

# Wings of Time, a CD by Jim Heald

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#### Champagne and Roses to Laura, who continues to make it all possible.

Thanks to all the musicians; particularly my main collaborators: Greg Gosdin and Eric. Thanks also to Mita for standing by her man and hanging out with Laura; Jay and Cindy; Kirt Kempter for showing me this was possible; Susan, Leeann and Lisa for hitting the high notes; Charlie for all that was MARS; Greg Lowry for his many instruments and wry humor; Jim Brauer for his sweet guitar; Steve K. for his desert visions and drums; Doug for play¬ing bass when no one else would and staying Green; David Obermann and KUT for playing my songs; The Green Mesquite; Rick and David for helping me finish this before I had to get out of Dodge; Ray and Kathy; Ray, Kristen and the boys; and, last but not least, my family —John and Ruth Heald; Mary Lu and David; Janet and Jo Ann; John, April, Valerie; Demian, Joni and Tequila.

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 $Produced\ for\ Missing\ Link\ Records.$ 

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Recorded in Austin, Texas at MARS Studio (Charlie Hollis, engineer),

Folk Reels (Eric Blakely, engineer), and Shakespeer Music (Rick Ward, engineer).

Digital Editing by David Speer, Shakespeer Music.

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## **Credits**

#### I Want to Live Forever

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals Greg Gosdin, lead guitar and bass Jeff Sharpe, congas and shakers Recorded at Shakespeer Music.

#### Your Love Pours Down

(for John Realmuto)
Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Bob Medina, saxophone
Frank Kammerdiener, cello
Leeann Atherton, vocals
Recorded at Folk Reels.

#### The Thorns that Guard the Rose

(for Janet and Jo Ann)
Jim Heald, guitars and vocals
Susan Hollis, vocals
Recorded at Shakespeer Music.

# Standing on the Great Wall of China

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Rich Brotherton, lead guitar, bass,
and mandolin
Lisa Sawyer, vocals
Recorded at MARS.

#### **Defenders of the Forest**

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals Frank Kammerdiener, cello Adrienne Inglis, Zamponas Lisa Sawyer, vocals Recorded at MARS and Folk Reels.

#### The Thin Line

(for Ed McCarthy)
Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Doug Seiter, bass
Steve Kemble, drums
Beth Galiger, flute
Susan Hollis, vocals
Recorded at MARS.

#### I Don't Know the Answer

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Eric Blakely, lead guitar and bass
Marty Frank, drums
Leeann Atherton, vocals
Recorded at Folk Reels.

### Two in the Morning

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals Greg Gosdin, lead guitar and bass Recorded at Shakespeer Music.

## Money, Money, Money

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Eric Blakely, lead guitar
Doug Seiter, bass
Ron Erwin, drums
Susan Hollis, vocals
Recorded at MARS and Folk Reels

## Miguel's Song

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals Beth Galiger, flute Doug Seiter, bass Quincy Jarmon, congas Recorded at Folk Reels.

### **Long Distance**

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Greg Lowry, dobro
Doug Seiter, bass
Leeann Atherton, vocals
Recorded at Folk Reels.

#### Chains of Love

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals
Eric Blakely, lead guitar
Doug Seiter, bass
Andy Pickard, drums
Susan Hollis and Lisa Sawyer,
vocals
Recorded at MARS and Folk Reels.

## Waiting for the Bombs to Fall

Jim Heald, guitar and vocals Recorded at Shakespeer Music.

#### I Want to Live Forever

I want to live forever, see how things turn out travel to the moon and stars and see what they're about.

Even if they're all barren rocks, windswept and cold

I want to live forever, but I don't want to get old.

Politics and human rights, people struggling to be free

when we get to where we're going I want to be there to see.

Tear down all the walls and pave the streets with gold.

I want to live forever, but I don't want to get old.

Hair turns grey and flesh begins to sag Sight begins to fade and spirits start to drag Bones begin to break and minds start drifting away ...

I hope that you're still with me at the dawn of a brand new day.

Miracles of medicine, what will they think of next?

A cure for all diseases? Safe alternatives to sex?

