



david
ULLMAN
secondhand



SECONDHAND

i've been searching, can't seem to find my way
seems the nights get darker each and every day,
this time i've wandered too far from home
friends all around me, but i feel alone

i feel lost and broken, bent out of place
shall i stay, or do you need some space
different means all lead to the same end
how can we even try to pretend

i need a secondhand heart
only slightly ripped apart
i need someone who will always be around
unrequited from the start
feel i was born to play the part
give me someone who will never let me down

sure i don't miss what was missing
but oh how i miss kissing you (of course i do)
i miss your lips, your hips, your thighs
miss the sparkle of your eyes
i know it's gone now, but i don't know why
how did this become of me
how was i too blind to see
that the one you loved was no longer me
was my heart in your hands just a pawn
feelings faded like the night at dawn
where was it that we went wrong
how am i supposed to heal
when i don't know what it is i feel
was it really ever real
i know kindness is contagious
come on be courageous
give your love away

with a secondhand heart
only slightly ripped apart
gotta somehow get my feet back on the ground
unrequited from the start
no one's born to play that part
find someone who will never let you down
don't let me down



SAFE

here i sing just trying to express
in the way i hope that i do best
all these ideas, they are floatin' round
trying to keep one, i gotta choke it down
still i'm not saying that i feel fine
about the way you waste your precious time
transitory, just like shooting stars
all the deepest wounds seem to leave no scars

do you believe you're safe from me
be what you want to be
all i want is for us to remain

times are tough, and love it is always rough
you give your all, but your all is not enough
like a book on tape, digital escape
won't you be my tv-dinner date
culture satiated with celebrity
all trying to look like the models in the magazine
where normallacy is the fallacy
why can't we make this dream reality

see things as they are
not as we'd like them to be
but as they were
were they really

do you believe you're safe from me
see what you want to see
all i want is for us to remain

do you believe you're safr from me
all i want is to believe
that what was lost just might be regained

*O.C. Version Drums: Josh Miller '05
Pitch-corrected Vocal: David Ullman '09
Mixed by Brian Ullman



START ANEW

come on make me feel like i believe
a blind man once, but now i see
oh you set me free
won't you set me free
come on make me feel like i belong
to feel like this just ~~can't~~ be wrong
and if you say you want me to
i'll spend my life with you
oh to be with you
with you i'll start anew
together forever and a day
for you i'll find a way

carry on my wayward one
from behind the clouds bring forth the sun
and with you i'll start again
both my love and my best friend

you make me feel like i'm alive
and for you i'll take the dive
oh to be with you
with you i'll start anew
and if you just say the word
sweetest voice i've ever heard
cuts right to my heart
we will never part
and after all is said and done
my dear, my only one

come aboard my sweetest friend
on this trip that never ends
ocean of love strong and true
rolling waves brought me to you

you make me feel like i believe
once a blind man, now i see
what you've done for me
and how you've set me free
now i know where i belong
and to you i sing this song
how happy we will be
come away with me
and if you say you want me to
i'll spend my life with you
oh to be with you
with you i'll start anew



WHO CARES

just cause you love her
doesn't mean she cares
i know you love her
it doesn't mean that there's
not another
doesn't mean she cares

just cause you want him
doesn't mean he cares
although you want him
i know that it's not fair
just cause you want him
doesn't mean he cares

chorus:

