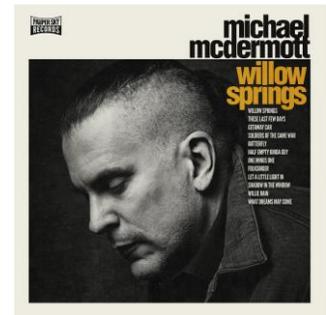


Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Willow Springs

The diners dark, with dreams undone
Narcotic nightingales have sung
their tortured songs for everyone
In the cavalcade

Apocalyptic subway dreams
The alleys and the in-betweens
The horse and buggy symphonies
A fool's errand some would say

Pimps and pushers, presidents
The paupers preach of tenements
The cowboy's code, the whore laments
The coming judgement day

Bible thumpers, jesus freaks
The conservatives and hippie geeks
All rehearsing for the rapture
With the fools out on parade

I've fallen at the foot of an altar so great
I've never understood why heaven would have
a gate
I've searched all over
Like a piper at the gates of dawn
Maybe it was you all along

There's a handbasket bound for hell
I got me two tickets from a wishing well
Life is just a carousel
So babe, let's both get off

The Doctor said "You're looking pale"
I said, "I just came from the jail"
He said, "Buy a cross, forget the nails,
Now turn your head and cough."

A longing look, a dying rose
An ancient warrior-like pose
The savior's wearing sweat shop clothes
But ain't he looking fine

The news is all so fucking bleak
I think my eyes have sprung a leak
Strength is built upon the weak
The rich are deemed divine

I've wandered through the wasteland
For 40 days and nights
Pondered frustration
But could never really see the light
Squandered salvation
But with you I feel so strong
Maybe it was you all along

The brokenness is plain to see
The emptiness, the misery
Not even the birds are free
They're chained to the sky

Cannonballs and musketeers
The king's men drinkin' dollar beers
Whisper in the hungry ears
Of the dreams that pass us by

I don't believe in karma much
Maybe I'm too out of touch
I used faith just like a crutch
Of such a helpless man

Been chasing my tail in the yard
I didn't know things could get so hard
So many nights I fell apart
From all I couldn't understand

For so long I've been running
For so long I've been scared
So unbecoming
For so long I've been impaired
For so long singing
The words to the same old song
Maybe it was you all along

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



I've been beaten down, but never out
Enveloped myself with my doubt
I turned to the heavens and began to shout
"Man, is this all you got?"

"Fuck this noise", I told the man
"I'm headed for the promised land
Gonna build me a castle in the sand
I ain't asking for a lot"

Then suddenly it occurred to me
I think I know what it is I need
And that which I was trying to be
Are two separate things

I've been looking high and looking low
For god knows what, god only knows
To be loved and respected
In the safety of your wings

Maybe it was angels
Maybe it was god
Maybe a stranger
Or some kind of lightning rod
Maybe a spirit Or maybe the saints beyond
Or maybe it was you all along

Capos, capos, the culpable
The glass of life seems pretty full
Your love is so indelible
May it never go away

Saints and sinners, sepulchers
The hustlers, harlots, harbingers
The jester dances moonbeams
If you stay out of his way

Lanterns light the weighted walk
Tongues too taut to even talk
I swear to god it's not my fault
Ain't it what they love to say

Caverns crave a crooked mind
Sacrosanct, sardonic time
The search for what you'll never find
Man, it's always been this way

Maybe I'm a lion or maybe just a lamb
For so long trying
Still can't understand
It seems so simple
Like seven silver sailing swans
Maybe it was you all along

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



These Last Few Days

Take a look around it's like the whole goddamn town's about to blow
Judas sat in fear, while we were sitting here waiting for Godot
I've been thinking of you, it's what my mind tends to do when I'm alone
All the seeds that I've planted...man, nothing seems to grow...Oh no

I couldn't resist, so I asked Sisyphus if I could lend a hand
Turning like a twist, he raised his fist and said, "Advance on my command"
The sun was coming up and I was feeling kinda stuck inside my head
The way that I've been feeling....I just don't understand.....man oh man

I have beckoned the stormy sky
beseeched the seas for answers why
I've been wandering in such a haze
Oh these last few days

Riding through the wasteland on a hot, high, hollow urban night
I found a treasure map, into the Cumberland Gap tonight I'll ride

Maybe I'm stuck in a rut or maybe I should just shut up and lasso the moon
I've never understood...why I feel like something good....is coming soon

I'm so tired and battered too
Everything has fallen through
It feels I'm drowning in endless waves
Oh these last few days

Oh sweet madness, you call on me so often it's like you never leave
Hoisted by my own petard, it gets so hard to even know what to believe
I got a getaway car, I got Suicide Jack hidden up my sleeve
But this room is oh so heavy.....it's getting hard to breathe...is it only me?

