


Strings & Things

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I dedicate this CD to the memory of my Dad, Dr. Robert Sluiter. He passed on September 10, 2011.

Dr. Robert H. Sluiter

(July 16, 1924 - September 10, 2011)

 Dr. Robert H. Sluiter, O.D., age 87, of Grand Haven, passed away Saturday, September 10, 2011 at a local care facility. He was born to Orrie and Antoinette (Justema) Sluiter on July 16, 1924 in Grand Haven. After graduating from Ottawa Hills High School, Robert enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was a veteran of WWII, serving from 1943-1946 as a Staff Sergeant. He married Florine June Topp on September 27, 1947 in Detroit. Robert then graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1948. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon. He was also a member of the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post #28, Grand Haven Boy Scout Council, the American Optometric Association and the West Michigan Optometric Association. He was a former member of the Spring Lake Country Club and the Rotary Club. Robert was a master joke-teller as well as an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer. He is survived by his wife, Florine J. 'Flo' Sluiter; daughters: Linda (Dale) Cox of Aurora, CO and Nancy (Phillip) Law of Grand Haven; son, David O. Sluiter and special friend, Ann Wilson, of Superior, CO; grandchildren: Erica Margaret (Robert) Trumble, Eric Christian (Terri) Law, Matthew Robert Sluiter and Tegan Elizabeth Sluiter; great-grandchildren: Jacob William Law and Alec Thomas Law; nieces & nephews: Dirk, Drew & Jan Sterley; and special family friends, Suzie & Greg Lonnee and Family of Spring Lake. He was preceded in death by his parents, Orrie and Antoinette; sisters, Ruth Killian and Lois Sterley. A private family graveside service will be held at Lake Forest Cemetery with Rev. Tom Cook officiating. Military Rites by the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post #28. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Holland or the Alzheimer's Association. Please visit www.klaassenfuneralhome.com to sign Robert's guestbook or share a memory with his family. Arrangements by Klaassen Family Funeral Home.



Dr. Robert Shuffle

Guitars, Bass, Synthesizers: Dave

I wrote this for my Dad. He loved the big band sound. Glenn Miller was probably his favorite. This is a kind of “Glenn Miller” meets “Cab Calloway” slow Jazz thing.



Glenn Miller



Cab Calloway

God Bless the USA

Written by Lee Greenwood. Copyright © Songs of Universal, Inc. reproduced by license with the copyright owner.

Vocals: Murray Schatz
Guitars and Bass: Dave

I first heard this song in 2012, I think. And it immediately brought a tear to my eye, conjuring up images of my Dad & reminded me of the World War II stories he told us as kids when we were growing up. Defend Her he did - thanks Dad.

The Marine

Based on the poem written by Aaron M. Gilbert, a US Marine, who served in Iraq in 2003. Aaron has placed this song into the public domain as long no money is made on sales or performances.

Vocals: Mike Peper

Guitars, Bass & Vocals: Dave

This is based off of one of those forwarded emails we get all the time. I read it & was moved. I did some digging and as far as I can determine, Aaron is a real person. See: <http://iwvpa.net/gilbertam/index.php>
God Bless all our service men and women.



Chorus < Chorus >

So stand in my shoes,
And leave from your home.
Fight for the people who hate you,
With the protests that they've shown.
I'm harder than nails,
(1 & 3) It's in my genes. (2) Danger's my scene.
I'm the immortal soldier,
I'm a U.S. Marine!

But still I fight on,
I don't bitch, I don't whine.
I'm just one of the people
Who's doing your time.
I fight for the stranger,
I fight for the young.
So they all may have,
The greatest freedom known.

I fight for the sick,
I fight for the poor.
I fight for the cripple,
Who lives next door.

We all came together,
Both young and old
To fight for our freedom,
To stand and be bold.
In the midst of all evil,
We stand our ground,
And we protect our country
From all threats around.
Peace and not war,
Is what some folks say.
But I'll give my life for you
To live the American way.
I protect the right
To talk of your peace.
To stand in your groups,
and protest in our streets.

I fight for the sick,
I fight for the poor.
I fight for the cripple,
Who lives next door.

< Chorus >

But when your time comes,
When you've run the good run
For if you stand up for freedom,
You'll stand when the fight is done
And you won't stand alone

Itty Bitty Ditty

Guitars & Percussion: Dave

Just a fun little piece.

Blues All Around

Written by Matt Rooke, George Pomerville and Dave Sluiter

Bass: Mike Lewis

Harp: Kevin Hall

Background Vocals: Chris Harbison, Jane Schatz and
Mary Hill

Guitars, Keyboards & Vocals: Dave

This is another song from college days. It's a young man's angst song about the poor men to women ratio at Michigan Tech at the time.

When I dust off a song from college, it has to pass the "Mom" test - i.e. would Mom approve? I think this one just squeaks in.

What a great time we had with this one and a big collaborative effort it was. I sent Kevin backing tracks & he recorded a bunch of harp takes & sent them back to me & I laid those into the mix - how cool is that? I even hired a professional Bass player - thanks Mike!