Transplants and implants, I can see it all unfold

I want to live forever, but I don't want to get old.

Hair turns grey and flesh begins to sag Sight begins to fade and spirits start to drag Bones begin to break and minds start drifting away ...

I hope that you're still with me at the dawn of a brand new day.

It's time to place your bets, seal up your predictions

feel the thrill of the race, the race against mass extinction.

Will the climate be the same at the equator

and the poles?

I want to live forever, but I don't want to get

1989, Austin TX

### Your Love Pours Down (For John Realmuto)

Walking by the river as the evening sun plays shadow games with me

your face appears and disappears in the branches of the trees.

My prayers float upward on the breeze like runaway kites;

filling up cathedrals of silence like candles in the night.

The river of life flows on and on within me and without

we're all woven from the same loom, of that I have no doubt.

The sun comes up and the moon goes round and round

and we're all waiting here on earth for fragments of the heavenly sound.

Like a crust of bread to a hungry man or a drop of water in a thirsty land; your love pours down from a jet black sky and sweeps away that other world, the one that went awry.

My aching fingers pluck the strings but the sounds do not agree

and the words keep choking in my throat, they're dying to be free.

I know there's still some music left in these weary bones

even if it's just a distant wailing chorus from the saxophones.

Like a crust of bread to a hungry man or a drop of water in a thirsty land; your love pours down from a jet black sky and sweeps away that other world, the one that went awry.

Walking by the river as the evening sun plays shadow games with me

and shapes appear and disappear in the branches of the trees.

Our prayers float upward on the breeze like runaway kites;

filling up cathedrals of silence like candles in the night.

February 1991, Austin TX

# The Thorns That Guard the Rose (For Janet and Jo Ann)

I am the sun, I am the moon
I am the dream that ends too soon.
I am the deer, I am the lumbering bear
I am the catch that eludes the snare.

I am the grass, I am the flower I am a lifetime or one short hour. I am the tree, I am the leaf I am a place beyond belief.

I am the flame that keeps you warm. I am the calm before the storm. I am the hurricane that blows. I am the thorns that guard the rose.

I am the light, I am the dark I am the arrow that hits the mark. I am the snow, I am the rain I am the touch that heals the pain.

> I am the flame that keeps you warm. I am the calm before the storm. I am the hurricane that blows. I am the thorns that guard the rose

Everywhere you look, everything you see, However far your mind goes, you'll still be with me. I am the moon, I am the sun I am the shining radiant one. I am the black sky filled with stars, I understand just who you are.

I am the flame that keeps you warm. I am the calm before the storm. I am the hurricane that blows. I am the thorns that guard the rose

September/October. 1988, Near Vail Colorado and Austin, TX

### Standing On The Great Wall Of China

I'm standing on the Great Wall of China looking out into the blue standing on the Great Wall of China and all I can think of is you.

I trudged across miles of desert searching lost cities for gold but the fragments of truth fell apart in my hands and the secrets would never unfold.

So I sailed beyond the horizon chasing a sweet mystery.
Clutching the moon's reflections and drowning in love's stormy seas.

Countless the stars that I've counted countless the times I've been lost countless the times I denied you without ever counting the cost.

But you came along and tossed me a line unlocked the treasures, explained the design. You came along with a song in your heart. The ground opened up and the sky flew apart. The sages said love was for losers, the sages said love was untrue, the sages have said that love is a dream but the sages have never kissed you.

'Cause love is the light in a dark empty world love is the shelter I've earned I crisscrossed the globe without you and love was the lesson I learned.

So I'm standing on the Great Wall of China looking out into the blue; standing on the Great Wall of China and I've got my arms around you.

'Cause love is the light in a dark empty world love is the shelter I've earned I crisscrossed the globe without you and love was the lesson I learned.

#### 1982, Chicago

#### Defenders Of The Forest

Somewhere in the forest another tree comes down:

ripped up from the soil, we pretend not to hear the sound.

The monkeys shriek in the shadows, the birds of paradise sing;

chainsaws chew through the darkness, blind to the changes they bring.

The rivers for miles and miles are clogged with trees and mud

standing here at sunset it seems like bodies washed away with blood.

