



# cafe days

The 26 performances here were pulled from about a dozen different café shows I played from 2006 to 2007. Though I'm not entirely sure why I was recording these gigs, I definitely learned a lot from them at the time — especially the one also captured on video. I came to think of them as "game tapes," a way for me to evaluate my performances and improve. After seeing that video, for instance, I made every attempt to stop singing with my eyes creepily half-closed and rolling back in my head. Hearing the playback of these cassettes, I began to hone my stagecraft—even though the "stages" on which I was learning were really just the corners of coffee shops whose managers were kindly enough to grant me monthly gigs.

As these field recordings were made hastily, without any means of monitoring the output of my voice-and-guitar amp, the quality and character of the sound varies from song to song. However, the composite show I stitched together feels to me now like a satisfying snapshot, capturing the best of what I was doing back then.

In an attempt to assemble something both best-case-scenario-exemplary and routinely-representative of what you might have encountered wandering into one of these gigs in '06/'07, even the song intros were carefully selected. You'll hear a loose back-and-forth and familiarity with the audience develop, folks sharing birthdays and anniversaries, as well as my misguided invitation for requests of other people's songs I was sure not to know.

You'll hear evenings where the room was full of family and friends. You might also recognize the isolated sound of yourself clapping on one of the... Ahem... More... "Sparsely attended" shows.

You'll hear early renditions of the songs that became my first album, as well as oddities like "Mulletman" (its first public performance!), "Snakebit" (a coffee-shop-sanitized version), and "Darkest of Days" (for STEVE).

You'll also hear 11 cover tunes I was favoring at the time. These selections say a lot more about my influences and aspirations than I ever could in an essay or interview. I'm going to go out on a limb and guess there weren't a lot of guy-and-guitar acts covering both Jewel and Nine Inch Nails in the same show.



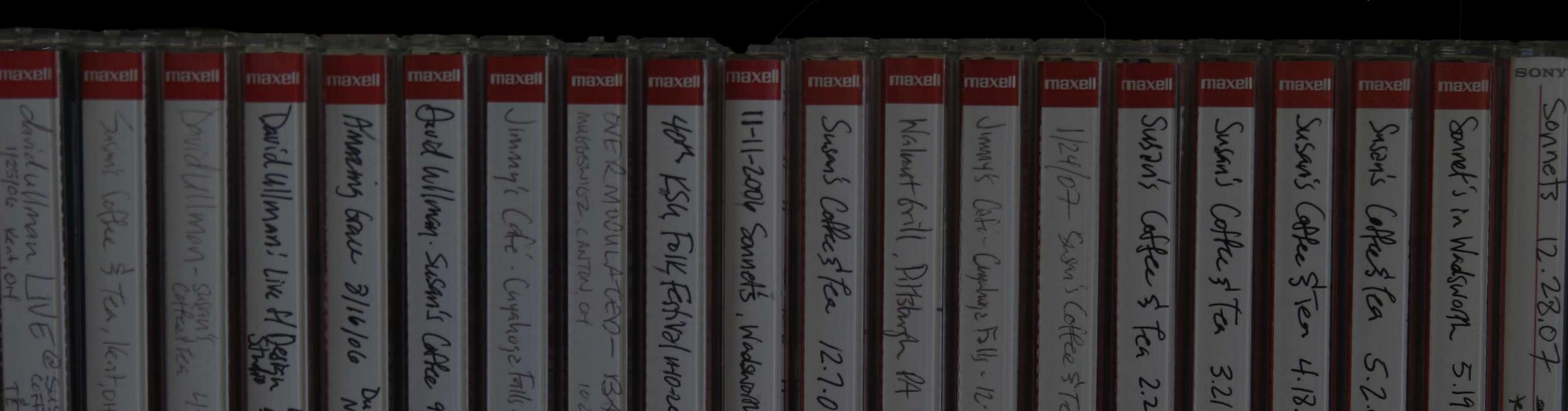
On originals like "If You Can" and "You and I," you can hear me testing the boundaries of a café-study-crowd's tolerance, causing one area newspaper to characterize me as "a bracing alternative on the sometimes sleepy coffeehouse circuit."

When you're in the midst of striving to accomplish something, there's a tendency to focus on what's lacking—on the shortcomings you're trying to surmount. In my case developing as a singer, songwriter, and live performer it was all about the notes I didn't hit... The gigs I couldn't get... And the audiences I had yet to reach. Thanks to a decade's worth of hindsight, I can now appreciate the songs and performances as the achievements they've always been.

Listening back today, I'm grateful for the people who were there and for the opportunities I was given by the folks at Susan's in Kent, Sonnet's in Wadsworth, Jimmy's in Cuyahoga Falls, and Muggswigz in Canton.

Whether you were present for one of these performances or are just now coming across this music, I hope the whirr and grind of the coffee machines, the tape hiss, and the murmur of a live audience add to the intimacy of the songs. Thank you for showing up—then and/or now—and thanks for listening.

- David Ullman September 1, 2018





# From a whisper to a scream

## David Ullman's therapeutic songwriting

TONIGHT AT MUGGSWIGZ "I tend to write in spurts, or when I've got something I need to express - something to come to terms with, simply acknowledge, or try to work out." says singer-songwriter David Ullman.

#### BY DAN KANE

REPOSITORY ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

David Ullman is a bracing alternative on the sometimes sleepy coffeehouse circuit.

"I tend to vary between singing very softly one moment to bellowing and hollering the next," the Kent-based singersongwriter says.

Tonight from 8 to 11, Ullman will perform at Muggswigz Coffee & Tea Co. at 137 Walnut Ave. NE in downtown Canton. The last time he played there, some enthusiastic audience members joined him onstage.

Because many people go to coffeehouses to socialize or study, Ullman, 27, says it "makes it all the more fulfilling when I'm able to reach them.

"The fact that some of the audience is not there to see me perform can be a bit awkward sometimes. If they are there for the music, the proximity tends to heighten the intimacy of the songs."

About his diverse collection of original songs, Ullman says, "Some tend to be very mellow and reserved, while others are loud and edgy. It's not uncommon for all of that to be going on in one song."

Ullman, who accompanies himself on guitar, felt the song-writing urge early on.

"I wrote songs as a kid, inspired by '50s rock and roll," he recalls. "Then, about 13 years later, I found myself playing music with a few friends. Everyone was writing songs, and I wanted to contribute. I wrote a couple of tunes for that project, and that got me in the mindset. Two of the songs I wrote while in that band have ended up on the CD I've been recording, which should come out by year's end."

From the sound of it, Ullman's songwriting can be therapeutic. "Most all of my songs mean a great deal to me," he says. "Many have been borne out of some sort of trauma; and as such, were integral to my working through whatever was eating me."

