

SONG MEANINGS...and why I wrote them.

Make A Difference

Make A Difference is the most recent of my originals. It came to me when I was struggling with my day job of 21 years...I knew it was about to be over. It seemed everywhere I looked amongst my friends and family I could see others struggling in their lives as well. The words, "Lord help me, so I can make a difference" became a mental refrain, my plea to God. To this day I continue to pray that my talents and views will be significant and meaningful.

The Rest Of My Life

It was my friend's mom Lucy who gave me the idea for *The Rest Of My Life*. My parents were tragically killed in a car accident when I was 25. I'm the eldest of four brothers and needed guidance heading the family. Lucy became like a second mother to me. I was working toward an entertainment career in Manhattan. Lucy helped motivate me through frustrations of not making the headway I'd dreamt of.

Lucy was also a self-proclaimed psychic and would say to me, "Kennala, my son... it may take you the rest of your life". After meeting my soul mate and now husband Richard, the lyrics have taken on a whole new meaning to me.

Sitting Waiting For You

Sitting Waiting For You is about a somewhat secretive time in my life. I was young, in love, and trying to come to terms with being gay. I couldn't openly discuss with anyone the relationship I was in. Back then I was naïve and smitten and had not yet learned that love should be easy, reciprocated and wonderful.

Is It Love

Back in the 90's I met a wonderful musician, Roland Rand. He had written a melody and asked me to write lyrics to complete the song. I wrote the words to *Is It Love* about feelings I had in a young romance. I'd been holding on to this unfulfilling relationship that ultimately fell apart. I met Mr. Relationship again years after we broke up and realized then it was all too much like the story in *The Way We Were*...just not meant to be.

In Memory Of You

In Memory Of You was written nearly 30 years ago. A dear friend came to visit me at work to tell me her son had died. She had a relationship with her young son similar to the relationship I had with my mom. The news devastated me...leaving me in tears. Her pain, and the pain I endured with the loss of my mom, was the heartbreak I felt to write these lyrics.

All I Do Is Pray

I was sitting alone in my small studio apartment in Manhattan. When the lyrics to *All I Do Is Pray* came to me. I was singing the title over and over, repeating the word *pray*.

I remember thinking the repetition was odd but that's the way I heard it in my head that night.

My producer Jon confirmed that it worked and gave the arrangement a subtle "island" feel. The simple lyrics matched the rhythmical style. I wanted the vocal to be light and whimsical but to still be meaningful.

Never Ever Be

Never Ever Be describes a doomed relationship that never worked out...a secret love that was to remain a secret. Jon Cobert's formal and almost classical arrangement was a perfect match for these heart wrenching lyrics.

He Is All I Need

My faith is strong. More of a spirituality than a religious belief. I was raised Catholic- church on Sunday, midnight mass at Christmas, etc. At the age of 16, I witnessed a miracle in the sky the night my grandmother Lucy died. Northern lights and clouds above her house had formed a vivid image of a dove. To my eyes it was the Holy Spirit taking her home. *He Is All I Need* is praising God for my life and all its greatness.

Dance For Me

First off, the lyrics to *Dance For Me* are not what they appear to be. I was working in retail years ago. I was laughing with the young girl working beside me about something off-color I had said. Her mother (a tall assuming lady) who managed our area threatened me to be careful, to stay away from her daughter. She knew I was gay so the threat was all in good fun and that night I was grinning as I wrote the lyrics. When my producer and I began this song, the musical *Phantom of the Opera* came to mind. Instead of the Phantom getting the girl to sing, I would get her to dance... so tongue in cheek! The arrangement has a 70s disco feel which I just love! During that era I *lived* on the dance floor.

Where I Used To Be

Where I Used To Be is about the loss of my parents, leaving my hometown, finding my way in a big city and then going back home again. Writing these lyrics was a progressive and positive part of my healing. I can't believe that I intended the original title to be "Going Back To Schenectady". After coming to my senses I changed the title to "Where I Used To Be".

Till

Till is the one song on the album I did not write. Some really great artists have performed memorable versions... Tony Bennett, Andy Williams and Tom Jones to name a few. It's an old fashioned and sentimental song but with Jon's pared-down arrangement and artful guitar playing it felt perfect. I dedicate this song to my husband Richard. Just a couple months before the recording session for *Till* I became very sick with Covid 19. I suffered for weeks and was afraid for my life. I wondered if I would sing again. Richard was at my side the entire time and pulled me through.