



Son Gideas

Housebuilding

In the summer of '92 I first met you
All unrealized possibilities
Board by board and nail by nail
We made our dreams come true
Plans and schemes and caffeine

Housebuilding

Was there once a picket fence,
For sticks to rattled on?
Was there once a hidden door,
A secret room?
In these halls are memories,
In these windows, ghosts
Lives well wasted and well lived

Housebuilding

Sawtooth's break
The hammer's worn
The plans are now complete
Not a house — a home

You occupy my neighborhood
You vandalize
You've no idea
How to lay a cornerstone
How to raise a roof
All you do is burn

In the summer of '23 we said goodbye
I don't recognize my neighborhood
A high-rise blocks the setting sun
More neighbors, fewer friends
Time to start again

Housebuilding

Moving vans and memories
The circle's now complete
My ghost will greet you now

Jerry Hammack: Words & Music, Vocals, Synthesizers, Bass, Drums and Percussion

Thomas Gerard: Backing Vocals

"Remodeling: Installing Blinds" by ultradust, CC01.0 Universal, courtesy freesound.org

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It's Getting Late

My ride passed me by
I'm on foot
On the long way home
This day slipped away
Everything that could be thrown
Came my way

I'm fine but nothing much resolved today
This same play on stage again
Here I am in the lights
Still tryin' to make my part believable
And understand my motivation soon
Why this matters much at all

It's getting late
I'll never be ready so
Here goes I'm off
I'll try to hold steady
And recite my lines
And hope that they make sense
This time

Long walks in the dark
Perfect time
To take your mind apart
And realize you're on your own
It's on you
To find your way back home

I'm fine but nothin' much looks right today
Familiar signs are out of place
The human race looks very strange
It's dog eat dog and dog eat God
Any hopes I had of golden ages flew the cage
They might not be back

It's getting late
My sense of direction
Is slipping away
These dark skies are spinning
And stars fall like rain
To start all this over again
(Maybe it's got to all burn down)

Thomas Gerard: Words & Music, Vocals, Pianos, Electric Guitar, Bass

Jerry Hammack: Electric Guitar, Synthesizers, Drums, Backing Vocals

Shrug It Off

Some other guy
Might sit around watching every other girl go by
But I have eyes for only you love
Ear to the phone
Some days it rings off the hook but still I'm all alone
Ah, to be home
Warm arms come surround me
You and I we're safe ports in a storm
Muses free to dream with
In our own little world
There's so much going on
You and I we must promise ourselves
We won't forget the dreams then
Sometimes it's so easy
And we just shrug it off, shrug it off, there you go
We just shrug it off, shrug it off, there you go

Moonrise in the east
In the rain train cars coupling
Shaking the walls
Still the stereo's down low

Short incantations keep the whole world functioning
Let's let it spin round again
Let's let it spin round again

Till there's a day
When our luck runs dry and the piper plays
What can I say? What really matters?
Most of the time
I've got my face to the wind and I'm feeling fine
You're on my mind
And that wind it keeps blowing more dust from the shelves
We can't lie to ourselves
We've had our taste of freedom
Now it's there to remind us
Just how far we have come
You and I we must promise ourselves
We won't forget the dreams then
Sometimes it's so easy
And we just shrug it off, shrug it off
There you go
We just shrug it off, shrug it off there you go

Jerry Hammack: Words & Music, Vocals, Piano, Electric Guitar, Bass, Synthesizers

Thomas Gerard: Piano, Backing Vocals

"Pope's Wood, Gloucestershire, England: Sunset in September" by kernowrules, CC01.0

Universal, courtesy Freesound.org "S33-10 Freight train car bumps & couples; steam & bell noise" by craigsmith, CC01.0 Universal, courtesy Freesound.org

So Long Sunday

Who stole my peaceful Sunday?
What Monday crawled in the back door?
I deplore any change of plan
That leaves no room
For me to understand

I thought the world was spinning
Around and around and around just fine
How come now just one side's winning
Who's keeping score and who's gone half blind?

Did it all just sail away too fast
Before we took the time to grasp
That a chance like this might come to pass
Just once and not again and then it's gone
So long it's gone and won't be back?
Gone so long it's gone and won't be back again.

Thomas Gerard: Words & Music, Vocals, Piano
Jerry Hammack: Bass, Drums, Backing Vocals

Solo Girl

Solo girl
Walkin' with the angels
Hand to heart
Eyes to Heaven
Ventures out on this empty day full of promises
In her invisible way

Bright stars in front of you
When you close your eyes
Is there a guiding light?
Is that a dream or just a fairy tale
A temptation to try and fail?
Or is weather always prone to change
And clear a way for you
To have your day?

