

KIAN SPARKES

Crooked Creation

OFFICIAL SONGBOOK



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HAS IT GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

SONGBOOK

Hello, welcome to this SongBook for my fourth studio album
'Crooked Creation'

This album has taken a long time to 'get done'! The process started early 2020 with a release planned for later that year... then the pandemic struck! The world changed! My plans changed...

I had a long period of not wanting to write music. A long period of musical uncertainty... something I had never encountered before! It was scary! After many months of keeping busy with other projects - remixing & remastering my first two albums, I got back on the proverbial horse. Recording sessions were slower than usual, singing was harder, after suffering with COVID-19 twice, it took a while to get my lungs back to full throttle! But I got there.

The album is a reflection of the times it was created as well as a wider view on things today. I believe some of my best work to-date is on this album...and I'm extremely proud of each and every song.

This is the 4th Songbook for my music! The SongBooks are a project that I was asked to produce by a longtime supporter of my music, and friend. They are designed to allow the reader to explore the music more deeply; to maybe connect with the songs more; maybe play along on a guitar or piano; or maybe just read the lyrics... however you engage with this SongBook, thank you.

Thanks for supporting my musical journey. Enjoy the music...

Ladies & gentlemen... if you please, may I introduce you to...
'Crooked Creation'

Kian

MUSIC=LIFE



LOVERS & SINNERS

VERSE 1

Well there are lovers
and there are sinners,
Which one am I?

Yeah, there are givers
and there are takers,
One will tell you a lie.

VERSE 2

Well you can take it,
most every night,
It won't give you no peace,

And you can tell me,
what's wrong and right,
I'll bring you to your knees.

VERSE 3

With all those movers,
and with the shakers,
Working over time

Well you can give me,
give me all your reasons,
But never give me no rhymes.

VERSE 4

And I see your brothers,
all talking evil,
Look me in the eye,

Well there are lovers
and there are sinners,
Which one am I?

Key: A Major

Intro:
A (riff) D-G

Verses:
A (riff) D-G

Bridge/Solo:
A G C D

Outro:
F C F
[C D G A]



'21

VERSE 1

As all the bars are closing down,
The shops are too,
Can't seem to find the right way,
There's too much TV and too much
news,
What's happened to you?

VERSE 2

Now the mailman's your new best
friend,
You feel so confused,
Your friends and your family,
You can talk to them,
But not in the same room,
Just what's happenin' to you?

CHORUS

We're hangin' on for '21
We're holding on for '21
We're all hangin' out for '21

VERSE 3

And it seems like forever now,
You're waitin' on a life you can
choose,
While the fortune tellers lie,
There's not much risk,
And not much to lose,
But what's happenin' to you?

Key: C Major

Intro:

C F F G (x4)

Verses:

C FC

Chorus:

F C F
[C F G C]

Bridge:

Dm Em F Am G
Dm Em F F G

Outro:

F C F
[C F G C]

'21

CHORUS

We're hangin' on for '21
We're holding on for '21
We're all hangin' out for '21

BRIDGE

When the storm's about to break,
The start of brand new day,
And you've had as much as you can take,
Keep holdin' on,

For '21

OUTRO

Feel the rhythm of your beating heart,
See the beauty that's in your arms,
Hangin' on for '21





Story behind The Song!

'21

This one speaks for itself really...

***After a long time locked in our homes, we were all longing to get out there!
I wrote this song following a conversation with a lady, on Twitter, and I have know
idea who she is now! We were talking about getting back to watching/playing live-
face-to-face-gigs...***

It really didn't seem like I'd be needing to write a song called '22!

***So, the idea for the song was to keep shouting for '21!
We needed it... the hope, I guess.***

***I wrote the song, recorded, produced, mix, mastered and released it all in about 3
weeks... this was one of the songs that got me back... I loved music again!***



Story behind The Song!

'Run Away With Me'

This song started out life 'oh-so' differently to how it finished up on the record!

