

Excerpt from "Brave Hearts Collection" magazine interview with Allen Walker from And Again

How did you hear about the tribute project?

I came to know about the project through the Marillion website. I read about it in late April '98, but the website said the submission deadline was January '98. Though at this point it was past deadline, I really wanted to get a hold of Jon Epstein, the original Executive Producer, to see if it was too late to submit a demo. After getting the OK from Jon we had a demo sent to him in three days. At that point the demo sat in a box for seven months...and I was SO worried about being past deadline!

Why did you decide to contribute a track?

I really admire Marillion's song writing and musicianship. They're always enjoying their sound, but somehow they are able to maintain a consistent signature in their music. I thought it would be great to pay tribute to a band that we respect very much. After being on the "receiving" end for so long, I thought it was time to return the favor! It's rare for a fan to get an opportunity like this.

Why did you choose this particular Marillion track?

I knew I wanted to represent the music from Steve Hogarth's era. I love the focus and emotional intimacy he brings to Marillion's writing. That "whittled" the song catalogue down by half. I'd considered "Runaway", "Alone Again in the Lap of Luxury", "Made Again", and "Out of this World". Because of its simplicity, we submitted a demo of "Runaway" first, since it was the easiest to produce. The urgency of getting our foot in the door was made more so by virtue of me finding out about the project a month past the original deadline. If we were chosen to contribute to the project there would be better chance of choosing a different song later.

I knew "Out of this World" would be the best song for us to record. Afraid of Sunlight is one of my favorite albums, and it best represents And Again's style. In addition, I thought by reinterpreting it to be about the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion, we could pay tribute to both Marillion and the Challenger crew. Though I did have more creative interpretations for other songs, CD:TYV represents an ethereal quality in Marillion's music that I thought should be represented on the album. And when Gina Achord said she wished someone would do CD:TYV, I said "That's the one I want to do!"

Before ever knowing who the song was written for, I knew what the song was trying to say. The song was written about the speed king Donald Campbell, whose attempt at breaking the World Speed Record on water cost him his life. But when I heard the song I always thought of the Challenger disaster. Regardless of who it was written for, the message remains the same. It's about the spirit of pushing the envelope, and the loved ones whom must endure the experience and are left behind when it ends in tragedy.

When deciding the production direction, I chose to reinterpret the song's meaning rather than change the structure and ethereal quality of the song. To accomplish this, I used keyboard and guitar sounds that were crystalline in sound and used audio segments from the Space Shuttle. And to further reinforce the meaning, I changed the first and third line of the opening lyric.

The dialogue and audio recordings from the Space Shuttle alter who the song is about, without changing the general meaning. Marillion's use of sampled dialogue has always helped make their songs more "visual".

The song's original structure fit perfectly with the new subject matter and audio samples.

- Beginning chord repetition represents the almost routine precision during count-down.
- Lift off sequence: The lyric "things fly" ties in perfectly with the lift-off dialogue. The sound of the rocket taking flight fades into the guitars opening note. (Steve Kolbery's original solo is as integral to the song as the vocal melody. A perfect example of why a great melody blows away speed playing any day. Listen to David Gilmour's solo on Pink Floyd's "Time" and you'll know exactly what I mean!)
- The middle vocal section ends leaving the listener suspended during the Shuttle's final moments.
- The best section's ethereal quality ends with Ronald Reagan's speech which sums up the songs title.
- Overall, the song starts very heavy and low, then gets lighter at the end—analagous to the ship's flight.

Are you happy with the way it's turned out?

I think it turned out great. Gina Achord was an absolute joy to work with. She was very professional and persevered when others would have given up! You never know what you're going to get when being part of a various artist CD. You do your thing and trust everyone else to do their thing. On the critical side, the CD does seem a little quieter heavy. Aside from Accelerated Deceptitude's song, the CD doesn't make much of a keyboard statement, which I think is such an integral part of Marillion's sound. Need those synths!

When Gina mentioned having difficulties with whom to give the charitable donation, I'd recommended Interplast. Interplast is an organization of doctors and nurses who donate their time traveling to third-world countries performing free reconstructive surgery on children. A very good friend of mine, James Kikoshina, is a photographer who documents many of these types. His photographs have always touched me, depicting a very caring and selfless group of people. There have been a few documentaries about Interplast, one of which won an Academy Award.



Produced by Allen Walker

Tim Downer: Drums, Percussion

Paul Hightower: Bass, Bass Pedals

Allen Walker: Guitars, Keyboards and Vocals

Recorded and mixed by Allen Walker at Stage Left Studios

Audio media digital montage on "Out of this World" by Mateo Curtis

Original tribute album graphics by Carl Glover at Bill Smith Studios

Music written by Marillion. Lyrics by Steve Hogarth and John Helmer

1 **Runaway** – Original audition demo. A hastily recorded track reviewed by the executive producers during the artist selection process.

2 **Out of this World** – Final recording as heard on the Marillion tribute CD "Hope for the Future".

All proceeds from the full-length tribute CD go to charity. For more information about the Marillion tribute CD, charity, and the band "And Again" visit www.andagain.com

Runaway

Did you cry when they dragged you home
Put a lock on the door and the telephone
Was a runaway girl all they could see

Have the nights and the days
that you've come through
Made the right seem wrong
and the false seem true
And was the runaway girl all they could see
A teenage extra from the satellite TV

Runaway girl
Too bad, too bad
Runaway girl
Too wild, too wild

Were they deaf to the prayer behind your lies
Maybe they didn't dare to ask you why
Was a runaway girl all they chose to see
All they were prepared to admit to

Runaway girl
Too bad, too bad
Runaway girl
A real wild child

So you cower in the towns forgotten places
And you make your bed with unfamiliar faces
And at last you've got your freedom
but that's all you've got
You're tryin' to make your mind up
if you're better off

You pretend to wait for washing
in some laundromat
But you're damned if you'll give them the
satisfaction of you going back
You'd freeze to death before you'd share
a roof with them
And you'd starve before you'd let him
get his hands on you again

Did you cry when they dragged you home
Poor little runaway, poor little runaway

Out of this World

Three thousand miles an hour 'bove water
In your purpose-built machine
No one dared to climb aboard
Screaming blue
Out of this world
Make history

This is your day
Blue..Bird
At such speeds...things fly

What did she say?...
I know the pain of too much tenderness
Wondering when or if you'll come back again
Wanting to live for you
And being banned from giving
But only love will turn you around
Only love will turn you around
Only love...
Only love will turn you around

So we live you and I
Either side of the edge
And we run and we scream
With the dilated stare
of obsession and dreaming
What the hell do we want
Is it only to go
Where nobody has gone
A better way than the herd
Sing a different song
Till you're running the ledge
To the gasp from the crowd
Spinning round in your head
Everything that she said...





Positioned for "CD Stomper" label template.

See next page for CD Stomper template guidelines.



