



DAVID ELIAS

**VOICE MEMO
SONGS FROM HAWAII**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

THE BIG ISLAND, HAWAII

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [HTTP://DAVIDELIAS-MQA.COM](http://DAVIDELIAS-MQA.COM)



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These songs were all recorded as memos to myself on my iPhone while I was writing them. They are me writing music for myself. Voice memos to myself for myself.

Maybe my songs connect to others, usually complete strangers, because they are written by me, for me, but not about me. They have no objective or mission or point to make. They come out as music, words or both the way they come out. This album "Voice Memos" tries to show anyone that process for me.

Recorded directly to the iPhone using the iPhone mic (mono). The lossy AAC (48kHz) was upsampled by me to 32/44.1 and mastered as 16/44.1 CD Quality. Those masters were then encoded with MQA by MQA Ltd., UK. The result is a lossless CD quality master with MQA that can be played on anything at all as well as streamed.

The quality is further improved if played using a MQA DAC to decode and convert the PCM to analog. But it's not required and I feel it sounds better with MQA encoding than the original master did, even without the MQA DAC on playback.

~~~~About My Songwriting~~~~~

A way to listen to the way my songs get created. I get asked this often enough. Dave, do you write the words first, or the music, or do you look up random things on Google and get ideas... .. ??

I can tell you there is no research in my songwriting. No Google, no references. Not even an idea of what I am going to write about 99.99% of the time. I am a tune player and song creator on guitar. That's usually what I do when I pick up the guitar, play something new whatever comes out. It comes through me sitting there and I don't think about it much except trying to hear what it is saying. 99% of the time I play and play and play for a while then forget it all.

But sometimes the tune is catchy to me and I work on it and keep trying to get it right to my ear and sense of rhythm, and eventually it sounds like it has the right shape and notes and well, the right tune.

So I might start singing along with it at some point during that sitting and see if there's a singing part to go with the guitar part. No real words but then usually there are real words coming out of me, I didn't plan them but they come out as they are. Like the music I listen to them and try to get them right. They don't always tell a story (some story, not my story) but sometimes they do.

So there's the idea for the song and I just write down the words as I come upon them and turn them into the melody and the song. That's how I remember the song and then I sometimes turn on Voice Memo on the iPhone to record it at that point. Like I just discovered something I don't want to forget. Which is what I just did.

Voice memo....

Sometimes the tunes on guitar don't have any words. They are enough the way they are. Words could come later. Or words I'd written down (poetry, ok) another time can be randomly matched to a tune. That happens too.

So tune first, words next, song maybe. Or tune first, no words, song maybe. Or tune not quite there, no song, maybe later. Or words sitting on a page to tune just written or written and remembered, song maybe. See what I mean? No plan :)

Just trying to get it right...

Voice memos can help. Decided to try to share some of those in the honest fashion they were created sitting at home just playing for me.

~~~~~ The iPhone part and tech mumbo jumbo ~~~~~

Every song in this collection was recorded on my iPhone using a 3GS, 4, and 5S. All used the phone's mic (no external plugged in). I recorded the using the Voice Memo app that comes with the phone from iTunes.

These songs are then recorded in very low bit quality AAC by our friends at Apple who have a penchant for perpetrating incredibly poor sound quality! They began using it (lossy AAC audio format) for retail in 2004 when iTunes came out. Before that MP3 downloads were free worldwide among millions of musicians and music lovers on forums and music sharing sites.

I'm all for putting music out there and Apple/iTunes has certainly done that in a digital way. But in the 21st century when technology spins upwards and over every 6 months, with Apple themselves often at the head of that turnstile, don't you think they might owe the public a little better sound?

Having said all that, I have found over and over again that the little AM-radio sounding like speakers that Steve Jobs put in the iPhone have a remarkably natural kind of old transistor radio sound I've liked since I bought my first iPhone in 2007 when they came out and people lined up on the sidewalk in Silicon Valley to buy one (I waited 2 weeks and walked right in the store). And it doesn't have to play the crappy AAC/MP3 format, it can play a better quality lossless format as WAV, AIF or ALAC. (Hint: Change your iTunes Preferences to store ALAC (Apple Lossless Audio) instead of the 128k AAC! When you rip CDs they will sound as good from iTunes as the original CD.)