I've had a tourniquet around my heart
To keep it from falling apart
I feel so far down in so many ways
Oh these last few days

I've knelt beneath the starry sky
Beseeched the angels from on high
It just seems that I have lost my way
Oh these last few days

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Getaway Car

I thought they had me up in Crown Point
Like they had Johnny years ago
I thought they had me surrounded
There's one thing that they didn't know
That I had me a plan
I'm not as dumb as I look
This bird ain't meant for caging
I'm no ordinary dime store crook

Tonight I'm bound for glory
Drinking lightning from a jar
I got a sweet little story
About where the fallen angels are
I gotta Getaway Car

Seemed I was doing north of 90
By the Mason-Dixon Line
I had a road map of Rhode Island
I was cornered in a corn field in Carolina
Boxed in back in Branson
Had a safe house in Tennessee
I keep a Polaroid on the dashboard
Of a baby boy, who looks a lot like me

Tonight I'm bound for glory
Drinking lightning from a jar
I got a hangman in my head, my love
A war in my backyard
I gotta get away
I gotta get away
I gotta Getaway Car

By this time tomorrow
If the creek don't rise
I'll be near the border of paradise

Tonight I'm bound for glory
Drinking lightning from a jar
I got a sweet little story
About where the fallen angels are
I gotta get away
I gotta get away
I gotta Getaway Car

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Soldiers Of The Same War

Carl called...told me they found a little trouble
there after all
Everything had stalled...he told me just the
other day
That Todd had gone AWOL
In his uniform, a toy soldier since the day he
was born
He felt a storm...he had a musket and a bottle
and a bugle horn

We've been runnin' for a thousand years
Seeking a rainbow on a trail of tears
Were we warriors or mutineers
I can't even tell anymore
We were soldiers of the same war
We were soldiers of the same war

Sammy said, "I'm not sure if you heard, but
Alicia's dead
She was naked in her bed
She had a pistol and a bible and a marionette"
Sidewalk Joe, he was holding court with Mickey
and Bobby O
He said, "I told you so, Jesus left town a long
time ago"

We've been fighting for a thousand years
Trading our emotions for some souvenirs
Were we warriors, or mutineers
Just like our fathers before
We were soldiers of the same war
We were soldiers of the same war

Three on a match in the devil's lair
The gutters gut the gutless in a moonlit prayer
I saw them advancing, but I could not seem to
run
Run away

Me, you ask? I could tell you how we fell so far,
so fast
Running from your past, with a bayonet, a white
flag
and some photographs
Babe, I'd die for you, and lately it seems like you
want me to
Yeah you know it's true,
Do you know what the darkness can really do

We've been runnin' for a thousand years
Spinnin' our wheels and grinding gears
Were we warriors or mutineers
I can't even tell anymore
We were soldiers of the same war

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Butterfly

T'was a junkie girl in my world
And everything began to twirl
And it spun so that I couldn't even stand
She had many charms, I heard alarms
She stuck needles in my arm
And I guess that's when the trouble began
Days and nights, city lights
Empty bags and broken pipes
Slowly things got completely out of hand

Oh my god how far
Did we fall to get to where we are
In the dark, it's not always easy to see the light
Was it just because
It was love on drugs
I don't know how we made it out alive

Stolen cars, divey bars
There were wolves and there were scars
There were guns and sex and punches to my head
The sun would rise, with your alibis
You look around with scornful eyes
How the time flies when you're high and horrified

Some would call it grace
I think it's just a waste
A waste of mind, a waste of heart
A waste of time
I laughed when she said
"We should both be dead,
Babe you know, no one makes it out alive

Honey, would you take me home
I've nowhere to go
I'm sorry this all began
Baby would you take me home
It's an endless road
I'm a butterfly in your hand"

I heard the news the other day
I wish I had the faith to pray
But maybe she finally doesn't hurt

Here's the thing about hope
It's such a delicate rope
If you pull too hard, you'll wind up in the dirt

It's only one life to live
You can't take what you can't give
There but for, the grace of god go I
I can't believe it's true
That I'm here talking to you
I don't know how I made it out alive
I don't know how I made it out alive
I don't know how I made it out alive

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Half Empty Kinda Guy

Strike another match
Babe, let's watch it burn
They say the simple truth
Is the hardest to learn
Trouble has been beside me
At each and every turn
I guess it's something here inside me
Fairly hard to discern

I don't know who loves me
I only know who don't
I don't know who will
I sure as hell know who won't
I can't see the rainbow
I only see the rain
It's hard to see the beauty
Around so much pain