Woke up this mornin' blues all around my bed
Woke up this mornin' blues all around my bed
I've been thinkin' lately I might be better off in bed

I've been lucky, in life, but not in love
I've been lucky, in life, but not in love
I keep hopin' she'll show so I'm not lonely no more

Crashed out this mornin' got stoned on my front lawn
Crashed out this mornin' got stoned on my front lawn
I'm so blue, I thought she was the one

Met a babe this evenin' on my way home from school
Met a babe this evenin' on my way home from school
I'm gonna shoot that woman and throw her in a swimmin' pool

I've been lucky, in life, but not in love
I've been lucky, in life, but not in love
I keep hopin' she'll show so I'm not lonely no more

Woke up this mornin' blues all around my bed
Woke up this mornin' blues all around my bed
I've been thinking' lately I might be better off dead

Lord Help the Poor and Needy

Written by Jessie Mae Hemphill. Copyright © Music River Publishing, reproduced by license with the copyright owner.

Vocals: Murray Schatz
Guitars, Bass, Keyboards & Vocals: Dave

I heard Peter Parcek cover this & wanted my own go at it.

Born Under a Bad Sign

Guitars, Bass & Vocals: Dave

Written by William Bell and Booker T. Jones Jr. Copyright © Cotillion Music Inc. reproduced by license with the copyright owner.

What a classic! I was listening to Albert King's version, and then Cream and Hendrix and of course, I grew up on Pat Travers version. I tried to channel a little Hendrix on my solo.

Blue Marble

Guitars, Bass & Synthesizers: Dave

This one is influenced by Rush and Billy Thorpe's "Children of the Sun". It's a concept piece about what visitors from another planet might think if they happened upon us? They'd see a world divided up into countries, bickering & warring against one another. Wonder if they'd see the little acts of kindness and things of beauty we're capable of? I imagine, they'd find us incredibly un-evolved.

I wrote lyrics for it, but somehow after I got the guitars laid down, it kind of stood on its own & I never got around to recording the vocals.

Geno Live

Written by Phil Geno.

Guitars, Bass & Vocals: Dave

This is one of Phil's songs from maybe 1976 or so. I've played it off & on over the years & could only remember one verse - there had to be more, but I'll be darned if I can extract it from the grey matter, oh well. And the "Live" treatment - yup, that's because "I can". It cracks me up [smiling].

A Drive Through the Hood

Guitars & Synthesizers: Dave

There's some kind of funky urban thing going on here. Mostly synthesizers with a bit of guitar tossed in.

Pottawattomie

Guitars, Flute, Synthesizers & Percussion: Dave

I grew up on Cowboy & Indian movies; The Lone Ranger, High Chaparral, Bonanza and the like. But as I got older, I became sensitive to the plight of the Native American Peoples - the forceable taking of their land and rights - sad. Many things in and around the West Michigan area where I grew up bear their names. I started poking on the web looking into the Pottawattomie People and I had a "flash" & wrote this little story. I dedicate this song to the Nation of the Pottawattomie People.

I like the Pat Metheny guitar sound @ 2:54.

The spotlight flickers, I turn you on
But after that this, I'll be gone
Guitars are screamin'
Your fire flares
We are here
Let's all cheer



During the War of 1812, three chiefs of the Potawatomi nation, Blackbird, Nuscotomeg (Mad Sturgeon) and Mucktypoke (Makdébki, Black Partridge), met in a sandy alcove on the beach of Lake Michigan, near what is now Chicago. Each chief had with them a band of warriors under their respective commands. Blackbird and Nuscotomeg wanted to attack the settlers and the army evacuating Fort Dearborn. Mucktypoke argued against taking this action, warning this would only bring more war. Sitting around a camp fire as the evening sun set in the west, Mucktypoke described to the other two chiefs a vision that he had had the previous week. In the vision, he foresaw the end of the Native people's way of life. Mucktypoke told them that he put this vision to music. This is what they played. Unfortunately, Blackbird and Nuscotomeg did not heed Mucktypoke's advice and attacked. Mucktypoke later saved some of the civilian's who were being ransomed by the two other Potawatomi chiefs.

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potawatomi>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Partridge_\(chief\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Partridge_(chief))
and a little imagination.

Prana

Part I

Part II

Guitars, Synthesizers: Dave

Everybody get your Sitar on!

Classical Mom

Guitars & Synthesizers: Dave

This one is for my Mom. I was visiting my Mom in December 2012 for Christmas and we had a nice week together. On a couple afternoons after lunch, she would sit reading the paper & I would quietly tap out melodies on my iPad for a little bit. With the help of Sue Williamson, the result became this song. This is about being inspired by our Mom's.

You are one in a million Mom - thanks for being such a great parent.

I would to thank all those that helped out on this project:
Chris Harbison, Murray and Jane Schatz, Mike Lewis,
Mary Hill, Mike Peper, Kevin Hall, and Sue Williamson.

Mixing and Mastering Engineer: Kevin Harbison, without whose mad skills and dog ears
would have have left this CD in sorry shape indeed. Thank you Kevin!

Recorded at Slutar Studios 2011-2013
Superior, CO

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Drum loops and samples by:
Beta Monkey

Artwork by Dave

Wow - two years in the making! I was really trying for soulful guitar playing as opposed to just flat out shredding
speed, which I'm not very good at anyway. It's also the album of pinch harmonics which I learned how to play in
the fall of 2010 (Guitar players, you know what I'm talking about). Suddenly I was playing them all the time,
even when I wasn't trying to play them. Also during post/mixing, I realized I played the same note pattern in
several songs, my leitmotif. There was so much time between recording different songs over the two years, I
forgot what I played - Ha! I hope you enjoy this CD and find it a bit better in quality than my previous work.
Enjoy & God Bless.