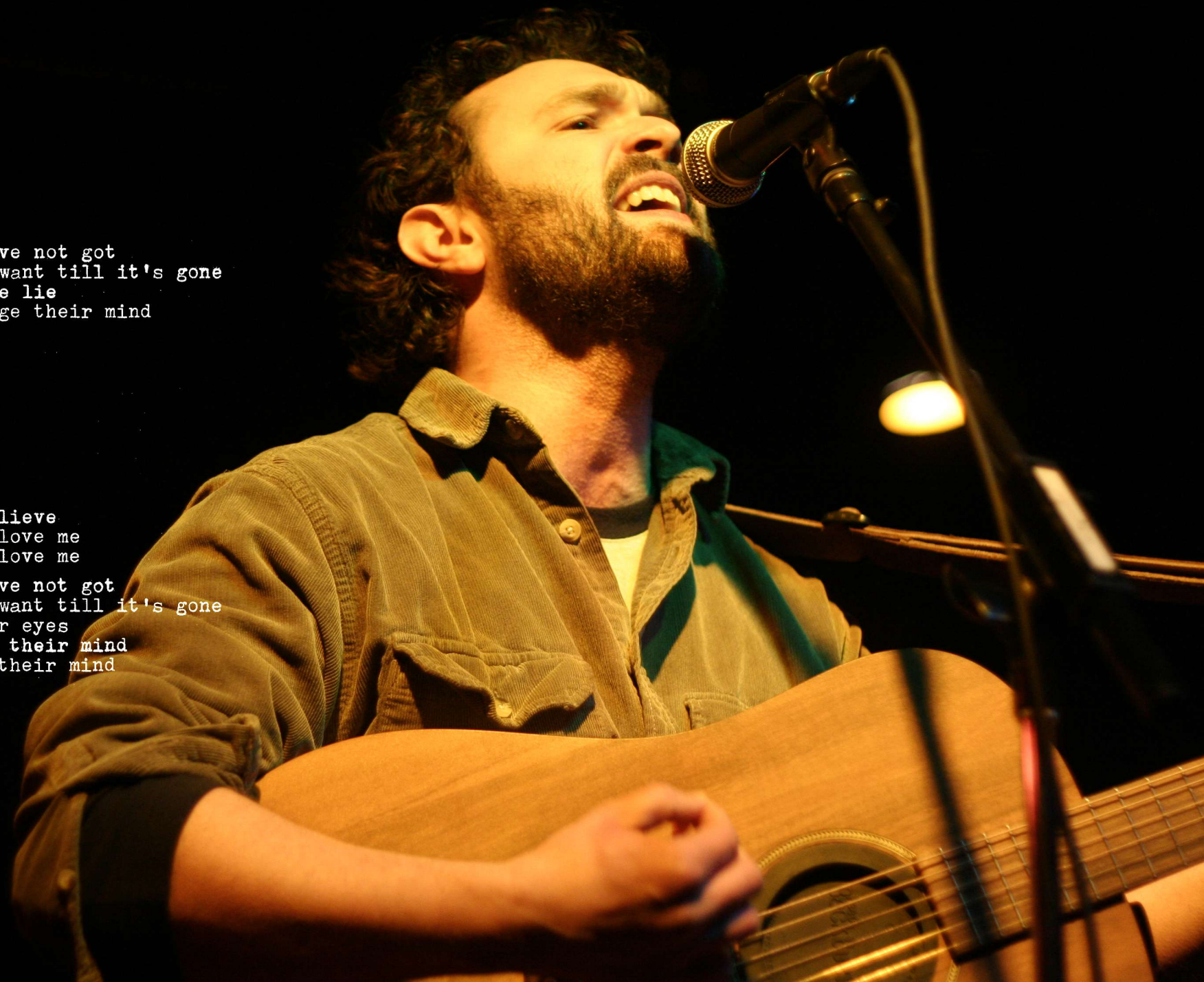
seems we always want what we've not got
and what we've got we cannot want till it's gone
we want the truth but need the lie
if we love enough, we'll change their mind

just cause you need them
it doesn't mean they care
even though you love them
it doesn't mean they share
the same convictions
doesn't mean they care

chorus

sometimes it's just not to be
but still you pray and you believe
that i'll love you cause you love me
that i'll love you cause you love me

seems we always want what we've not got
and what we've got we cannot want till it's gone
if you could only open up your eyes
you'd see you'll never change their mind
you know you'll never change their mind



THE UNLIKELY BALLAD OF MISS MAY AND ME

chorus:

oh miss may
i knew there'd come a day
when we'd have to say goodbye
oh miss may
might not there be some way
that you'd want to stay awhile

it was there in the workplace where we first met
ours was a factory friendship i'll never forget
the way that you grinned when you looked at me
blazing blue eyes and crooked white teeth
i smiled and politely said "hello"
couldn't have known then how now i hate to see you go
feel like i'm missing you more and more each and every day
there's so many things i still wanna hear you say

chorus

you were quite the talker, and you knew yourself well
but how you felt about me, i never could tell
you'd accept things as they are, not let life get you down
inspire me to do the same whenever you were around
we were doing the time, both to make a dime
i was a few years older, but you made me feel so behind
cause you'd been through so much, and you'd grown so strong
it's to you now that i'm singing this song

chorus

you liked filthy rap music and shiny bright cars
you'd tell me out on breaks beneath the midnight stars
of all your pointless piercings and your gaudy tattoos
that story you told me one time about waking up with no shoes
you'd a beautiful girl and a lovin' man
i don't think other people will ever quite understand
i thought we were friends, though i never did know
you were never the type to let your feelings show

chorus

then in one evening you came to say
"i'm leaving here tomorrow, but we still have today"
i said "i don't want you to be someone that i used to know,
so please won't you take my number before you go
call if you would, and write if you like
bring your husband and your kid; we'll go out for a bite"
it's only now that i see what i knew all along
i was trying too hard to be where i didn't belong

chorus



QUESTION & ANSWER WITH DAVID ULLMAN

Q: Can you list each song and tell me about the meaning behind each song?

