemic, I re-organized my sock drawer....and my thoughts...every other week. At a certain point, I realized that I had no idea where we (or the world) were headed. And even though JD and I were producing videos of our original songs every week, (Saturday Songs & Stories) we were both feeling a bit adrift. One cold November day I heard these words in my head and they made me laugh out loud, "I find myself I know not where, my old obsessions beyond repair." Hahahaha. But then JD and I look at each other and realized that we could turn that idea into a song. Because no matter what else was going on, "There is music in the air, on the wings of a song." We were looking for a simple and old-fashioned approach to the recording, like a tune that might have been sung in the 1860's, like a scene out of the movie "Cold Mountain." JD nailed that deep and soulful feeling with his piano playing, and we hired Daniel Kepel to play violin for a feeling of old-timey authenticity. We later recorded another version (track 11) with Marcy Baruch on harmony vocals. We love them both!

6. Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Music by Michael Praetorius; Words by Theodore Baker

This lovely Christmas Carol was written by German composer Michael Praetorius in 1609. It has always been a favorite of both JD's and mine, even before we met. Those startling harmonies, that gorgeous late renaissance inter-weaving of vocal lines, suspending and resolving at different times. So satisfying! As a central part of our annual Winter Solstice Concerts for the past 30-some years, JD and I have always sung it this song as a duet. But one winter, when we were visiting with Carole & Roger Tomhave in Virginia and getting ready for a performance, Carole added a high harmony. Lovely! Those angelic top notes are the beautiful and obvious missing piece that lifts the song and glues it all together. When Marcy Baruch came to Colorado for a concert last June, we ushered her into the studio and recorded her gorgeous voice on that high harmony. (Our original version of "Lo, How a Rose," combined with the Welsh folk carol "All Through the Night" can be found on our Christmas album, "All These Gifts." Both versions are healing balm for the Heart.)

7. There is a Rose

Words and Music by Jan Garrett, JD Martin, Marcy Baruch © 2024

June 2024. Right after we finished recording Marcy's high harmony part on "Lo How a Rose," we were sitting around the kitchen table, snacking and schmoozing, lost in the beautiful harmonies

of the 17th century...the musical fragrance of the Rose we had just been immersed in. We were reluctant to move on. Almost in unison we all murmured, Hey, we should write our own rose song! The first line appeared easily, as if it had a life of its own, a timeless poetic image. "Oh there is a Rose, blooming deep within the Heart." The lyrics and melody came through quite effortlessly after that. JD grabbed his guitar and suggested a few chord possibilities. Before we knew it, the 3 of us were singing as if we already knew the middle and ending of the song. By the next morning we had the whole thing, and recorded it singing live, a capella, around a single mic. JD added his rich piano accompaniment later. "Yes, and joy will be our compass, ringing freedom all around. May our love forever blossom, with our roots in holy ground. Oh, there is a Rose."

8. The Story of Love

Words and Music by JD Martin © 2007

JD grew up in a Mennonite community in Virginia where his father was the minister. He remembers that when he was a little kid, his mother was his sweet and gentle ally, a reliable up-close-and-personal source of love and care as he navigated his early childhood. He says that one night when he was about 5 years old, he started feeling really scared and alone, afraid that he was going to die. JD says he has a clear memory of that fear, and then the way his mom came into his bedroom to comfort and calm him down. She sang an old hymn called "The Ninety and Nine" about the good shepherd finding the lost sheep. Many years later....half a lifetime later....when he was making his way as a songwriter in Los Angeles, searching for solace while hitting up against some rough patches, his mother's love and that song came back to him. It was the perfect inspiration for him to tell his own story as he travelled the unknown pathways of his heart. "Back roads and freeways and dead-end streets, while she kept praying his soul to keep." She sang the story of love.

9. Walkin' in the Right Direction

Words and Music by JD Martin & Harold Payne © 2016

How do you write a hit song in the positive music world with just the right groove, soulful melody, and R&B chords to make the audience wanna get up and dance....and maybe even sing along? You put JD Martin and Harold Payne in the same room with a guitar, a piano, and the challenge to come up with a great tune in two and a half hours. That's what happened in Los Angeles in 2016. JD and Harold recorded a soulful demo with Harold singing lead. Then JD put it on the back burner for a couple years until he & Jan started researching tunes for their newest album. Turns out this song really is a Hidden Gem with JD taking over the lead and Jan chiming in with some cheeky harmony vocals. Like the chorus says, "If you keep walkin' in the right direction, you'll end up where you're s'posed to be."

10. April Fool

Words and Music by Jan Garrett & JD Martin © 2012

It was late in the winter of 2012. I was at home recovering from a badly broken leg, sick of winter, bored with being patient, and itching to get outta the house. Healing was happening, but way too slowly for me. I was ready to throw away my crutches, lighten up, and run around laughing in the wild April breeze. So, at the first signs of spring, still stuck inside the house, I decided to inhabit the sassy spirit of the cute bad girl I would like to have been in high school....and this rascal of a song showed up. The recording is JD's wild side and my gypsy soul having a good time making stuff up. His piano solo is an R&B ragtime masterpiece, thanks to the ghosts of Doctor John and Leon Russell. "April Fool" is a great tune for a road trip!

11. On the Wings of a Song (Alternate Version)

Words and Music by Jan Garrett & JD Martin © 2023

We love the original version of this song with violin. When we sing it live, we have come to love Marcy Baruch's beautiful high harmony vocal just as much. We wanted you, the listener, to have both options.