I can't see the heavens
I can only see the sky
I'm a half empty kinda guy

Everything I wanted
Always slowly slipped away
Right when I need it most
It's always been this way
I still feel like a clown
Standing here with the painted tears
I finally put that bottle down
After all these years

So now I'm finally clean
But I'm as dirty as I've been
Where it all went wrong
I couldn't tell you how or when
So I'll just keep on keeping on
Hope there'll come a day
These shackles will be gone
And I'll be on my way

There ain't no silver lining
I've searched low and high
Yeah I'm a half empty kinda guy

I cannot recall
The last time I heard good news
I just ramble around
Singing these strange sort of blues
A gypsy read my cards to me
And she let out a yell
There was a hangman
And a tower and a high priestess jezebel

Then death oh death.....why oh why
I'm a half empty kinda guy

Lately something strange
Has been happening to me
I wake nightly from slumber
Filled with fear and anxiety
Then I wrestle round for hours
With the voices in my head
Telling me what I should have done
And everything I should have said

If I wasn't laughing...
You could bet that I would cry
Yeah I'm a half empty kinda guy

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



One Minus One

I'm a little hard to handle
Sort of like a Roman candle
Burning out...burning down

There's a field of hidden mines
And I'll cross it tonight to find you
To ask you how...to find out how

You've all the secrets of a raincoat
All the mystery of a train
In your eyes all I can see is doubt

Was it something in me
Something in you
Something in each other
That we never knew
What were we thinking
To be acting like that
Because it feels like we're sinking
And we're under attack
What are we gonna do
When one minus one becomes two

I've seen that look before
And I know that it means war, right about now
Right about now
Silence is the violence
That brilliantly divides us
When we're down...we're broke down

It's a bitter wind I feel
Hell, I know the love was real
It seems we burned it right down to the ground

Was it something in me
Something in you
Something in each other
That we couldn't get through
What were we thinking
To be acting like that
Because it feels our hearts are breaking
And there's no turning back
What are we gonna do
When one minus one becomes two

In the quiet of this house
I'm like a time bomb ticking mouse
Who's hanging round

There's a cold and angry chair
And I just sit and watch and stare
And think about
Is it over now
Feels like it's over now

Was it something in you
Something in me
Something in each other
That we couldn't see
What are we gonna do
When one minus one
Becomes two

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Folksinger

I don't wanna be a folk singer anymore
I wanna hear some big guitars
See people jumping on the floor
We'll all raise our hands.... let out a roar
I don't wanna be a folk singer anymore

I don't wanna be a soldier anymore
With my dignity and honor
Then they ship you off to war
I only have vague recollections
Of who I was before
I don't wanna be a soldier anymore

I don't wanna be a Gravedigger anymore
With my pick ax and a shovel - I always wanted
so more
I'll be the last one to let you down...
Honey, that's for sure
I don't wanna be a Gravedigger anymore

I don't wanna be a 'Christian' anymore
I think it's all just talk 'cuz no one walks the
walk no more
I bet even Jesus, would give us all 'what for'
I don't wanna be a 'Christian' anymore

I don't wanna be a folksinger anymore
Think I'll write me a big hit song and I'll be loved
and adored
I'll have handlers and groupies and hell, you
know what
that's for
I don't wanna be a folksinger anymore
Yeah I'll have me a million dollars
Me and Bono will be friends
Then I'll never be a folksinger ever again

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Let A Little Light In

I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna let in a little sun
I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna let in a little sun
I'm feeling so excited, mama
'Cuz our lives have just begun

I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna open up the shade
I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna open up the shade
With you right here beside me, mama
It feels I've got it made

For so long it's been like this
For so long I've been alone
I'm tired of all this darkness
I can't make it on my own

I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna turn it all around
I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna turn it all around
I'm so tired of fighting, mama
You're the best thing I've found

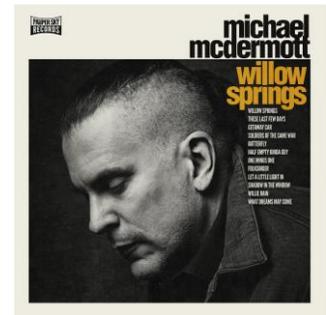
For so long it's been like this
Everybody seems so strange
I'm tired of all this darkness
But I'm about to make a change

I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna open up the door
I'm gonna let a little light in
I'm gonna open up the door
This world can be so frightening, mama
Let's love it a little more
This world can be so frightening, mama

I'm gonna love you a little more
I'm feeling so excited, mama
I'm gonna love you a little more

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Shadow In The Window

So I took a drive over to his house
Though I knew he wasn't there
He was always standing looking out the window
Or sittin' in his easy chair

He was always a bit of a mystery
Always seemed so far away
Even when he was standing next to me
We never had that much to say

He would always hear me coming or going
From a million miles away
I'd see his silhouette in the window
Every time I'd pull out of the driveway