Solo girl
Might take on the whole world
Might be the right time to stand up
Why not you?
This solitude has the taste of soul food
All this choice leads to somewhere
It's time to tell the truth

Quiet fire inside of you
What will you see through?
Will you pay your due?
And maybe change your pretty name
Let the others guess your game
It's a world of possibility
Locked in the secret thoughts
Of a solo girl

Bright chance in front of you
To set the world on fire
To reach for something higher
Maybe the distances where never far
Not such a mystery who you are
Can you read this like your favorite book?
And play the part that you know by heart of a

Solo girl walkin' with her Angels
In step with Earth and with Heaven
Under her own spell
On her way to fill this empty day made of promises
As the seasons change

Thomas Gerard: Vocals, Piano

Jerry Hammack: Bass, Drums, Horn Mockups

*"Jazz Bar People Ambience (La Fontaine, Copenhagen)" by MSXP,
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Days Gone By

Hard growing old
But what did you expect?
Wine from the water?
Loaves and fishes too?
Of all the memories I have of you
The ones that come to haunt me now
Are all blue

Easy casting doubt
Knowing what you'll catch
Better move the goalposts
Better wash the sheets
Of all the cruel things I said to you
The ones that come to haunt me now
Are untrue

Stay with me now
Until our time is done
Can you
Forgive the days gone by?
Are you willing to even try?
Or has time run out?

Hard to say I'm sorry
When there's someone else to blame
I cannot find a mirror
To look me in the eye
Of all the simple things I could have said
The words that try to find me now
Lose their way

Stay with me now
Until our time is done
Can you
Forgive the days gone by?
Are you willing to even try?
Or has time run out?

Jerry Hammack: Words & Music, Vocals, Piano, Bass, Drums, Special Effects
Thomas Gerard: Backing Vocals

*"Under the metal roof while raining" by Mafon2, CC01.0 Universal, courtesy
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Stands To Reason

Constance wasn't constant
Despite her name
She changed her mind
All the time

Patience, it takes patience
But once again
Our temper's lost
Oh no

Water's rising all around us
Run for the hills
Don't forget to hit the lights
Time's running out
But you're not alone
I'm coming home

Virtue is a virtue
But the road is rough
To do what's right
It's hard

Strength can be a weakness
If you lose your head
You'll meet regret
Oh no

Smoke is curling over the hilltop
Run to the shore
Don't forget to phone a friend
Time's on your side
You're not alone
I'm already home

Stands to reason
We don't understand at all
Stands to reason
That there's pride before a fall
Stands to reason

Jerry Hammack: Words & Music, Vocals, Piano, Synthesizer, Bass, Drums, Additional Audio

Thomas Gerard: Backing Vocals

Spurlock, Charlie (Performer), "Interview about dust storms, sleet storms, and tall stories (part 2 of 2), "July 28, 1940", Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin migrant workers collection (AFC 1985/001), American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

Vincent (Version 2)

Vincent never knew
And it would have mattered
Standing there alone
I can't imagine
Colors in his head
He just kept at it

Did he hope for near or far
Or were those stars
Just a sight to capture
And hold forever, hold forever
Hold forever, hold forever
He never knew
He never knew
He never knew
He never knew
He never knew the answer

Vincent never knew
How bright and forever
His colors would be
How many would see
He never read his own last chapters

Maybe those were the best parts or maybe not
'Cause Vincent had a day
He had a day
Vincent had a day
We'll never know about
Or how he felt
Alone under the sky
We'll never know
We'll never know
We'll never know
We'll never know
We'll never know
We'll never know the answer

Vincent never knew
How close he was
Held it in his heart
And it flowed through his fingertips
Vincent never knew
What he started
How far his reach would be
He never knew, he never knew, he never knew, he never knew
He never knew the answer

Thomas Gerard: Words & Music, Vocals, Pianos, Keyboards, String mockup
Jerry Hammack: Atmospheric effects "Gergueil - France" by Sadiquecat, CC0.0
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Lazarus

Lazarus
One of us
At least that's how I think the story goes
Rising up
From death's sleep
He reached for his pipe
He reached for his wife
I'm rising
I'm rising

Sisyphus
One of us
Rolling stones up hills everyday
That's the deal we made
The stage is set
We'll never know why
We live or we die
I'm rising
I'm rising

Like a storm
Who knows when I'll blow over
Don't you know there's gold
In the setting sun
Don't look for it
That'll blind you
Ya, that's the deal we made
The stage has all been set