To sample Ullman's music and see a video, visit www.myspace. com/davidullmanmusic and www.davidullman.net.



i wanna know all that you are i wanna know all that you'll become all alone you've come this far but you and i we have just begun

met in the shallow waters of this tiny fishbowl with no high tide or low now i'm yours; be mine let this moment in time begin

i wanna know all that we'll become you and i we've come this far but there's still so much that we've not yet done

swimming in the waters of this tiny fishbowl with no high tide or low now i'm yours and you're mine let this moment in time begin

could we suspend stop trying to comprehend could we redefine write a song without rhyme i think it's time we begin

i'm still trying to find out who i am it's been so long, still i don't understand just what it takes to be your man teach me, love, take me by the hand

pull me outta the wreckage of this shattered fishbowl i've lost all control i'm yours; you're mine let this moment in time begin

let's begin again
hope we never end
let's begin (if only to end again)

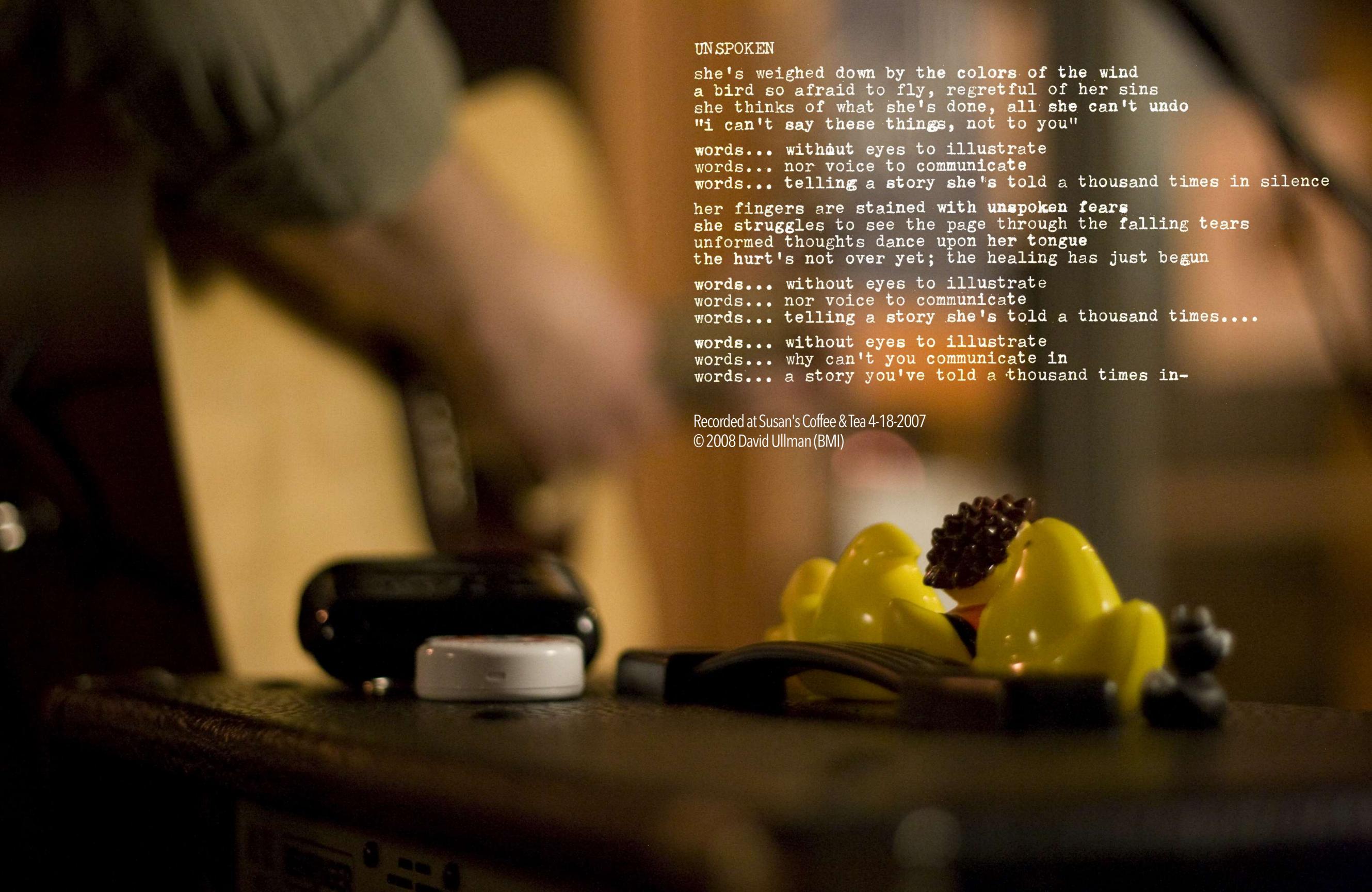
Recorded at Jimmy's Café 12-28-2006 © 2008 David Ullman (BMI)







but in the half-light we'll stay all night making love in the moonlight do you think we may do you think we might fall in love before daylight or are you already through with me is this not what you thought it would be are you thinking to hell with it all and to hell with me are you tired are you torn do you feel like you've been dying since before you were born have you lost love have you found hope have you given up the guilt you've held so close cause in the half-light tonight maybe we two wrongs might get it right i think we may i think we might have fallen in love





#### COMONG TO

fear that i'm unwanted here
losing all i've held so dear
wanna face this world head-on
don't wanna be weak; i must be strong
just wanna stay a part of you
i'll do whatever it is that you want me to do
just tell me what we are coming to

feel ruined, like damaged goods
foolish, i can't see the trees for the woods
wish i could change the part i play
wish i wouldn't wish your love away
is there courage in contradiction
is there truth in all my fiction
tell me what we are coming to

don't want you to cry
because of something i
did or said
is it over yet
can i open up my eyes
when will we realize
what we are coming to

memory is like a loaded gun
we're fighting battles we know can't be won
trying to make some sense of it all
counting on pride to break our fall
but i'm finding that there is no shame
in saying that i'm also to blame
i think that i'm coming to

a heart is like a hallow fist
and yours i can't seem to resist
when the night starts to breathe
will you finally concede
that this trouble need not be
the end of you and me
i need you to open up your mouth
what ever it is just let it out
throw caution to the wind
it doesn't matter where it is we begin
i know that we'll find our way through
this mess, just me and you
i think that we're finally coming to

Recorded at Susan's Coffee & Tea 4-18-2007 © 2008 David Ullman (BMI)

