

In the late '60s and early '70s Jim shared his music in Church on Sunday mornings and in coffee houses on Friday and Saturday nights. This project reflects a few of his “folksinger” and “singer-songwriter” creations. Now in his “antiquity” he is revisiting and revising earlier songs and writing new ones that probably don't fit the flow of worship (but prompted by the Spirit just the same). So... look forward to some sequels to “House at the End of the Road.”

We are grateful to Nelson Stringer of New Wine Productions who produced this, and all our early projects, for the world-class sound engineers at the RCA Victor Studios in Hollywood for their superb work. And, we are especially grateful to Paul Svenson, life-long friend, great bass player (1972) and audio engineer extraordinaire for his Digital remastering (2021) of this album at SvenMix San Diego.

Full disclosure ~ there are a few moments in this project where you will realize that we had not yet fully understood the need for inclusive language and imagery. This is an unfolding journey for all of us. However, we are happy to share this music with you.

Jim & Jeanie, Carmichael, CA, March, 2021

Here are some words about the songs ~ followed by song lyrics

1. New Wine Cafe ~ Back in the day, Jim and his good friend Skip Fowler, an artist, would go to downtown L.A. and spend the day at a sidewalk cafe. Jim would play his 12-string guitar. Folks passing by would sit down to listen. While the music was going on, Skip would quickly draw their portraits and gift them with his art as they left. The song tells this story.

2. Lizard ~ This is my rendition and response to the old folksong lyric “I wish I was a lizard in the spring....I'd listen to my lady lizard sing.”

3. Big Mamma Earth ~ This song explores the human journey on our planet home and the deep connection we have to each other and all created things. It's an “earthy” song. Jeanie tells me that hearing me sing “Big Mamma Earth” at a church camp is what drew her to me. (Lucky me!)

4. House at the End of the Road ~ About hospitality and healing, this song has a mythic feel about it...a little boy, a maiden, and a gypsy on a dark and windswept desert night.

5. In the Morning ~ One of the most deeply spiritual experiences of my life was the opportunity to watch the sun rise over Hopi point at the Grand Canyon National Park. I saw the earth being re-created as the sun slowly advanced from the furthest length, kissing the peaks and dancing on the canyon walls until it finally shone on me. This song was written 30 years earlier, but couldn't have been more appropriate for that morning.

6. Do What You Can ~ the playwright Oscar Wilde said “be yourself because everyone else is taken.” I think “being ourselves” is a lifelong journey. But hopefully, we can find our deepest loves and unique talents and offer them to our family, our community and our world for our own fulfillment and for the well-being of others.

7. Long Way Back Home ~ Sometimes when you write a song it's not clear how to explain it. It's something you need to experience. This is such a song. However, I can say it is about a soul in the darkness, looking for the light, or a soul lost, trying to find its way home. I reference Jesus and my Dad as guide posts.

8. Wake Up ~ This song is paired with the last song. It opens the door with a bright welcome to healing and finding courage to live fully.

9. Whither Thou Goest ~ Often sung at weddings, this text from the Biblical story of Ruth, speaks powerfully of loyalty to a vulnerable person and the promise of creating a life together.

**Jim
STRATHDEE**

**HOUSE AT THE END
OF THE ROAD**

CREDITS

All words and music by JIM STRATHDEE

JIM STRATHDEE: vocals, 6-string guitar, 12-string guitar, piano, harmonica

PAUL SVENSON: electric bass

JEAN STRATHDEE: organ, back-up vocals (New Wine Cafe, Long Way Back Home)

TONY ESCALANTE: electric guitar

BRAD JOHNSON: drums, tambourine

GUILLERMO (BILL) CRUZ: conga drums

LAURIE KING: back-up vocals (New Wine Cafe, Do What You Can, Long Way Back Home), spoons

All words and music copyright © 1972 Jim Strathdee

Copyright © 1972 New Wine Productions

All Rights Reserved

PRODUCED BY: NELSON STRINGER

Sound Engineer: Rick Ruggieri

Graphics: Donald Figge

Cover drawing based on photograph by Jim McAlister

Photo: Guillermo (Bill) Cruz

Recorded at RCA Victor Studios, Hollywood, California

Song Lyrics to follow ~