Originally, I was thinking of writing a song about a guy out on the road, working, travelling and longing just for some company! The idea wasn't anything to do with the musician lifestyle of touring etc ... just working & travelling in general... something to try and connect to people!

But then, I kinda got in a rut and couldn't move the song forward, at all.

So, I had a major rethink on the idea; and this is what we have today!

Those two lonely characters are back again! Forever trying to stay apart, but something always pulls them together... this songs narrates that story that's been told a million times before and will be retold for the rest of time! Love! True love that sometimes you've gotta fight for... even when the world is against you... and sometimes you've just gotta Run!

The song ran off the fretboard when I'd realised the storyline I needed to explore...

RUN AWAY WITH ME

INTRO

So run away with me,
Into the night,
Run away with me,
Into the night,

VERSE 1

When I saw you smile across the
park today,
You might has well been a million
miles away,
Standing all alone,
Just all alone

VERSE 2

And all the things we couldn't say,
And all the times we both just ran
away,
To be all alone,
Just all alone

CHORUS

So run away with me,
Into the night,
Run away with me,
Into the night,
I don't care what people say,
We both know there's a better way,
So run away with me,
Into the night,

Key: G Major

Intro:

G C

Verses:

G C

(run-down) G D/F# Em D C

G C

(run-down) G D/F# Em D C

Am C

Am D

Chorus:

G C G C
Am C Am D
G C

Bridge:

C G C D
C Em Am D

Solo & Break:

Verse
Bridge

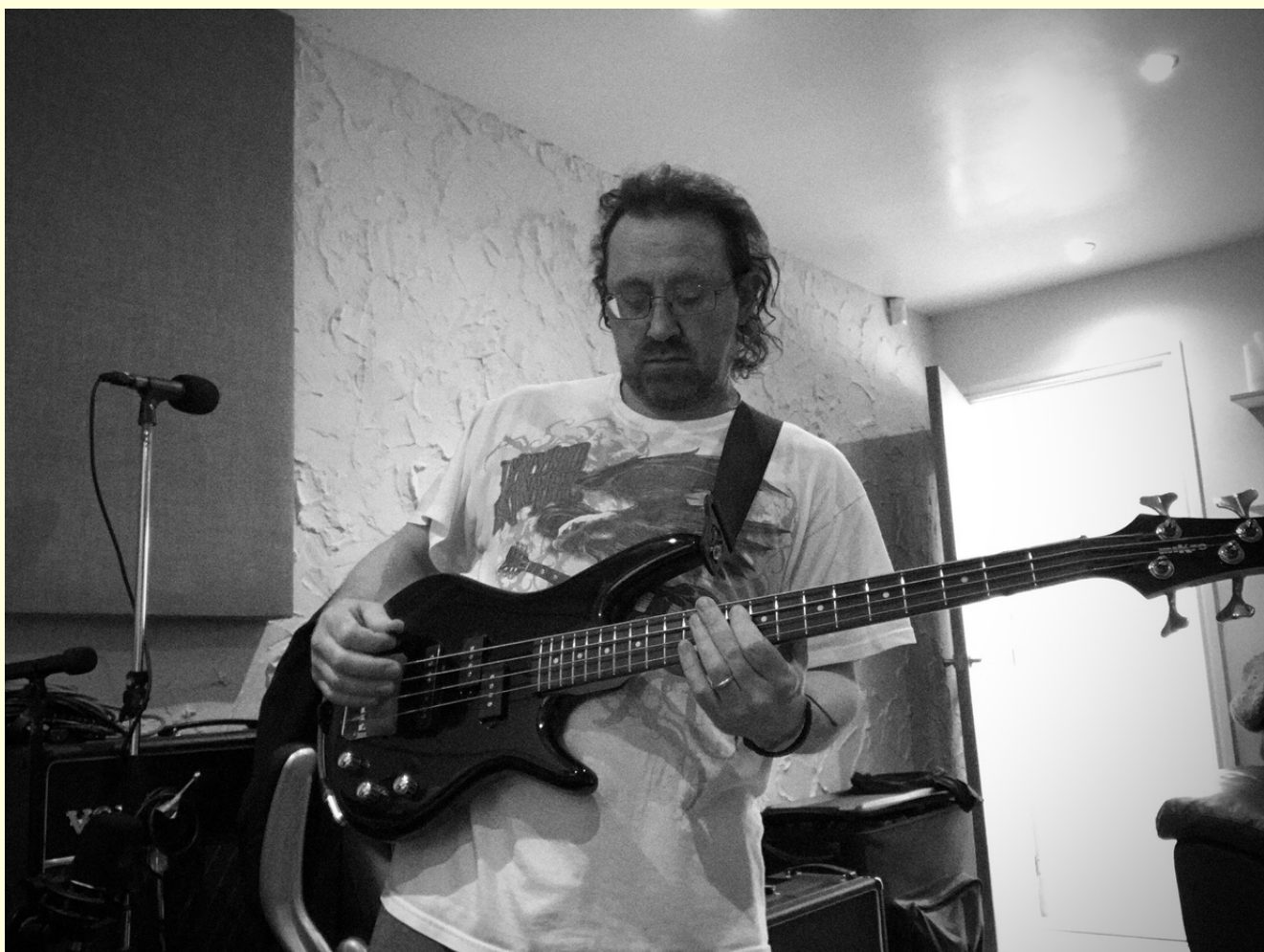
RUN AWAY WITH ME

BRIDGE

Now all the times you said that you
shouldn't stay,
But your pretty eyes always give you
away,
I'm holding on and I dream of the day,
When we run, baby when we run

CHORUS

So run away with me,
Into the night,
Run away with me,
Into the night,
I don't care what people say,
We both know there's a better way,
So run away with me,
Into the night,





Story behind The Song!

'Haunts Of Old'

This song took about 5 minutes to write! It was really that quick!

During the Pandemic, in 2020, I had been thinking about how I could reflect on the world, the times we were living through, but as always I wanted to write a song about more than just one thing. So I picked up my Hummingbird and strummed a few simple open chords... then that line 'Haunts Of Old' popped into my head... we were all locked in our homes, not able to go to our favourite bars, cafes, restaurants, parks etc. our favourite 'Haunts!' I was hooked, this would work!

***I didn't even have time to grab my notebook & pencil... I just sang what came!
'All the places that I never thought I'd find nothing but an open door... all the faces that I've left behind... can't take it anymore...'***

***The lyric just came! I think this was one of the easiest lyrics I've written to date.
I literally just sang and the lines came out... magic!***

I grabbed my phone and recorded the song idea before I wrote anything down... just so I didn't forget anything.

Then I wrote the lyrics down and set about arranging the song. Simple, was the by-word for the whole album and this song needed it really simple - to let the songwriting come front & centre.

The lines '...Time on my mind...' in the solo section actually took the longest time to get right! I think I was trying to write a whole bridge lyric that the song didn't need... before I sat back and just said to myself... 'Simple, dummy!' And the song was done...

One of my favourite songs, so far...

HAUNTS OF OLD

VERSE 1

Just chasing down memories,
Down Open roads,
I long for places that I've never been,
And dream of haunts of old

VERSE 2

In days like we've never seen,
The streets are quiet and cold,
I long for places that I've never seen,
And dream of haunts of old

BRIDGE

All the places that I never thought,
I'd find nothing but an open door,
Or the faces that I've left behind,
And the smiles that I adored,
Hear the world screaming out,
We can't take this any more,

We've gotta take it down

SOLO & BREAK

With time on my mind,
Juts time

Key: A Major

CAPO - 2

Intro:

G C

Verses:

C G (x3)
rundown to G

Bridge:

Em C G D (x3)
C9 G/B
(cool run!)