#### 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
togethersforever and a day
for you i'll find a way

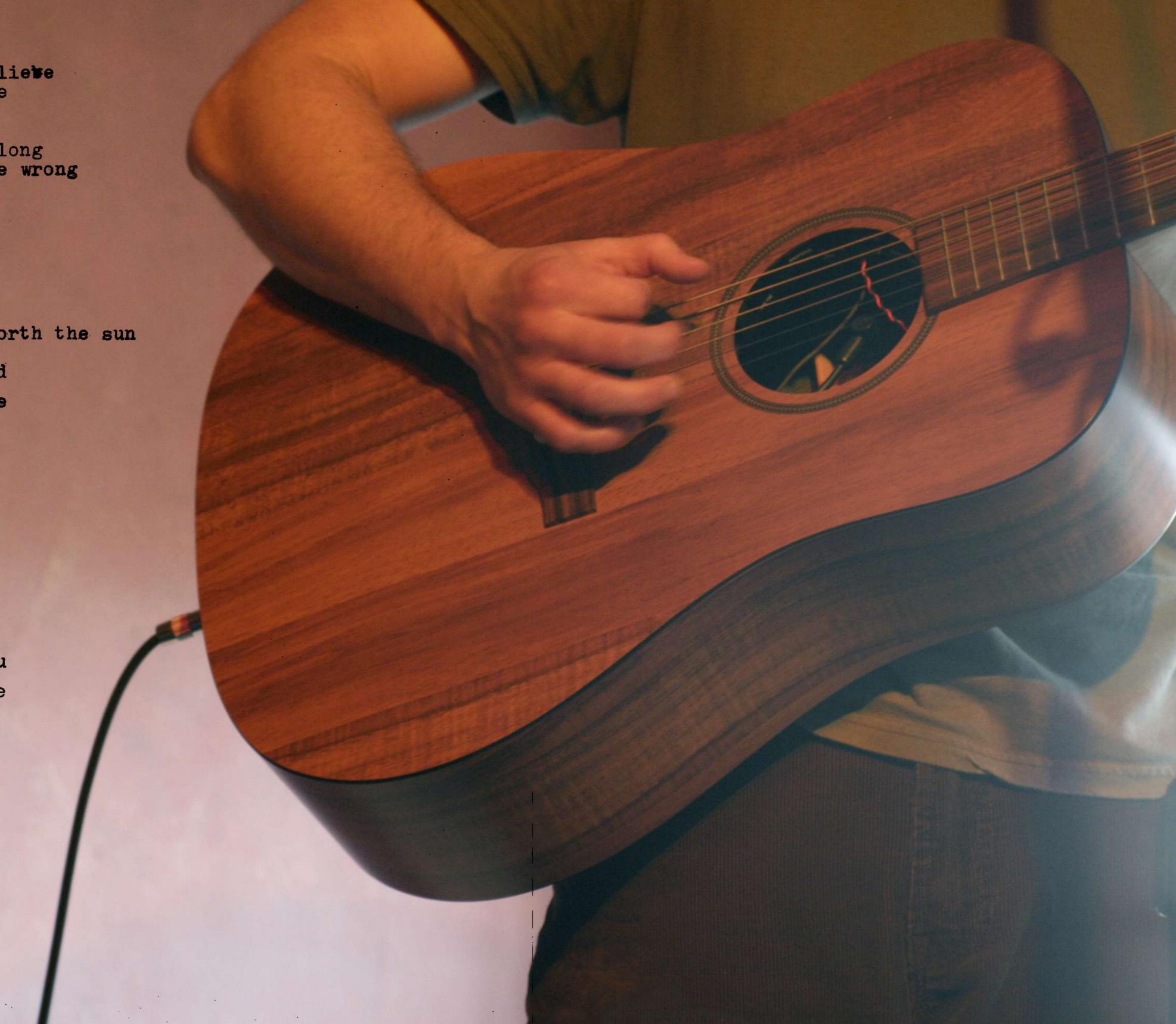
carry on my wayward one from behind the clouds bring forth the sun and with you i'll start again both my love and my best friend

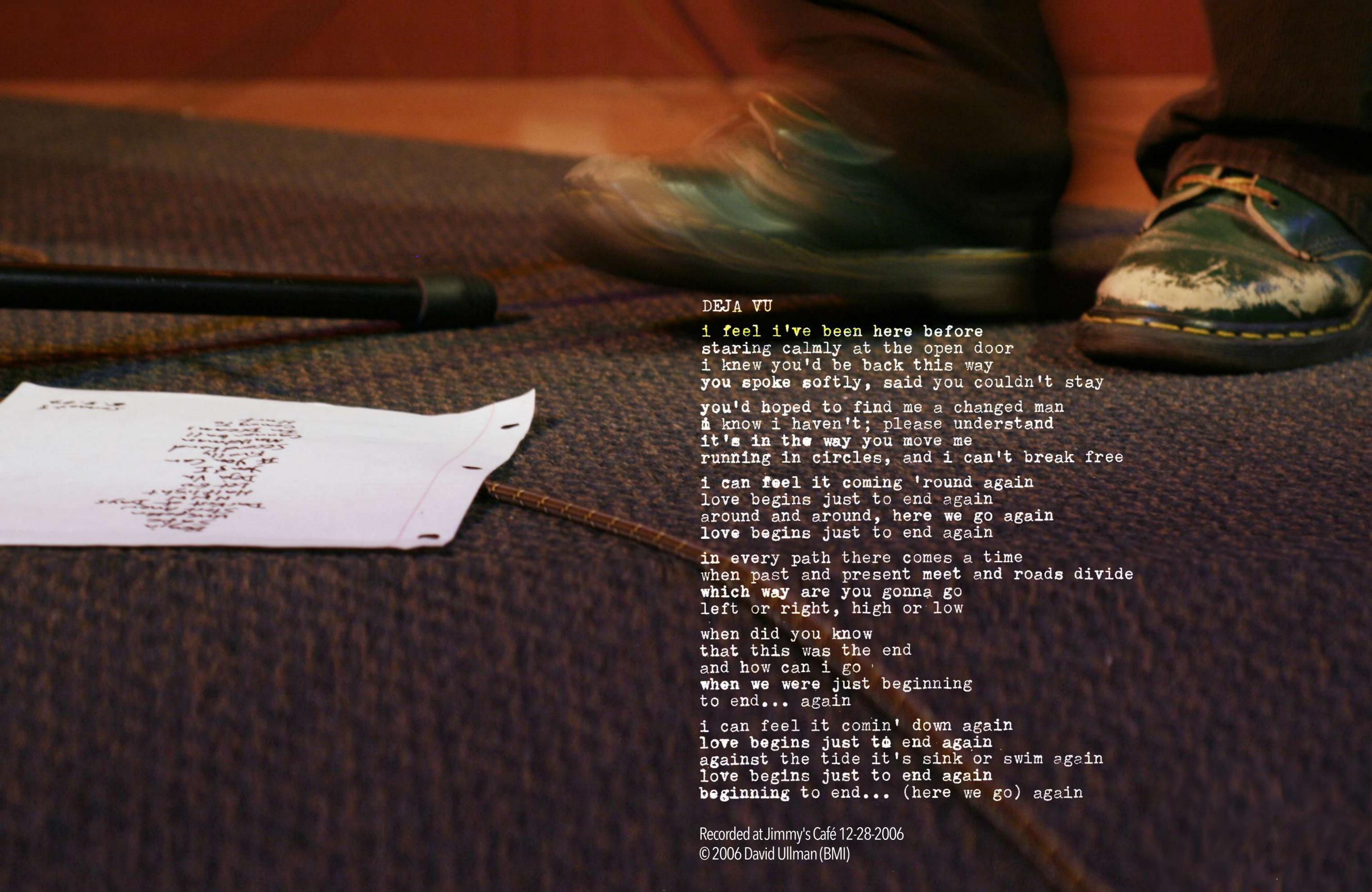
you make me feel like i'm altve and for you i'll take the dive oh to be with you with you i'll start anew and if you just say the word sweetest voice i've ever heard cuts right to my heart we will never part and after all is said and done my dear, my only one