The fish have fled to the spirit world, can we be far behind?

Is this the best that we can do with the powers of our mind?

The animals have lost their teeth and the jaguar

has no claws.

The defenders of the forest, they aim their poison darts

but the trees come down.

Weaving in the moonlight to the sound of some ancient tune,

he draws his bow and sends his nightmare's demons to the moon.

But the tide just keeps on coming up the dusty, red dirt trails

and the defenders of the forest, they seem so small and frail.

The animals have lost their teeth and the jaguar has no claws.

The defenders of the forest, they aim their poison darts

but the trees come down.

The hunter kneels in the clearing and picks up a handful of dust;

he spits in a hand-drawn circle and curses our greed and lust.

This is not just some disturbing dream, not some parallel universe;

this is the white man's vision and progress' bloody curse.

The animals have lost their teeth and the jaguar has no claws.

The defenders of the forest, they aim their poison darts

but the trees come down.

#### 1990. Austin TX

# The Thin Line (for Ed McCarthy)

He walks the black streets and he shivers in the rain:

he must have walked a million miles just to numb the pain.

He'll ask you for a quarter or he'll bum a cigarette

and the emptiness behind his eyes is a sight you won't forget.

The screeching of the el trains is music to his ears;

he knows the tortured melodies are better than his fears.

he shuffles through his memories, all the best are bittersweet;

more painful than the struggle of living on the street.

He winds a rag around his neck and walks into the night;

he hears the distant flapping of his demons taking flight.

he tries hard to remember where he let go of the thread

it's a thin line that he walks between the living and the dead.

On the edges of the city where the walls are caving in,

he sits and waits for judgment, atoning for his sins

An open fire and a slug of wine are all that keep him warm;

some cardboard and a leaky roof, his shelter from the storm.

He winds a rag around his neck and walks into the night;

he hears the distant flapping of his demons taking flight.

he tries hard to remember where he let go of the thread

it's a thin line that he walks between the living and the dead.

In a dream I try to help him, but our fingers don't quite meet

and I can't prevent his falling and collapsing in the street.

I wake up in a cold sweat, he has vanished in the dark and

I hope for some redemption in the morning's first bright spark.

He winds a rag around his neck and walks into the night;

he hears the distant flapping of his demons taking flight.

he tries hard to remember where he let go of the thread

it's a thin line that he walks between the living and the dead.

1988, Austin TX. This song was written in one sitting after I heard that my friend Ed had lost his way and wound up as a homeless person on the streets of Chicago. I had met Ed at the Old Town School of Folk Music in about 1978 and he was a talented Guitar and Bass player. We'd hang out with other students after classes at the Single File, a bar not far from the School which had an open stage. I think the first time I played in public was with Ed and Terry Shapiro at the File.

#### I Don't Know The Answer

I don't know the answer, I don't have the cure.

I can't raise the dead, I can't feed the poor. There's a tear in your eye, and a cry on the wind.

I don't know where we're going, I don't know where to begin.

I don't know the answer and I don't have the cure. I see your lips in the mirror, they're looking luscious and pure.

I'm here at the crossroads, the sun's going down.

I'm crying deep in my heart, but I can't make a sound.

My knuckles are bleeding, the air's getting thin.

I see so much to lose, I don't see nothing to win.

I don't know the answer and I don't have the cure. I see your lips in the mirror, they're looking luscious and pure.

I've been asleep for a lifetime, can't seem to open my eyes.

Listening for truth, and drowning in lies.

Outside of my window, the sky's bleeding red and the thought of your love, just goes straight to my head.

I don't know the answer and I don't have the cure. I see your lips in the mirror, they're looking luscious and pure.

It's coming together, then it all falls apart. Searching and searching to cure the ache in my heart.

1992, Austin TX. I think of this as my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday song; contemplating all the things that I hadn't accomplished.

## Two in the Morning

It's two in the morning, lightning flashes outside

I can't get back to sleep again, my eyes are open way too wide

I see you here beside me in the flickering light when we get to where we're going, how will we know we got it right?