Odysseus
One of us
Just trying to find a way back home
Feeling lost
And so alone
With love, we'll survive
With love we'll get by
I'm rising
I'm rising

Jerry Hammack: Words & Music, Vocals, Keyboards, Piano, Electric Guitar, Bass, Drums
Thomas Gerard: Backing Vocals, Keyboards

Youmethemus

We talked so long the fading day
Turned into night
I don't remember what we said
But it felt right
In every word an echo from the past
These words will last

We talked it out
And we agreed it makes no sense
What we believe just doesn't seem
To need defense
I always thought that all these things were true
For more than me and you

Cause I
I fought for change
And then I fought
To stay the same
The world was bigger
Than I knew
Than me and you

The things that bind are those
That move us heart and soul
But they're not far removed
From what what can turn so cold
What's one more day
If none of this is heard
They're only words

Still I (Words I put hope in)
I fought for change (Better than silence)
And then I fought (Truth is the weapon)
To stay the same (That we will use)
The world is harder
Than I knew
Than me and you

We talked in circles round and round
We said the words
(Circles round and round and round)
The ones we heard us say
In all those different ways
(All the ways we found)
I knew what you
We're going to think was true
None of this is new

*Thomas Gerard: Words & Music, Vocals, Piano, Keyboards, String mockup, Electric Guitar,
Acoustic Guitar
Jerry Hammack: Bass, Drums*

Son Gideas is the collaborative music of Thomas Gerard and Jerry Hammack

*Recorded at Flatiron 17 Toronto, Ontario and Tranquility Base Studio Seattle Washington
Spring 2022 through Summer 2023*

Produced by Thomas Gerard and Jerry Hammack

Recorded in ProTools, Logic Pro and on the Yamaha AW2816

Engineered and Mixed by Jerry Hammack at The Nose in ProTools

Graphic Design and Photography by Thomas Gerard

Thomas Gerard plays -

Keyboards: Technics SX-P30 Digital Piano, Kurzweil PC88mx

Acoustic Guitar: Martin D16GT, *Electric Guitar:* Fender Stratocaster, *Bass:* Ibanez TR50

Jerry Hammack plays -

Electric Guitars: Fender Stratocaster, Trail Riot HH Tele, *Bass:* Schecter Diamond Series 004

Keyboards: Yamaha S08, Arturia Keylab Essentials 49' Arturia Microfreak, Soft-synths by

Arturia and Spitfire LABS, *Orchestral emulations by Spitfire Audio.*

Percussion: Latin Percussion tambourine; Meinl maracas

Drum and percussion programming by Jerry Hammack.

This album is one of the culminations of 40 years of friendship and bonding over the love of music. It had always been an aspiration that Jerry and I would 'do something together' like record an album. Many years later and in the course of the pandemic and heightened musical sharing we finally committed to the idea and began writing and recording **Son Gideas**. No longer living in the same city or country we swapped tracks over the internet between Seattle and Toronto with Jerry handling all things technical. The song choices more or less spontaneously arose out of inspiration for the new project and feeling out what would fit together. Then there was the unspoken competition to write a better song. In the end the ten songs we collectively offered were pretty easily accepted as a great place to meet musically. I'm a songwriter and I love melody and I love words no matter what the style. For 42 minutes and 44 seconds I think we did OK on both counts.
-Thomas Gerard

Special thanks to Michael Lord (as always), Aimee Park & Andrea Dupras (our wives - 'patience, it takes patience' says Jerry), Jeanne Castle (poetical muse), Rob Evans, Howard Petrella, Christopher Osolin, Vincent Van Gogh and all of our friends who collectively keep our sanity together.

Son Gideas

1. Housebuilding
(Hammack) 4:39 †
2. It's Getting Late
(Gerard) 4:00 ††
3. Shrug It Off
(Hammack) 4:18 †
4. So Long Sunday
(Gerard) 4:19 ††
5. Solo Girl
(Gerard) 4:44 ††
6. Days Gone By
(Hammack) 4:30 †
7. Stands To Reason
(Hammack) 4:38 †
8. Vincent
(Gerard) 4:37 ††
9. Lazarus
(Hammack) 3:19 †
10. Youmethemus
(Gerard) 3:49 ††

*Produced by Thomas Gerard and Jerry Hammack
Mixed and Mastered by Jerry Hammack at Flatiron 17*

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*Recorded at Tranquility Base Studio Seattle WA and Flatiron 17 Toronto, Ontario
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