That iPhone AM-radio sound is how I started recording my Voice Memos. Just ideas often. A handy memo tool so I wouldn't forget some things I played for myself in a cabin here in Hawaii or maybe by the water or wherever. I learned how to sing and play "carefully" into the phone at good levels and good proximity for my ears. In the higher eschelons of audophiledom they call this approach to recording carefully for the highest sound quality "provenance" now. Ok Provenance. Just an iPhone though, nothing else.

I converted the AAC (m4a) files that are about 48kHz lossy (like MP3's lowest ranking) to a CD quality level (16/44.1 lossless FLAC) and "master them" as such. I don't mess with them otherwise. Just want them to be above board so to speak. They are in Mono not Stereo!

But then these voice memos were encoded with MQA by MQA Ltd., UK along with lots of other CD, HD and DXD quality masters I have as PCM. They sound better this way, even if you don't have an MQA

decoder DAC such as the US\$299 Meridian Explorer 2. Lots of MQA DAC models are for sale from other manufacturers at all price ranges up from there.

My memos are just that. Songs for myself to myself when I am writing them. I don't always know how they go when I am recording the memo. I can't always read the words I just wrote down perfectly or get the timing just right. They are rough and raw and new songs I just wrote. Before I even come to know them myself. I often want to record them and capture the original song for myself.

Now I want to share some of those with you. They are not the "best" ones per se. In fact they are just more of snapshots in time, where I was and what I was doing in Hawaii where I've lived since the beginning of 2008. But they are honest and they are all new songs for anyone who has listened to me recording since 1995.

Independent Acoustic has meaning to this end as it has for me since I started playing guitar at the ripe young age of 11.