Solo & Break:

Verse

Bridge



REBEL ANGELS

VERSE 1

How I love those rebel angles,
Singing of peace and harmony,
And how the loved their land and
nature,
Taught the world to live free,

Key: Bb major
CAPO - 3

Verses:

G C D

VERSE 2

Always singing songs of meaning,
And never hid from any controversy,
Stood strong behind the feelings,
Taught the world how to see,

Chorus:

C G
C G
D C G

CHORUS

Rebel angels shine,
Rebel angels fly,
Rebel angels
Forever shine

VERSE 3

Behind the music lay your beauty,
A spirit, a strength, a will and love,
Singing songs about our liberty,
In a time when words were woken
up,

VERSE 4

Always singing songs of meaning,
Never hid what others wouldn't see,
Standing strong with your feeling,
Taught the child who they should be,

CHORUS (x2).



I'LL BE WAITING

VERSE 1

You speak as if there's no
tomorrow,
We ride our lives on a roulette
wheel,
But, I know that I'd always be
leavin',
'Cos I'd seen the things I know
you just can't see,

Key: F# major

Verses:

F# B C#

CHORUS

But, Oh....oh! I'll be waiting,
Oh....oh! For all to see,
I'm leavin' this place now in the
morning,
'Cos what you want means
nothing now to me,

Chorus:

B C# F#

B C# F#

VERSE 2

For years we've travelled the
Queen's highways,
Fought wars and drank to our
victories,
But, I know you'd always pass by
me,
You left me with my dreams for
company,

B B F#

B C# F#

CHORUS

But, Oh....oh! I'll be waiting,
Oh....oh! For all to see,
I'm leavin' this place now in the
morning,
'Cos what you want means
nothing now to me,

I'LL BE WAITING

VERSE 3

Now you say, you've taken all the
heartaches,
For all those years when you
wanted my company,
But I know I won't let it all pass
by me,
And for all those tears,
How few have been for me?

CHORUS (x2)

But, Oh....oh! I'll be waiting,
Oh....oh! For all to see,
I'm leavin' this place now in the
morning,
'Cos what you want means
nothing now to me,







SHOW ME HOW TO LOVE AGAIN

VERSE 1

Lazy days have all gone away,
It's just longer days and rides back
home,
Close the door but life's in the way,
Before it's too late I want more

Key: Bm

Verses:

C#m7 Dmaj7 (x3)
C#m7 F#7

CHORUS

Here tonight,
Show me how to love again,
From time alone I've seen your light,
So here tonight,
Show me how to love again,
Hold me now,
And shoe me how to love

Chorus:

Em7 A7 Dmaj7 Bm7
C#m7 F#7

VERSE 2

Through every day and every night,
The years just make our love grow
more,
But fears and doubt of a fading
light,
And the lure of a stranger's open
door

Bridge:

Em7 A7 Dmaj7 Bm
Em7 A7 Dmaj7 D7
Em7 A7 Dmaj7 Bm
C#7 F#7

Solo:

Em7 A7 Dmaj7 Bm
Em7 A7 Dmaj7 Bm
Em7 A7 Dmaj7 D7
C#7 F#7 Bm

CHORUS

So here tonight,
Show me how to love again,
From time alone I've seen your light,
So here tonight,
Show me how to love again,
Hold me now,
And shoe me how to love

SHOW ME HOW TO LOVE AGAIN

BRIDGE

From long walks in the park,
Holding hands,
Letting the world just pass us by,
We're now just living our,
To somebody else's plans,
And never asking why?

CHORUS

So here tonight,
Show me how to love again,
From time alone I've seen your light,
So here tonight,
Show me how to love again,
Hold me now,
And show me how to love



MONDAY MORNING

VERSE

It’s another Monday morning,
Hear bells in ringin’ your head,
You fall out of bed,
And turn on your radio

VERSE 2

It sure feels like a Monday,
Just another week up ahead,
Every day you wish was Friday,
When you saw her walk on in

VERSE 3

You pick up your morning paper,
And read the same headlines again,
Your coffee’s cold,
And the rain keep falling down

VERSE 4

The waitress calls another order,
The girl runs through your mind again,
Your dreaming your life away for
Friday’s,
‘Cos the lights and the sounds are
callin’