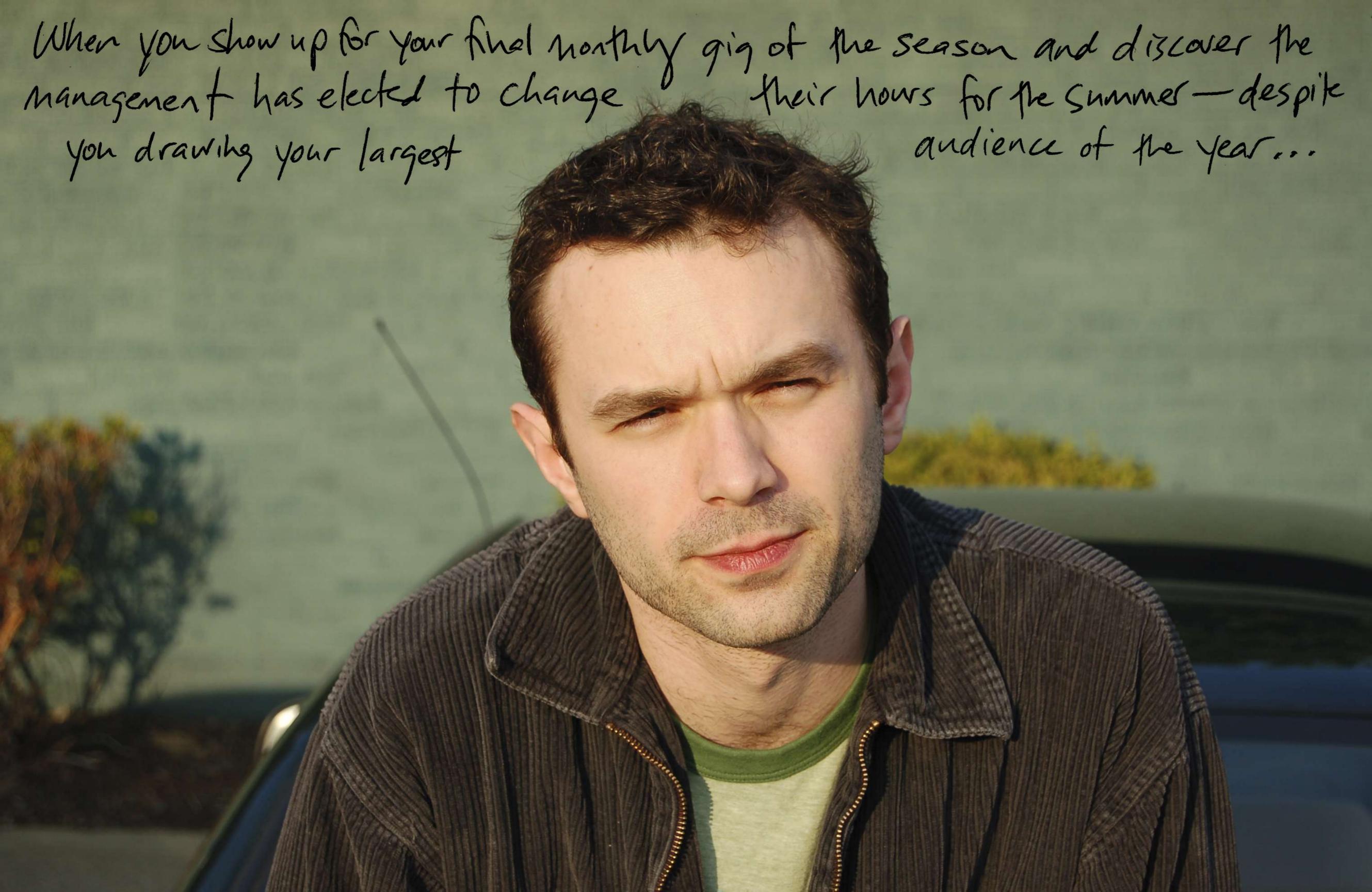
come aboard my sweetest friend on this trip that never ends ocean of love strong and true rollong waves brought me to you

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 with you i'll start anew

Recorded at Susan's Coffee & Tea 2-24-2007 © 2008 David Ullman (BMI)















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 thatyyou 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 doin8 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 wakinggup 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 tryong too hard to be where i didn't belong

chorus

#### 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 youmneed 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 laps, 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

Recorded at Sonnet's 11-11-2006 © 2006 David Ullman (BMI)





#### parkest of Days

Dwatched it all slip away-as swiftly as it came you and I, my Priends, are all that remain nothing left to do, no words to explain feed off of fear, revell in pain (SPEAK)

(12) The sine of the father, imprison the son All that he was, all that he'd done illusions of hope, drive him to dream of happier times, safe, warm and clean (Dream)

there's truths to be told and lies to start

(AB) Morting along through these darlest of days

Steal lie and theat he pleads and he begs

together as one, no longer a trained

CH2) It all came tack to the start
foolich and yours the gave the true heart
The swore to be true to death do us part
fuels that's what you get when you shoot of the
-tleavy Chards—

CH3) It all come back to the start
there's bridges to burn, rivers to part
friends will be lost, loveled depart
That's what you get when you shoot fithe heart
- fleavy chords (rig out)

INSTR.