Now there's a shadow in the window that's
missing
There's a shadow in the window that's gone
I only want to tell you, "I love you
I'm doing my best to be strong and to hold on"

I always wondered what he was thinking
Was he waiting for me to crash
Or maybe he just wanted to come with me
I never thought to ask

I wondered what he was doing
Watching me every time I drove away
I wonder what he did that for
Maybe he just wanted me to stay

Now there's a shadow in the window that's
missing
There's a shadow in the window that's gone
I only want to tell you, "I love you
I'm doing my best to be strong"
Maybe I will see you in heaven

At least that's how the story goes
There's a shadow in the window that's missing
I'm having a hard time letting go

Maybe he felt like a prisoner bound by
Invisible chains hidden all around
He took more out of life than it took out of him
He said, "Son, I want you to be so much better
than me."

He told so many stories
I was never sure which ones were true
He was too big for this small town
He was an Irishman through and through

The bag pipes moaned on that cold day
The day we laid him to rest
All I can say as I drive away
I'm sorry that it came to this

Now there's a shadow in the window that's
missing
There's a shadow in the window that's gone
I only want to tell you, "I love you
I'm sorry that things went so wrong"
Maybe I will see you in heaven
At least that's how the story goes
Now there's a shadow in the window that's
missing
I'm having a hard time letting go

Hey, I love you.....

For JEM

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



Willie Rain

Willie Rain, yeah she's the best
My ma said she was the prettiest girl
In the world
Willie Rain, I love you so

Yeah, she sure do talk a lot
About all the things that she ain't got
Oh Willie, you're the one
Willie Rain, I love you so

She looks so good in her favorite dress
I hate to say it, but I must confess
When she's up too late at night sometimes
She gets unruly
She loves a'riding in my car
Singing like she's gonna be a star
All I know thus far is that I love her truly

I dream about how you will be
And all the things you're gonna see in me
Oh Willie, hope I make you proud
Willie Rain, I love you so

When you ask for the advice I got
I'll probably say, "Go ask your Ma"
Oh Willie, 'Chubby Cheeks'
Willie Rain, I love you so

She looks so good in her favorite dress
I hate to say it but I must confess
When she's up too late at night sometimes
She gets unruly
She loves a'riding in my car
Singing like she's gonna be a star
All I know thus far, is that I love her truly

I hope I live long enough to see
What a beautiful thing you turn out to be
Oh Willie, go and change the world
Willie Rain, I love you so

I've done some things that I regret
But you were here when I took my first step
Oh Willie, one day at a time....
Willie Rain, I love you so
Willie Rain, I love you so....

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



What Dreams May Come

Westward dreaming of California
Seems like a dream to me now
How I love you and how I adore you
Gonna make it through somehow
Crossing canyons, slaying dragons
As if the night was ours to take
The weight of wanting, the fear of failure
The fear it's all about to break

Doubt is a deep well
Hope is a carousel
It spins until your faith is undone
Hold on...what dreams may come

He said nothing of any meaning
For at least a couple weeks
He was dying, he dreamt of flying
I think he'd lost the will to speak
I wondered what he was really thinking
Was he thinking about his life
Maybe his children, the years of drinking
Maybe the death of his wife
He reached his arms up
And he reached to me
He whispered come here son
Hold on....what dreams may come

Sometimes dreaming -dreaming too big
Sometimes the dream can turn on you

Upon the leaves of a thousand eves
Someday we'll never have to run
Will you understand me
Will you show me mercy
Will you tell me I'm 'the one'?
Whisper to me, that you love me
Let me taste your life upon my tongue
Dance in the waves of a thousand rainy days
We won't stop until its done
Take my hand, babe, I've got a plan
Our lives have really just begun
Hold on, what dreams may come
Hold on, what dreams may come

for JEM

Michael McDermott

Willow Springs



PRODUCED BY MICHAEL MCDERMOTT
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HEATHER HORTON - VOCALS, FIDDLE
LEX PRICE - BARITONE GUITAR AND UPRIGHT BASS ON 'SOLDIERS OF THE SAME WAR' AND 'FOLKSINGER', ELECTRIC BASS ON 'GETAWAY CAR'
WILL KIMBROUGH - GUITARS, MANDOLIN, BANJO, WASHBOARD GUITAR, GUITAR LOOPS
JOHN DEADERICK - PIANO AND KEYS, STRING ARRANGEMENT ON 'BUTTERFLY'
RICH PARENTI - BARITONE, TENOR SAX AND VOCALS ON 'LET A LITTLE LIGHT IN'
JOHN PIRRUCCELLO - GUITAR ON 'WHAT DREAMS MAY COME'
EDDIE FRITZ - KEYS

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