Key: A major

INTRO:

A

VERSE:

A D

A D

A D Bm E

BRIDGE:

F#m D

F#m D

F#m D

Bm E

MONDAY MORNING

BRIDGE

As the train pulls away,
Your left standing all alone again,
And Friday's a lifetime away,

VERSE

It's another Monday morning,
Hear bells in ringin' your head,
You fall out of bed,
And turn on your radio

Just another Monday morning,
Monday morning,
Just another Monday morning,







MELANCHOLY RAIN

VERSE 1

My melancholy rain,
Falls through my fingers another
time again,
Just like yesterday,
I feel it fallin',
As it slips and slides away

PRE-CHORUS

And all the things that have
changed,
I'm still hoping,
But getting lost along the way,
And pretend I'm coping,
Every day more convinced,
That is how it's gonna be

CHORUS

But my melancholy rain,
Will just wash it wash it all away,
And at the start of another day,
Get to be where I belong

VERSE 2

Through tears of hunger,
And years of shame,
I try moving forward,
To just slip back again,
Too scare of winning,
So you play their games,
It keeps you crawlin',
As your time slips away

Key: Gm

INTRO:
Gm

VERSE:
Gm Cm F Bb Dm
Gm Cm F Bb Dm
Gm

PRE-CHORUS:
Eb Cm7 F Bb Dm
Eb Cm7 F Bb Dm
Eb Cm F Dm

CHORUS:
Bb Ebm Ab Db
Gb Ebm Fsus4 F

MELANCHOLY RAIN

PRE-CHORUS

All the things that have changed,
I'm still hoping,
And getting lost along the way,
And pretend I'm coping,
Every day more convinced,
That this is how it's gonna be

CHORUS

But my melancholy rain,
Is gonna wash it all away,
And at the start of a brand-new day,
Get to be where I belong

Yeah, my melancholy rain,
Is gonna wash it all away,
At the start of a brand-new day,
I'll get to sing a different song



LONELY CITY

VERSE

I take a walk,
Through this lonely city,
No-one talks,
In this lonely city,

Key: C major

CAPO - 5

VERSE 2

As the river flows,
Through this lonely city,
I've never known,
Such a lonely city,

Intro:

G C

Verse

G C Em Bm C

BRIDGE

As the lights turn green to red,
A lonely figure rushes on ahead,
Trying to find a safe path to tread,
On their long way home,

Bridge:

Am C (x3)

D

VERSE 3

A cold wind blows,
Through this lonely city,
And no one knows,
How long a lonely city,

Solo & Break:

G C Em D

BRIDGE

I sit on the edge of my bed,
We'll always hide from what we've said,
To find the freedom to live again,
With the ones we know,
As my footsteps lead the way,
Taken' me places from yesterday,
Tryin' to find a safe path to tread,
On my long way home,

Just take a walk,
Through this lonely city,

CROOKED CREATION



Kian Sparkes

Lovers & Sinners
'21

Run Away With Me
I'll Be Waiting
Rebel Angels
Haunts Of Old
Show Me How To Love Again
Monday Morning
Melancholy Rain
Lonely City
Lady Tuesday

All instruments played by Kian Sparkes
All vocals by Kian Sparkes

All lyrics and music written by Sparke

Recorded at WestShire Studio, Cheshire
Recorded, Engineered & Produced by Kian Sparkes
Mixed by Kian Sparkes
Mastered by Kian Sparkes

Album artwork by Kian Sparkes
Based on a Photograph by Matt Palmer

Thanks to 'The Crew' on Patreon for all your support

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

The 'Crooked Creation' album was recorded in my Home Studio: WestShire Studio, Cheshire, UK.
Below is the main components & tools that I used for the recording.