Recorded at Sonnet's 12-29-2007 © 2000 David Ullman

#### SNAKEBIT

tiny toothpick mother of two
says "listen up boy, i got some morals for you"
frumpy little feline starting catfights on the clothesline
cul-de sac house-wife, fanny-pac brat
young people this, young people that
"it's because of your generation we're where we're at"

my feet are burning; i need to sit down gotta get up out of this town but they need to give directions a little more clears plus, i hit every damned light on my fucking way here

#### chorus:

cause i'm snakebit
this is bullshit
doesn't matter what i do or say
the devil, he's gonna have his way
cause i'm snakebit

friday fantasies, five6day sentence
living for the weekend with no repentance (that's what's great
(that's what's great about being catholic)
if you're happy and you know it, then clap your hands
work is what happens while you're making other plans
these days people don't live, they work
don't mean to complain, to sound like such a jerk, but...

#### chorus

i hate to complain (but)
i know i got it good (but)
gossip ain't my thing (but)
i gotta gotta say (what?!)
weigie-board won't-cha
gimme some more of that

gimme some more of that
pseudo-intelectual, psycho-babble bullshit
it's because of satan and santa clause,
satan and santa clause,
satan is santa; satan is...

#### chorus

he goes after the big ones
the bishops and the nuns
because they're the tasy ones
(everyone loves to hate the catholics)
blame it on the baptists and hillary clinton
hollywood values and liberal politicians, they're all...
chorus





#### MULLETMAN

mulletman's on the march again
wearing designer shoes and a spray-on tan
six-pack abs and frosted hair
wears his pants low enough to see his underwear

mulletman can pick a fight he'll slap you about just to prove his might an all-star athlete, he'll make the pass knock you flat, yeah he'll kick your ass

he's so handsome, sugar sweet sweeps the girls right off their feet mulletman, he'll make you swoon unrefined, beautiful baboon

mulletman, he's got a plan
gonna pick you up at a quarter-to-ten
he's feelin' frisky for romance
knows a hundred ways to get in your pants
gonna drive you to a secluded spot
he'll give you every line he's got
to get what he wants; he wants it all
in the morning he promises he'll give you a call

he's so sexy, sugar sweet treats you like a piece of meat how can other boys compete he's got it all; he's such a creep

but this goovy gal, she's on the prowl meets his pouty stare with a lurid scowl what he don't know, he'll soon find out she's the only one who knows what he's about she's gonna drive him to the breakin' point leave him all alone just to prove her point that he's not all he thinks he his he's just an unkind, dressed up, unchecked id

he's so sexy, sugar sweet sweeps the girls right off their feet how can other boys compete he's got it all, but can't you see

mulletmen are everywhere seems the mold is broken beyond repair behind a plastic smile that's two-feet wide the monkey-man-child is trying to hide a two-faced facade, worn for all to see it might fool her, man, but it don't fool me



All songs recorded from the RCA "tope outs" of this Behringer LITRACOUSTIC ACX 1000 2×60 watt, Stereo acoustic quiter amplifier onto an appimus SCT-86 Stereo Cassette per deck. Knowing fid be gigging regularly, I bought (instead of renting) the PA from Woodsy's Music on Water Street in Kent with the (advanced) money J'd earn from My first Shows at Susan's Coffresten. I picketup the tape deck at a RadioShack in 1997. It's the same one I used to digitize the cassettes for this collection.



- 01. Introduction from Susan's Coffee & Tea (11-10-2006)
- 02. Science Fiction Double Feature (9-20-2006) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 03. Begin (12-28-2006) from Jimmy's Café
- 04. Safe (Intro) 9-20-2006 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 05. Safe (10-21-2006) from Jimmy's Café
- 06. Half-light (Intro) 11-10-2006 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 07. Half-light (4-18-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 08. The Blower's Daughter (4-19-2006) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 09. Unspoken (Intro) 12-07-2006 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 10. Unspoken (4-18-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 11. Coming To (Intro) 12-11-2006 from Walnut Grill
- 12. Coming To (4-18-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 13. #41 (10-11-2006) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- \*(Intro) 12-28-2006
- 14. Start Anew (2-24-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 15. Déjà Vu (Intros) 1-24-2007 & 4-19-2006 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 16. Déjà Vu / With Or Without You (12-28-2006) from Jimmy's Café
- 17. Happy Birthday (4-18-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 18. Let Go (Intro) 11-11-2006 from Sonnet's
- 19. Let Go (12-28-2006) from Jimmy's Café
- 20. The New Wild West (11-11-2006) from Sonnet's
- \*Outro from 5-17-2006 KSU Design Studio

- \*If You Can (Intro) 12-28-2006, Jimmy's Café
- 21. If You Can (4-18-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 22. Miss May (Intro) 11-10-2006 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 23. Miss May (10-21-2006) from Jimmy's Café
- 24. Fake Plastic Trees (Intro) 4-18-2007 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 25. Fake Plastic Trees (2-24-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 26. Black (Intro) 5-02-2007 from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 27. Black (1-24-2007) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 28. Secondhand (Intro) 12-28-2006 from Jimmy's Café
- 29. Secondhand (11-11-2006) from Sonnet's
- 30. Hurt (5-19-2007) from Sonnet's
- 31. Darkest of Days (12-29-2007) from Sonnet's
- 32. Tribute (12-29-2007) from Sonnet's
- 33. Snakebit (12-29-2007) from Sonnet's
- 34. Mulletman (Intro) 12-28-2006 from Jimmy's Café
- 35. Mulletman (9-20-2006) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- 36. The Lonely 1 (12-28-2006) from Jimmy's Café
- 37. You and I (4-19-2006) from Susan's Coffee & Tea
- \*You and I (Outro) 12-28-2006
- 38. Hallelujah (5-19-2007) from Sonnet's

Written, performed, recorded, and edited by David Ullman

Tracks 7, 10, 12, 17, 21, 27, 30-33, and 38 mixed in 2018 by Brian Ullman @ Killa B Studios

Photo Credits: lesley.anne.k. photo and design (pages 1, 6, 8, 10, 17, 19, 20, 23), Elizabeth Myers (cover, 6, 11, 12, 16, 21), David Urbanic (13, 14, 15, 26), JND Photography (2), Matt Jackson (4, 5, 7, 18, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35), Dan Mosora (9), Tess Wolfe (22), David Ullman (3, 24, 25), Sean Kammer (28) Mastered with LANDR



### david ullman LIVE

at

Susan's Coffee & Tea

623 E. Main Street 330-677-0101

Wednesday October 12th 7:30 - 9:30

Photo Credit: David Urbanic www.ship-king.com

First flier 2005

I remember not having a set 13t for my first show. Turns Out I did have a short-11st of songs to choose from.