A: "Secondhand" - It's about trying to find hope when you feel hopeless. The line "Kindness is contagious, so come on be courageous and give your love away" is something I always feel good singing.

"Safe" - I'm not sure what 'safe' is about. The chorus came out of some "scat-type" improvisations I did while I was searching for the vocal melody. I just kept it. I have some inclining or feeling about what it might mean, but it's nothing I could articulate. "Won't you be my TV-dinner-date" is a line that gets a lot of attention. It's a live favorite for some and loathsome to others.

"Start Anew" - A lovey-dovey ballad that I wrote almost ten years ago. It was the first song that I'd written since I was a pre-teen (back then I wrote 50's-style Buddy-Holly knock-offs!). The guitar part is something I'd been playing for years, and the vocal came about in a similar scat-type way as "Safe." Actually, it's because of "Safe" that I chose to include "Start Anew" on DOG DAYS in the first place. After switching the key to the one that you hear on the single, rather than an earlier, more up-beat full-band rendition (dubbed the "O.C. Mix"), it ended up reminding me of "Start Anew." That's why it re-appears on the EP—that, and because I had a new, beautifully re-mastered recording that I want to share.

"Who Cares" - This one's about taking an objective look at unrequited love. One person is totally consumed with intense feelings while the other is flattered—at best—or simply indifferent. I usually sing about relationships so earnestly. This song gave me a chance to have a bit of fun—maybe poke a little fun at my self.

Q: How was making this CD similar to making DOG DAYS? How was it different?

A: Well, these recordings were initially part of DOG DAYS. As a matter of fact, most of the material for these two songs was recorded in 2005 during the first sessions. It became apparent that "Safe" and "Who Cares" didn't fit the overall vibe of DOG DAYS. A good friend of mine thought "Safe" was too "poppy." He thought it belonged on the "O.C." tv-show. Coming from him, this was not a compliment! This was not the effect I was looking to have, so I tried doing a slightly slower and low-key, more acoustically based recording, which is the one included here. Ultimately, though, neither version fit.

Q: What new experiences did you encounter making the SECONDHAND EP?



A: The drums for this version of "Secondhand" and "Who Cares" were both recorded in a professional studio, rather than someone's home (like the recordings on DOG DAYS). That was a very good experience for me. After laboring over the tracks and takes on DOG DAYS for three years, it was really cool to go into a recording studio for three hours and come out with high-quality sounds for four songs. Much of that has to do with the talent of drummer Brian Yost, who came in to capture the energy he'd been adding to my live performances at that time (Spring 2008). It makes me really want to do the whole process in a studio next time around.

Q: How did you choose which recordings would appear on this CD?

A: Well, "Secondhand" is the *raison d'être* this disc. I think of it as a "single," but more in the traditional sense of the word—indicating a physical release with a lead-track and supporting "B-sides."

"Safe" and "Who Cares" are the remaining unreleased songs from the DOG DAYS sessions, and I wanted them to have a home—particularly because some folks really like "Safe." Since it was, for some, a live-favorite, I ran a poll on my website to let listeners choose which version got released—the full-band "O.C. Mix" or the more understated "acoustic version." Hind sight made me really appreciate the full-band treatment, but the acoustic version won the poll—hands down.

Q: When you listen to the CD, what excites you the most as its creator?