Here's to all the independent artists all over. Fer Fock's Sake...

~~~~~ About MQA ~~~~~

*** IMPORTANT *****

Be sure to download ONLY Lossless PCM formats (AIF, WAV, ALAC, FLAC) to preserve the MQA encoding -- Do NOT use MP3, or AAC or other Lossy formats as they will lose the MQA encoding benefits.

Bandcamp always defaults to MP3 format for download -- Be sure to change this to one of Lossless formats (AIF, WAV, ALAC, FLAC) by selecting from the dropdown list presented when you download. Mahalo! It will play as MP3 but doesn't sound as good!

Plays on any media player with improved sound quality.

Read about MQA at <http://www.mqa.co.uk>

MQA Encoded by MQA Ltd., UK

"The original intention and sounds are much more accurately represented [with MQA] and are therefore much, much more enjoyable to listen to. The convenience of MQA's smaller file size is an additional no-brainer." - DE

** AMAZING TRUTH **

You do not need any special hardware (MQA DAC) or software (MQA Player) to reap the benefits of the MQA encoding. The temporal blurring (aka time smearing) has been greatly reduced especially the pre-ringing/echo from this PCM master. It sounds better than a CD equivalent no matter how you play it. An MQA DAC such as the Meridian Explorer2 (US\$299) can further enhance the sound quality as well as unfold any hi-res frequencies above 20k.

You can download an MQA Sampler that contains all resolutions as examples, from 16/44.1 all the way to 24/352.8

It is online at BC Exclusive Here:

<http://davidelias.bandcamp.com/album/de-mqa-sampler>

This quote from a first time listen and comparison by a non-musician, non-audiophile, whose MacBook had just loaded iTunes with ripped music for the first time (Time Forgets CD), downloaded and added the David Elias Time Forgets MQA CD master from Bandcamp (ALAC format), plugged into a Meridian Explorer2 MQA DAC (\$299) with Zipbuds (\$25) attached. (MacBook Sound settings changed to use Meridian Explorer2 preference.)

She listened and alternated between MQA and non-MQA versions of various tracks. The Explorer2 DAC's Blue MQA Studio Quality Authentication LED light indicated MQA was present on the MQA tracks when expected (lit) and not present on the CD version of the tracks when not expected (not lit):

"oh wow - oh my god !

clearer crisp sharp, gawd!!

no question !!

wow!

you can hear everything better, everything being all the instruments

sharper clearer you can hear every distinctive instrument, awesome!"

And this from a very critical careful audiophile studio musician friend who knows all my stuff well:

"wow...way, way better....will try higher res next, but at this point i don't need much more convincing...wish i could apply to my entire wav library..."

... I couldn't have said it any better myself.

My MQA Catalog of CD to HD to DXD hi-res studio authenticated masters is online at:

<http://davidelias-mqa.com>

Thanks for supporting independent artists!

Aloha,

~ DE

Songs on “Voice Memo – Songs From Hawaii”

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--|
| 1. Water Hymn Null – 1 | 0:56 | |
| 2. September’s Season | 3:03 | |
| 3. Journey To The East | 1:33 | |
| 4. Sleep Song | 2:21 | |
| 5. You And Me | 2:33 | |
| 6. New Seasons | 0:50 | |
| 7. Within | 4:17 | |
| 8. New Rain | 0:33 | |
| 9. Before We Go | 3:30 | |
| 10. Morning Green 2 | 0:57 | |
| 11. Go Back | 2:12 | |
| 12. Pending Departure | 1:13 | |
| 13. That Pretty Girl – Those 3 Words | 3:02 | |
| 14. Palm Prayer | 1:15 | |
| 15. In The Background | 4:28 | |
| 16. Lychee Ackee | 3:30 | |
| 17. Fewer Obstacles | 1:55 | |
| 18. Salsa Side | 0:47 | |
| 19. Tree Top | 1:12 | |
| 20. Tin Roof Rain | 1:19 | |
| 21. Which Door | 2:59 | |
| 22. Father’s Day Memo To Myself | 1:43 | |
| 23. Sand Intentions | 1:25 | |
| 24. Something He Already Knows | 4:20 | |
| 25. Sun Too 2 | 1:05 | |
| 26. Lava Tune #5 | 0:51 | |
| 27. I Must Love Her | 1:55 | |
| 28. Always Yours | 3:36 | |
| 29. Rainforest 3 | 0:41 | |
| 30. Water Hymn Null – 2 | 0:56 | |
| Total Playing Time: | 1:01:11 | |

Tracks #19, #22, and #24 can be seen as videos at: <http://youtube.com/davideliasvideo>

September's Season – written by David Elias

On a restless lonesome day
Feeling the weather far away
Looking at some mountains left to climb
I see the wind taking the leaves
I feel the birds taking their leave
The memory of your love not far behind

Watching the window from the door
The both left open as before
The leaving and returning still the same
With only stars over the hill
Pointing to dreams left to fulfill
The whisper in the words and in your name

I've studied nothing far too long
I've written nothing in a song
I've shared a dream aloud, the middle of the day
Now in the darkness of the night
I let my heart recall what's right
And let September's season carry me away

Sleep Song – written by David Elias

Shiver timber

Keep me sleeping

Stairway starway

Lead me rising

Good days

Bad days

Always rising

Shiver timber

Keep me sleeping

You And Me – written by David Elias

You and me the trails that we travel

Us to see where they may lead to

You and me the roads they unravel

It's hardly a rest stop

The signs can be messed up

Those bumps might confess some

But we still caress 'em

You and me our party's a twosome

We and we, how could we be lonesome

Free to be down paths of our own some

The river is wide

Bending trees side by side

Through the oceans of tide

There for us to decide

Well well well

You and me clear as a daydream

Image to be

Our vision is upstream

You and me

Our vision is upstream

Nothing can change