Recording Equipment:

RECORDING SOFTWARE - LOGIC PRO X
INTERFACE - FOCUSRITE CLARETT 4PRE USB
VOCALS MICROPHONE - LEWITT LCT440 PURE
ACOUSTIC GUITAR MIC'S - LEWITT LCT440 PURE /
LEWITT LCT140

MIXING SOFTWARE - STUDIO ONE
MASTERING SOFTWARE - STUDIO ONE
DRUMS (MIDI) - EZDRUMMER 3*
PIANO (MIDI) - EZKEYS*
HAMMOND/WURLY/E-PIANO - IK MULTIMEDIA
BASS GUITAR - IBANEZ GIO MIKRO

* when not played/recorded live

ELECTRIC GUITAR AMPS/TONES

AMPLITUDE 4 / 5**
VOX AC30 (GANDALF) 1962/63 NON-TOP BOOST / VOX BLUES
VOX AC30 (FRODO) HANDWIRED/CELESTION GREENBACKS
LINE 6 HX STOMP XL***
TWO NOTE CAPTOR 8† (SPEAKER IR'S AMPLITUDE 5)

Lovers & Sinners

Guitars
Gibson Les Paul Standard / HXStomp AC30***
SOLO - Gibson Les Paul Standard / HXStomp AC30*** /
Rocktron Banshee2 TalkBox

Run Away With Me

Guitars
Fender '62 Tele Custom / '53 Bassman**
Gibson SG / Sovtek MIG60†
SLIDE - Gibson SG / Vox AC30(Frodo)†
SOLO - Gibson Les Paul Standard / Vox AC30(Frodo)†
Gibson Hummingbird / Fender DG14S (Nashville Tuning)

Rebel Angels

Guitars
Gibson Hummingbird
SLIDE - Yamaha Revstar RS502 / '65 Fender Deluxe Reverb**

Show Me How To Love Again

Guitars
Gibson ES335(Rich Robinson Custom Shop) / HXStomp AC15***

Melancholy Rain

Guitars
Gibson Les Paul Standard / Vox AC30(Frodo)†

'21

Guitars
Fender '50's No-Caster / '53 Bassman**
Fender '62 Tele Custom / '53 Bassman**
SLIDE GUITAR - Gibson '61 SG / '65 Fender Deluxe Reverb**
SOLO - Gibson Les Paul Standard / VoxAC30**
Gibson Hummingbird / Fender DG14S (Nashville Tuning)

I'll Be Waiting

Guitars
Fender '62 Tele Custom / 'Vox AC30(Frodo)†

Haunts Of Old

Guitars
Fender Stratocaster '60's Roadworn / 'Vox AC30 (Frodo)†
Gibson Hummingbird

Monday Morning

Guitars
Fender Stratocaster '60's Roadworn / 'Fender 5E3**

Lonely City

Guitars
Gibson Hummingbird

Lady Tuesday

Guitars
Gibson Hummingbird



COMFORTABLE SKIN

SONGBOOK

Okay... So there it is... the 'Crooked Creation' album!

I hope you enjoyed taking this journey and exploring these songs. It took a long time to complete, but things that are worth it sometimes do.

This album truly tested my resolve as an artist: as I have spoken about many times, during the Pandemic I was totally uninterested in writing music... and that was a very scary place to be for someone who has written songs, and created music, since he was 14/15 years old! Giving '*myself*' some downtime, some space, enabled me to get back into the saddle and finalise this album... when the time was right!

The title 'Crooked Creation' was really just a phrase, that appeared in my mind one morning, which I liked. On looking back over the duration of this project, I think it became a metaphor for how not everything in our world/universe is beautiful... nor does it have to be! This album was produced in a kinda '*Crooked*' way... the stop start nature of it, to name but one hurdle! It wasn't perfect, it isn't perfect, but like so many things that are not perfect... it's somehow more beautiful! Quite often in life, the things that are aesthetically beautiful, can be shallow & paper-thin, whereas the things that have the knocks, the scars and have taken the long-hard-road are very often more worthy of our time and admiration. This album is a Crooked Creation... but I feel it's my best work to date!

Thank you for all your support and I look forward to writing another one of these things soon for the next album!

Peace

Kian

M U S I C = L I F E