The thunder's rattling the windows, rain is beating down so hard the sirens they are trembling on distant police cars

I open up the window and the night rushes in

You know this life is going nowhere, babe, at least nowhere I've ever been.

And the mystery is all around us sometimes we curse and try to drive it away when we think it's gone you know we curse a little louder

as we struggle to get through the empty days.

Am I here in this body, baby, am I here in this soul?

Where did I misplace the spark, that could drive away this cold?

And I ask you these questions and watch your eyes as you sleep

You know I'd like to believe, but it's just too great a leap.

And the mystery is all around us sometimes we curse and try to drive it away when we think it's gone you know we curse a little louder

as we struggle to get through the empty days.

It's two in the morning, lightning flashes outside

I can't get back to sleep again, my eyes are open way too wide

I see you here beside me in the flickering light when we get to where we're going, how will we know we got it right?

early 1990's, Austin TX

### Money, Money, Money

Money, Money, Money makes the world go round,

a black limousine and a night on the town. I never knew a man who thought he had enough

'cause money, money, money, money, money's magical stuff.

Paper or plastic, silver or gold, digital signals you can't even hold...

Flashing round the globe at the speed of light; toppling governments in the dead of night.

Money, Money, Money makes the world go round, a black limousine and a night on the town. I never knew a man who thought he had enough 'cause money, money, money, money, money s magical stuff.

Arm the Ayatollah, send bullets to Beirut, we'll be selling weapons when there's no one left to shoot.

It's the world's biggest export, markets near and far;

you can make a killing whoever you are.

Money, Money, Money makes the world go round,

a black limousine and a night on the town.

I never knew a man who thought he had enough

'cause money, money, money, money, money's magical stuff.

The Reverend Jimmy Swaggart and the PTL, they're raking in the cash on the road to hell. 30 pieces of silver and a kiss on the cheek; this ain't a world where it pays to be meek.

Money, Money, Money makes the world go round, a black limousine and a night on the town. I never knew a man who thought he had enough 'cause money, money, money, money, money's magical stuff.

Soapsuds and sex and SDI, the dollars are big, the technology's high. We're dancing in the valley round the golden calf;

I bet you somewhere the devil's having a laugh.

Money, Money, Money makes the world go round, a black limousine and a night on the town. I never knew a man who thought he had enough 'cause money, money, money, money's magical stuff.

Man's born free but he's always in chains;

it's either welfare lines or capital gains. The rustle of paper or the clinking of coins;

Can't you feel the fever burning down in your loins?

You can't buy love, so the old song goes, but there's still champagne and a blood red rose.

A little bit of money might help things along if the feelings you start with aren't all that strong.

Money, Money, Money makes the world go round, a black limousine and a night on the town.

I never knew a man who thought he had enough 'cause money, money, money, money, money s magical stuff.

1988, Austin TX

# Miguel's Song (the Gravedigger's Song)

I could dance in the meadow to the song of a lark

sweet smell of grass rising into the sky. If I were a cool breeze, I'd chase a butterfly but I'm burying memories and breaking my back.

The people stand silent; the ground's neatly trimmed;

handkerchiefs ready to catch a stray tear, so I put my dark glasses on and lower another man into the grave.

How do they see me, eyes filled with tears? How can I touch them, they're so choked with fears? What will they think of my truce with death as I pick up a shovel and take a loved one away?

After the people go, I dream of Mexico mangoes, manure, soil of my youth. Pick up my old guitar, play a soft lullaby, sweeten the burden of all the goodbyes. If it's not what I dreamed, I'll take it my friend;

it's only a moment and then there's an end.

Icy wind, freezing rain slitting my wrists; the ground's like a stone but the job never quits.

Holding a child, a casket's so light there's nowhere to hide and it doesn't seem right

so I put my dark glasses on and lower another man into the grave.

How do they see me, eyes filled with tears? How can I touch them, they're so choked with fears?

What will they think of my truce with death as I pick up a shovel and take a loved one away?

And it's not what I dreamed, but I'll take it my friend.

Life's a short moment and then there's an end.