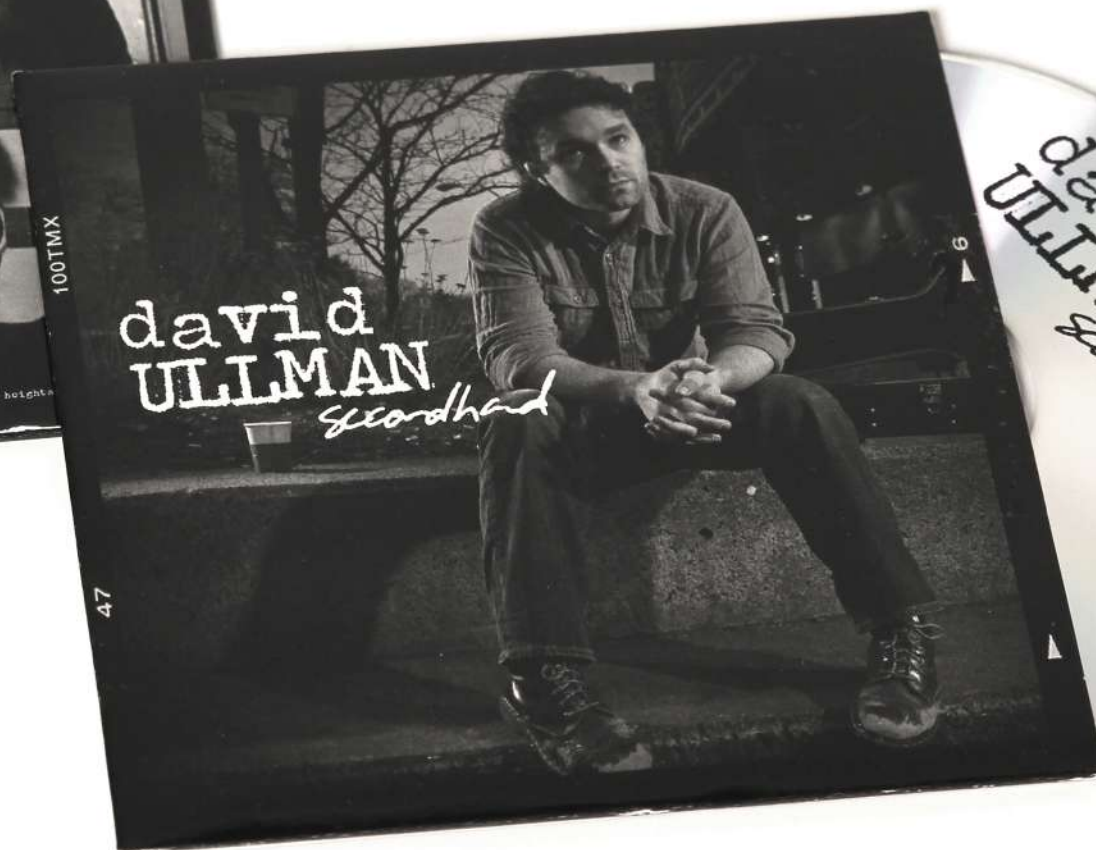
A: The drums on "Secondhand" and the production on "Who Cares." I also really like the guitar sounds on "Start Anew" and, to be perfectly honest, I'm proud of the artwork. A very fortuitous photo shoot opportunity came my way just weeks before the EP went to press.

Q: How will fans react to this CD compared to your previous releases?

A: That's hard to say. People who prefer my solo live shows will likely dig "Safe" and "Start Anew." On the other hand, fans who've had a chance to see me with a live band will hopefully appreciate the energy that (drummer) Brian Yost brings to the table.

Actually, during the studio session when we recorded his parts, Yost predicted people's reaction. He said that folks would say (about "Secondhand"), "Oh that's a cool version of that song I know," and "Oh! That song" (about "Safe"); then, when "Who Cares" comes on last, they'll just yell "What the HELL?!?" I think that pretty well sums it up!





Original 2009 CD packaging

Secondhand (single version)

produced by brian ullman, feb. '05
drum recording & final mix @ central 8 studios,
akron, oh by randy biddle, may '08 / feb. '09
vocals & acoustic guitar: david ullman
electric, lead & bass guitars: brian ullman
drums: brian yost

Safe *

recorded by david ullman @ home in kent, fall '05
mixed by david & brian ullman
vocal & acoustic guitars: david ullman
bass: brian ullman
keyboard piano: sean kammer

Start Anew

recorded by david ullman @ home '05
mixed by david & brian ullman
vocals & guitars: david ullman
keyboard piano: sean kammer

Who cares

produced & mixed by brian ullman,
summer '05 / oct. '09 @ home
drum recording by randy biddle,
@ central 8 studios, may '08
vocals & acoustic: david ullman
electric & bass: brian ullman
drums: brian yost

Miss May (live)

recorded live @ uncorked wine bar
may 9th 2009 by kyle collins
mixed by kyle collins

mastered by adam boose
design & layout by dju

All photos by Dan Mosora (except pages 2-3, 6-7 by Elizabeth Myers)
"Secondhand" music video directed by David Urbanic
© 2009-2019 David Ullman (BMI)





© & © 2009, 2019 David Ullman / Dreaming Out Loud Records. All music. No business. The always-free-to-download (growing) back-catalogue of recordings from a group of friends raised in Northeast Ohio. www.dreamingoutloudrecords.com.