		1 begin	10/12/05
1 Science from		1 begin	Susant
I lovely one I have wild west	(dond)	V unspoken V Sake	
1 #41 - C		Startanens	
Acrobat		V deja vu	c-5
Stidehow Cannonball /F	Remuber -C-2	- letga	-c-\$
Hallelughe	C-6	1 Fecond had	1
Acetrical Storm		hdrans	C-7
I late for the Sky		you adl	C-5



Wednesday
January 25th
February 22nd
March 22nd
April 19th
May 17th
7:30 - 9:30
Susan S
623 E. Main Street
in
Contact
In



www.davidullman.net www.susanscoffee.com photo by matthew g. jackson, mattjacksonstudios.com

Fake Plastic Trees Deje Vi Unspoken New WildWest End (Brian Play?) Miss May Startanen Secondhand In Dreams Let Go Volcano If You Can Le Bamba

5/17/06

Begin Safe Corduray Lot 60 Dojn Vn Secondhard In Oreans Coming to Mulletman Unspoken Running to Stand Still Miss May

9/20/06

#41 End Start Anew The lonely 1 Yound I Science Fichon

# david ULIMAN

FALL 2006
September 20th
October 25th
November 10th
December 7th
7PM • FREE



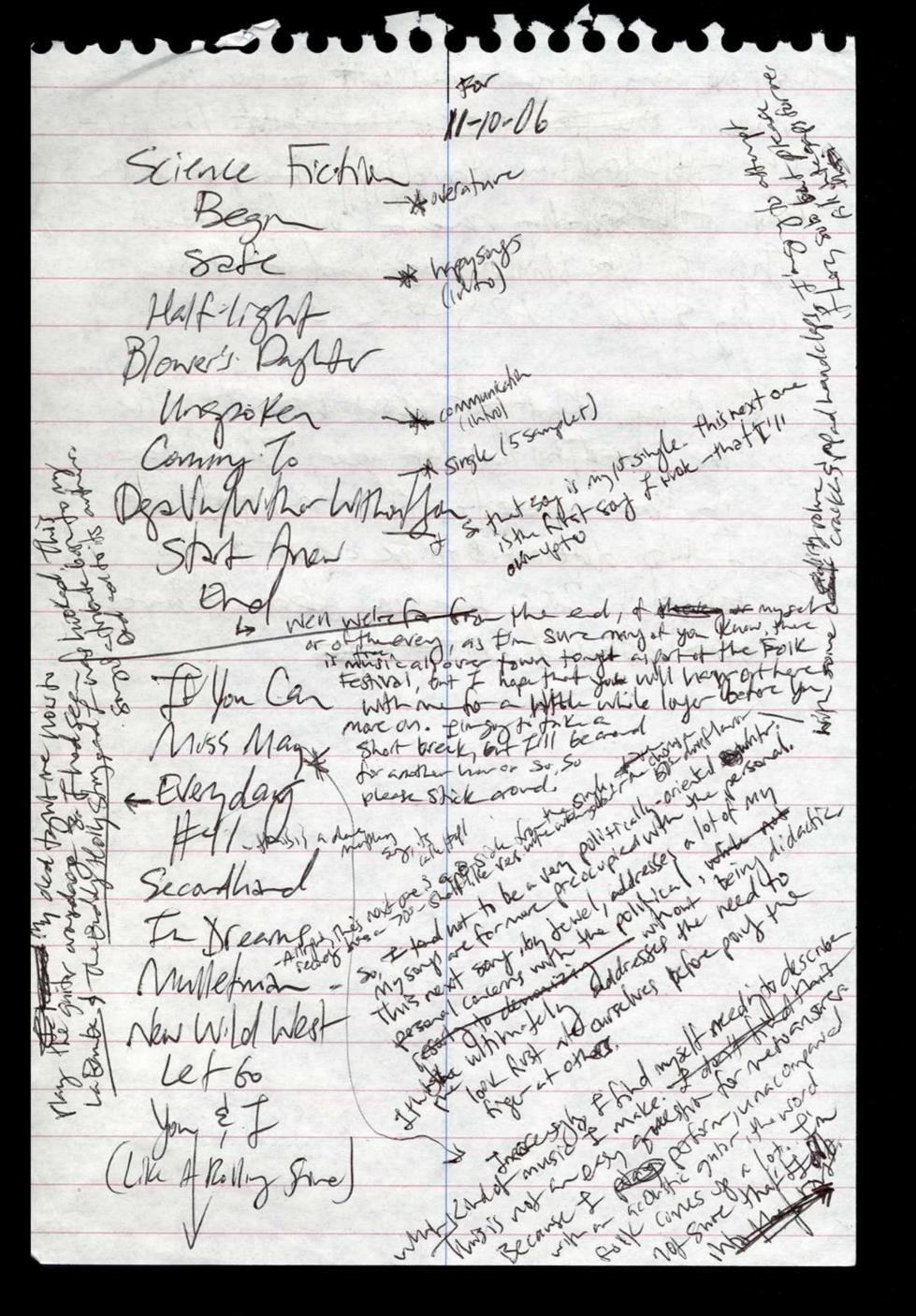
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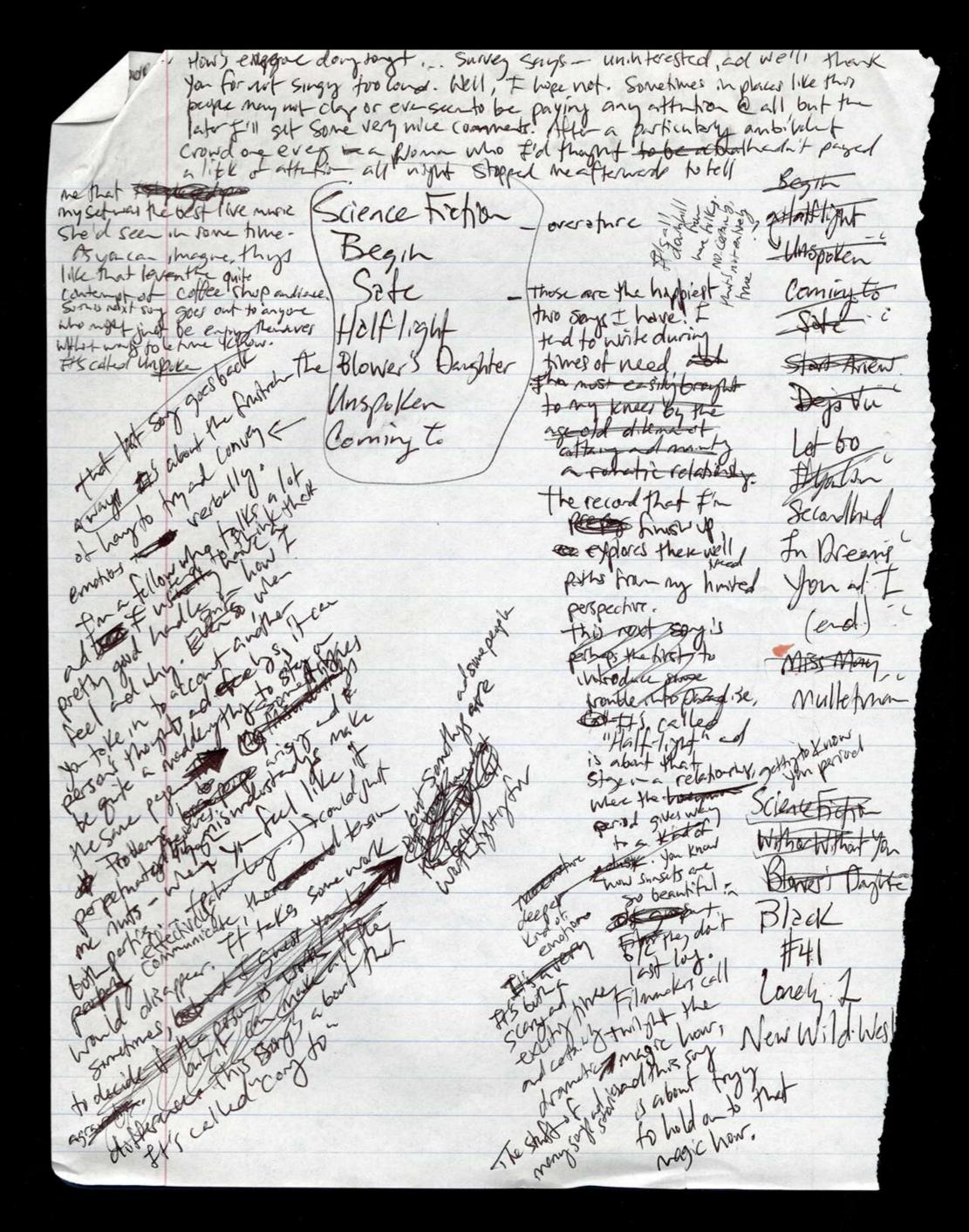
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Begin Safe Half-light Blower's Daughter Unspoken Comby To Dejà Vn Willarmithant Jon Let 60 New Wild West End