1978, Chicago, IL; based on one of the stories in Studs Terkel's book "Working." The words for this song started to come to me as I was walking home from the Old Town School of Folk Music on a still, cold winter night. I had walked over to Lincoln Park from Armitage and was near the Conservatory by Fullerton when the words started to take shape. When I got back to my apartment near Diversey and Sheridan, the words came very quickly, in a single sitting.

# Long Distance (Is the Wrong Distance for Love)

The snow's piled high outside my front door; I'm empty and tired, I can't take any more. I want to reach out and touch you and hold you so tight;

run my fingers through your hair in the still of the night.

But long distance love is the game that we play; living on dreams while we're wasting away.

I gaze into the shadows, curse the heavens up above:

'cause long distance is the wrong distance for love.

Your voice flickers and fades on the telephone line;

you say that you love me but I don't feel that your mine.

We were walking down the beach with the moonlight in your hair

I'd give everything I own if we could still be there.

But long distance love is the game that we play; living on dreams while we're wasting away. I gaze into the shadows, curse the heavens up above:

'cause long distance is the wrong distance for love.

Those hot summer nights, you were wrapped in my arms.

Now I'm burning up inside and I just can't stay warm.

I pick up the phone and dream of your smile;

dial the number and it rings for a while.

The miles and miles of telephone wire have wrapped up our hearts and choked our desire.

The words and the years drift away in the snow

and the storms around my heart have left me nowhere to go.

But long distance love is the game that we play; living on dreams while we're wasting away. I gaze into the shadows, curse the heavens up above:

'cause long distance is the wrong distance for love.

#### 1989, Austin TX

#### **Chains Of Love**

When I'm alone the sun it does not shine When I'm alone the sun it does not shine And when I look into the darkness where the jaguars sleep

I feel like I'm underneath the waves getting pulled down through the deep.

Another evening slips into night it gets so dark outside and I'm just aching for the light

I dream about you, but you're just laughing on the beach

dancing through the waves you're always out of my reach

Your face is bright and clear like the morning sun

I say your face is bright and clear like the morning sun

and when you open up your eyes and look at me

they cut right through these chains of love and set me free.

I'm standing on the corner watching the cars go by

like the elephant's graveyard they've all come here to die

and the smoke and the flames are the only consolation that I've got

I hope that things are getting better, but

maybe they're not.

Your face is bright and clear like the morning sun

I say your face is bright and clear like the morning sun

and when you open up your eyes and shine them at me

they cut right through these chains of love and set me free.

#### December, 1990, Austin TX

#### Waiting For The Bombs To Fall

There are things that I remember from a long, long time ago

welling up inside me I no longer care to know.

I was lying by the window listening for the planes;

darkness wrapped around me like a heavy set of chains.

I was waiting for the trumpets, listening for the call,

ready to cross the border, waiting for the bombs to fall.

Kruschev was in the papers and grinning on TV:

pounding on the table from sea to shining sea. There was panic in the suburbs, panic on the beach,

scrambling to find shelter where the thunder wouldn't reach.

It was getting close to midnight, our backs against the wall;

we were praying for redemption, waiting for the bombs to fall.

Nothing seemed to matter much, waiting for the end;

our days an empty ritual, TV our hypnotic friend.

In a whirlpool of inflation, head over heels in

we were dancing on the high wire without the luxury of a net. Wandering lost souls in some cosmic shopping mall;

debt,

reaching for our credit cards and waiting for the bombs to fall.

When we look into the mirror do we recognize the face beneath the lines of terror we've tried so hard

to erase?

Beaten into submission, we were left in the dust to crawl on a suicidal journey, it's a wonder we can feel at all.

Shaking off my slumber just before the break of day these times like some bad dream just begin to drift away

And the rosy fingered dawn paints the world

while the certainties I've lived by all appear to

anew

So if the devil comes a-knocking, I will not heed the call;

'cause I've spent too much time already waiting for the bombs to fall.

1989-1992. This song started to take shape around the time that the Berlin Wall was coming down. When I was a kid in the early 60's, at the height of the Cold War hysteria, people were talking about building bomb shelters in their back yards, we had air raid drills at school, and there were Post-Apocalypse fantasies on shows like the Twilight Zone. I often would lie awake in bed at night and listen to the planes, wondering which one would be it.

