

NOTES ON BETWEEN HELLO & GOODBYE

Few artists can cover the breadth of human experience as beautifully and as poetically as Greg Greenway. The 11 songs of *Between Hello and Goodbye* are musical proof. They are the culmination of a life-long artistic journey, and represent the best of Greg Greenway as a songwriter, a singer, a multi-instrumentalist, and a world citizen.

There is a universe in this album, covering the gamut of human emotions. It all flows from the line, “so much has to happen between hello and goodbye.” Greg makes clear where he stands, beginning the album with *Hello Hello Hello*. In the face of a pandemic and a world of rising division and falling illusions, this is a joyous and empowering collection of stories that take on the ephemeral nature of living, that poke fun at promises of a PR department afterlife, and forms a national movement to cure the scourge of pokey, usurping left-lane drivers.

At the same time, the particulars of Greg’s personal experience give him unique avenues as a writer to address some of today’s perilous topics—racism, White Nationalism, and false nostalgia. *Between Hello & Goodbye* contains all of this, the serious and the humorous, with uplift. Intrinsic in every empowered note is Greg’s belief in the healing/uniting power of music.

Joining him on this album are old friends and musical partners, Reggie Harris (vocals) and Pat Wictor (vocals and guitar). Unquestionably, the work they’ve done together, (with Reggie in “*Deeper Than The Skin*” and with Pat in *Brother Sun*) shines brightly in many of these songs. Philadelphia’s Chico Huff (bass) , Matt Scarano (drums), Boaz (harmonica), and Austin Woodlin (Hammond B3) fill out the musical palette. Each one is remarkable in their own way.

But, the foundation of all of it is in Greg’s renowned heart and soul. The vehicles are a piano, a ‘73 Martin D-28, a simple ukulele, and a human voice. So much has to happen between hello and goodbye, and Greg’s best work makes sure that it does.

1. Hello Hello Hello (4:54)

When concerts restarted after the pandemic, the joy at seeing people again, of resuming life, was infectious. Hello, hello, hello.

2. Big Wide World (4:59)

Raised in the Lost Cause of the South, the dissonance became overwhelming. Quotes from MLK, Jr., Sam Cooke, and Curtis Mayfield. Great B3 playing.

3. That's Where the Hope Comes From (2:55)

When Flonzie Brown-Wright, the first Black woman elected to state office in Mississippi, was asked if she ever felt like giving up. "Every night," she said. But, then came morning and I made a promise.

4. Don't Promise Me (3:17)

Inspired by Maya Angelou's "Preacher Don't Send Me.: A joyous, hand clapping, cacophony of voices celebrating the here and now, poking fun at the PR department afterlife.

5. Saving the Best for Last (4:04)

tongue-in-cheek, reality-based love song, A wedding song for the once (or twice) mistaken. 50% of America knows the feeling, but in the end, "you make forever so easy to say."

6. Another Day (5:05)

White Nationalist rallies in Charlottesville and DC. "There are very fine people on both sides, 50 million ghosts arise, to disagree."

7. Love Has Brought Me Here (4:56)

At a certain point in life, you realize that the joy is in living for others. Some of us took longer to get there than others.

8. Build A Bridge (4:04)

Encoded in us from the dawn of time is our suspicion of "others." Can or will we overcome it. The future depends on it.

9. If You Paint Me (4:01)

When someone paints your portrait, it is as much the artist as the subject. Who can completely describe a human being. In this song, I try to take care of it myself.

10. Get Out of the Left Lane (4:32)

A tongue-in-cheek invitation to join the national movement against dawdlers who squat in the passing lane. This is "Driving in Massachusetts" gone national. For everyone who has given up hope, this your movement.

11. I'll Call That Love (4:03) - love song/solo piano - Love made me do it. After wandering around a wide emotional desert for a long time, my tenuous grasp of the word has finally been solved.