Ityon Can Black Secondhand In Dreams Mulletman Start Annu Lonely 1 Young I Science Fichen





Set list and banter notes for my biggest apportunity up to that point: a featured spot at Susan's for the 40th KSh Folk Festival.

## david UMAN

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FESTIMAL

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
10 TH · 2006
7:30 PM
623 E. Main St.

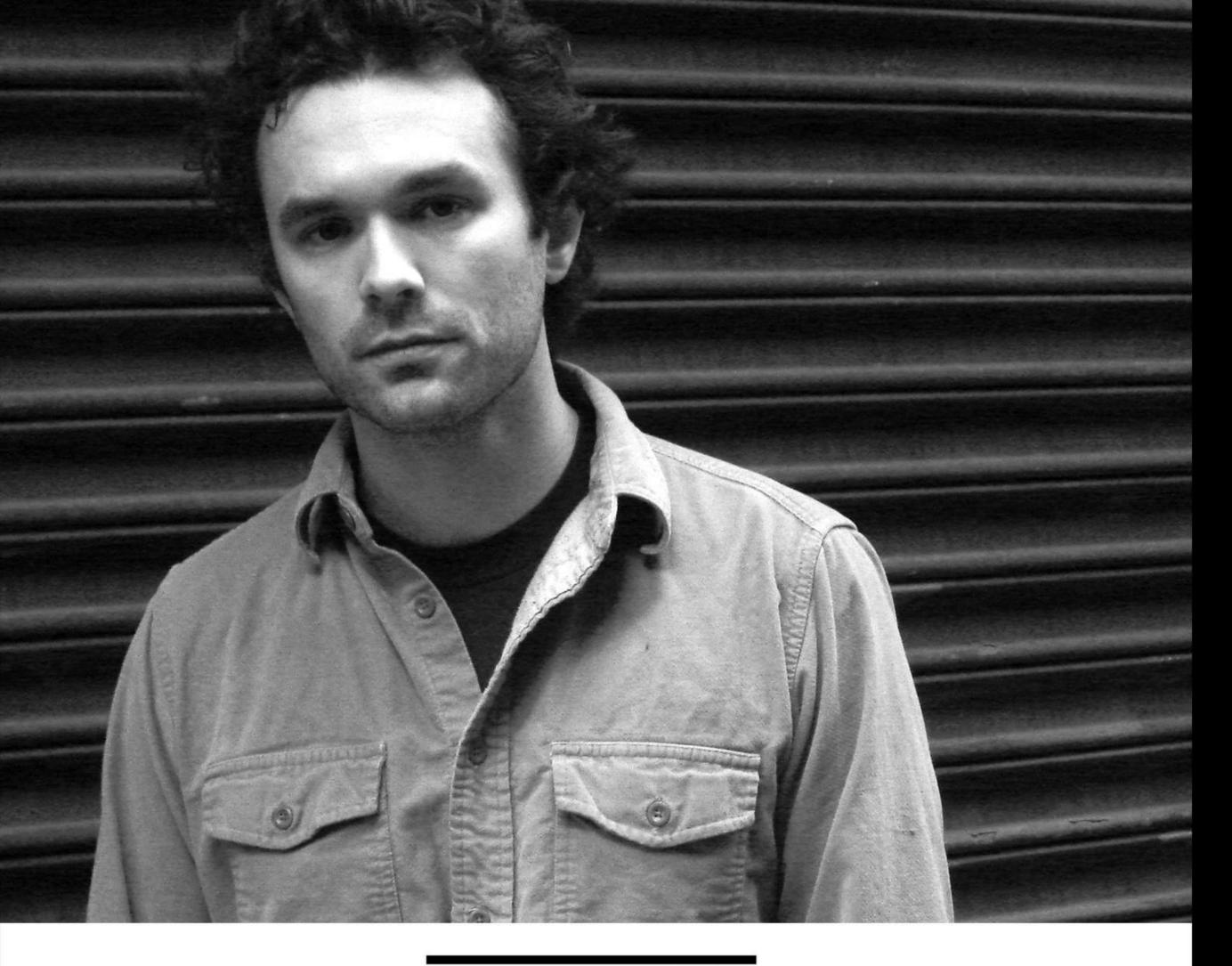
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Science Fichin
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End

Dyon Can
Miss May
#41
Secondhard
Fundreams
Mulletman
Let 60
New Wild West
Young I
Like A Rolling Stone



## david ULLMAN

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER • 11TH • 2006 7:30PM • \$3.00



www.davidullman.net

Begin Sate Halflight Fak Placker Trees Unspoken Coming To Departu Without You Stat Agen End JA Jon Can Black Secondhand Fn Dreams Mullefman New Wild West You & I