# A Brief Biography

# **Growing Up**

Jim was born in the 1950's in Northern New Jersey, about six miles as the crow flies from the George Washington Bridge. During his high school years he spent plenty of time listening to the Beatles, Santana, Paul Simon, James Taylor, Crosby, Stills & Nash, the Byrds, The Band, and more. Even Motown. Good buddy Steve had a car (bright red rocketship really) that he and friend Gary called the Pimpmobile. Steve, though Jewish, seemed to think he was black and listened to the Temptations, Four Tops and others on 8-track as they drove to school or cruised for girls in nearby towns on Saturday nights. The sound of Jim's music had its origins in the soundtrack of those turbulent, wonderful times, and continues to evolve.

# College

Jim went to college in Waterville, Maine, studying English Lit and East Asian Culture, and spent a year studying at Oxford and another year in graduate school in Philadelphia. After dropping out of grad school, he moved to Chicago. Broke and without a clue about what to do with his liberal arts degree, it seemed like a good place to figure things out. He found that he liked the Windy City, especially the summer, with ball games at Wrigley Field, the Lakefront, and the music scene.

## **Guitar enters the Picture**

His mother gave him a guitar for Christmas in 1976 (Thanks Mom!) and, shortly after, he started to hang around the *Old Town* 

School of Folk Music. There were concerts at the Old Town School and he became acquainted firsthand with the music of performers like John Prine, Steve Goodman, Michael Smith, Tom Paxton, Bob Gibson, Jim Post and many others, such as Odetta, Josh White Jr., Pierre Bensusan, Doc Watson, and Roger McGuinn. He also became aware of a new generation of local songwriters like Thom Bishop (aka Junior Burke), Tom Dundee, Chris Farrell and Marty Piefer. He would frequent the folk clubs and coffeehouses to hear these new artists.

He particularly liked to go to a club like *Somebody Else's Troubles* and sit near the front to watch performers play guitar, picking up ideas for his own playing and sometimes learning a few of their songs. He started hanging out with his new friends, discussing the finer points of folk, jazz, and rock and roll and playing the open stages after calming the nerves with a couple of beers. Bruce Cockburn and Loudon Wainwright III are among the many influences that you may detect in Jim's music.

He started playing gigs for money in the early 80's. Around the same time, he met Laura and they fell in love and got married. She was the inspiration for the love songs in his repertoire. In 1985, tired of long winters and cold springs, they packed up the car and the cats and moved to Austin in search of warmer weather and the legendary music scene.

## **Austin and Beyond**

In Austin, he became acquainted with a whole new set of musicians like Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Joe Ely, Jimmie LaFave, James McMurtry, Stephen Bruton, Rich Brotherton, David Rodriguez and many others. He co-hosted the open stage at the legendary acoustic venue, *Chicago House*, with Jimmy LaFave and Betty Elders, played at SXSW several times in the early years, was a finalist at the *Kerrville* 

Folk Festival New Folk Competition in 1990 and 1993 and performed live a number of times on the KUT Folkways radio show. Over the years he has performed either solo or with a rotating cast of fantastic musicians and singers, many of whom pop up on his releases. Jim moved on to the DC area in 1996 and continues to write and perform regularly at coffeehouses, festivals, house concerts and other events.

# **Discography**

Standing on the Great Wall of China (1988 cassette OUT OF PRINT)

*This Ain't a World Where it Pays to be Meek* (1989 cassette OUT OF PRINT)

*Defenders of the Forest* (1992 cassette - I have a couple left if anyone is interested)

Wings of Time (1997 CD, reissued October, 2016)

Old Jalopy (2007 CD)

*World of Wonders: the Lyrics and Music of Bruce Cockburn* (2012 Book) Available from Amazon.com

Selected Songs and Poems 1971-2013 (2014 Book) Available from Amazon.com

Chiaroscuro (February 2015 CD)

The CDs are available Direct, and from CD Baby, Amazon, iTunes and other online outlets.