What our minds haven't made up

The beat's in the heart

Without time we can stay up

The river it's wide

Bending trees side by side

Through the oceans of tide

There for us to decide

Well...

Within - written by David Elias

Everywhere I've been

Reminds me of you

Everyone I've seen

Reminds me too

And everyone I've known

Remains within

And every shirt I've worn

Is torn within

And everywhere I go

I go with you

As every season grows

It grows with you

Within this withered field

I stand with you

Within these arms and hands

I stand with you

Every morning clear

Reminds me of you

Within our blue green sphere

I'm finding you

Every song I've sung

I sing to you

And every evening sun

I pray for you

Before We Go – written by David Elias

He said he didn't see it comin'

She said she didn't see him go

They said it felt a lot like nothing

Sometimes you have to let things go

Before we go

Before we go

Before we go we let things go

He traveled back to green Ohio

She stayed right there New Mexico

Somewhere in between the streams ran so low

Neither could remember what they know

Before we go

Before we go

Before we go we let things go

Somewhere in the back of this old story

A blue memory behind stone hills

The pattern of a desert morning glory

Circles 'round under the sun, open still

Before we go

Before we go

Before we go we let things go

Go Back – written by David Elias

Go back, take me there

Find your way down the winding stair

Go back, take good care

Find your way and you'll find me there

Remember when we lost our way

Just keeping up with the day to day

Take me back I won't forget

How you looked or how you felt

That Pretty Girl - Those 3 Words

- David Elias

Thinkin' 'bout another day

Thinkin' bout how it was far away

A sunny breeze an' a summer cloud

Lookin' out over the school yard hill

Thinkin' just how long until

He might be sayin' those 3 words out aloud

Gave his heart away when he was young

Never thinkin' he just let it go

He let it go and it just blew away

And now the summer suns have passed and
gone

Dozen other hearts been lost and won

He still got those 3 words yet to say

The sunny afternoon it feels just right

Surrounded by the gold green light

There's a girl in a green dress by his side

Startin' over isn't all that hard

When you put it all behind you

That pretty girl is all you ever need inside

In The Background – written by David Elias

Simple sentences

Dick and Jane

Circle through the clumsy rain

All around the plot is plain

While in the background

This remains

I will buy a drink or two

And watch them pass between me and you

This silver lining shines anew

While in the background

Bon Adieu

There is music, music, music

In the world

There is music, music, alright

There is music in the world

Match your carpet

Paint your walls

Stain your table

Record your calls

Close your window

Hide the blue

Watch the background

Come in view

Call a friend up in the middle of the night

Tell him that your life's alright

But don't forget those final words

That background music that you never heard

There is music, music, music

In the world

There is music, music, alright

There is music in the world

Lychee Ackee - by David Elias

Lychee Ackee falling

Can you hear me calling

Lychee Ackee falling

Can you hear me calling

Break the stone in layers

Bury the naysayers

Break the stone in layers

Bury the naysayers

I know you the slayer

Can you hear my prayer

I know you the slayer

Can you hear my prayer

Woman of the airfare

Can you meet me up there

Woman of the airfare

Can you meet me up there

Woman of the airfare

Can you meet me up there

Lychee Ackee falling

Can you hear me calling

Lychee Ackee falling

Can you hear me calling

Which Door - by David Elias

Which door am I falling out

Which door am I falling out

Caught a look at something higher

Couldn't see the way back down

Resurrect the golden choir

I respect the way you hold me now

Which floor am I crawling out

Which floor am I crawling out

Wrote a book about the lonesome flyer

Couldn't seem to get it to the clouds

Crashed it right into a field of flowers

Petal showers covered hours

Won't you hold me now

Which floor

Which door

Something He Already Knows

– written by David Elias

Staring down all the feelings that confront me

Setting my heart on a little bit of country

Taking a tour of the kind I could confide in

Where winds can blur what the mind has set
aside

Standing strong with the arms that should have
held you

What took so long just to say what I should tell
you

Casting about like a fisherman of sorrow

Without a doubt I will leave it til tomorrow

Making my time up on the road I just imagine

Don't look behind your feet can feel the wings
of magic

Passerby of the simplest of pleasure

Sit down to try to regain what you can't
measure

Did I say I was sorry you were leaving

Those yesterdays they were nothing I believed
in

Now on this road I can see a little better

And sure enough we're sure going it together

Staring down all the feelings that confront me

Setting my heart on a little bit of country

Always Yours - by David Elias

Start it over the end is near darlin'

Write a letter signed sincerely

For the better, always yours, darlin'

Fix a loose strap, nay quite nicer

Raise the old map

Take me higher

For the record, always yours, darlin'

Lose the pattern

Dance for no one

Does it matter in the end

Sign a letter, always yours, darlin'

Hear me asking

What's inside darlin'

Trees can free me

Signed sincerely

For the record, always yours, darlin'