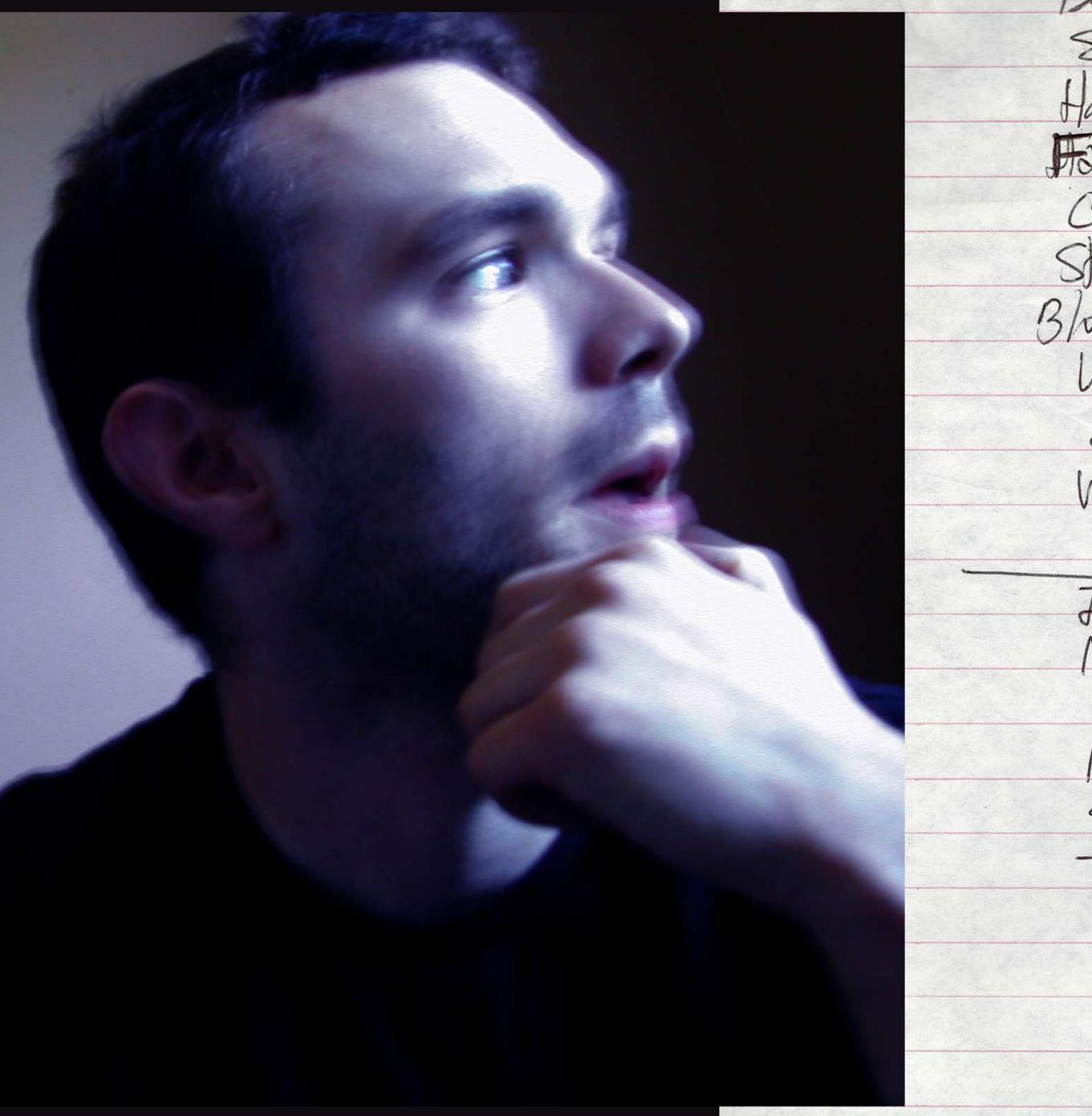


THURSDAY
OCTOBER · 26TH
DECEMBER · 28TH
5:30 - 7:30
\$2 COVER CHARGE

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www.jimmys-cafe.com

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Halflight Tree Franklawast Cef 60 Jones I

Jimmy's Gife - Chychoge Folls - 12-28-06

david ULIMAN WINTER/SPRING 2007 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24TH FEBRUARY 21ST 18TH www.davidullman.net AN'S 4-18-07 Photo: Matthew G. Jackson www.mattjacksomstudios.com 

Coming To bort Anew econdhand Mulletman - 126 1/2st In Dreams

- Sci Fi



Contact: David Ullman

**Dreaming Out Loud Records** 

dju@davidullman.net

#### KSU SINGER-SONGWRITER DAVID ULLMAN TO PERFORM FREE SHOW AT SUSAN'S COFFEE & TEA

KENT, OHIO—April 13, 2007—David Ullman will play an evening of acoustic music beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Susan's Coffee & Tea in Kent.

David Ullman is a dynamic performer whose music is at once poignant and intimate and fiercely intense. In outpourings of passion that are sometimes savage and other times delicate, Ullman sings brooding "sad bastard" songs with an underlying optimism. Ranging from a whisper to a roar, his soulful voice rises above the melodies plucked and pounded out on his guitar to deliver personal, candid, and insightful lyrics that linger with listeners long after his final note fades.

Susan's Coffee & Tea can be found at 623 E. Main St, just across from the Kent State University Campus. Serving fresh coffee, pastries, sandwiches and more since 1989, Susan's was also the first place that Ullman performed after moving to Kent in August 2005.

Since October of that year, he has played fourteen shows at the conveniently located hangout for KSU co-eds and Kent residents—including a turn as the coffee shop's featured musician in last fall's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Kent State Folk Festival's 'Round Town concert series, delivering a performance which WKSU's own Joe Gunderman called "Tasty--very tasty."

Ullman, 27, a native of Northeast Ohio, resides in Kent, where, in addition performing regularly, he is a full-time student at Kent State University. His debut album, "Dog Days," is due out this year, and the disc's first single, "Déjà Vu," was recently released by Ullman's own Dreaming Out Loud Records. This will be Ullman's 15th appearance at Susan's Coffee & Tea.

For more on David Ullman, including links to his concert calendar, online press kit, as well as music and video downloads, visit <a href="www.davidullman.net">www.davidullman.net</a>.

Wednesday, April 18th at 7pm.

Susan's Coffee & Tea DAVID ULLMAN,

KSU Singer-Songwriter David Ullman plays a free concert at Susan's Coffee & Tea.

###

P.O. BOX 843 \* KENT, OHIO 44240 \*

One of my college classes at KSU was Media Writing. This came in handy when crafting press releases.



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