

### a1. **Victor Jara's Hands**

Wire fences still coiled with flowers of the night  
Songs of the birds like hands call the earth to witness  
Sever from fear before taking flight

Fences that fail and fall to the ground  
Bearing the fruit from Jara's Hands

Me siento solo y perdido  
Una vela alumbró mi camino  
Cruzando tierras que nunca he visto  
Cruzando el río de mi destino  
Solo soy un chico más  
Que sueña en alto y mirando al mar

All alone and lost  
My path is lit by flame  
Crossing lands never seen  
Crossing rivers of my destiny  
Only a boy nothing more  
Day dreaming wanting more

Jairo Zavala – electric guitar, vocals  
Paul Niehaus – electric guitar  
Volker Zander – bass  
John Convertino – drums, shakers  
Chris Schultz – drum machine  
Joey Burns – acoustic guitar, electric guitar, vocals,  
tambourine, baritone guitar, bass  
Martin Wenk – trumpet, backing vocals  
Jacob Valenzuela – trumpet

### a2. **Two Silver Trees**

There are code breakers with lines well tapped  
Traces sweeping out across the static night  
You are draped in white like the blossoms of the tree  
Looking down a glass elevator  
At your father signing the papers for  
Two silver trees, two silver trees  
Two worlds in need, two silver trees

Branches falling down  
From sources underground  
False identities  
Stranded in each single seed

False sense of warning no poisoned cup  
Just deception crawling up like a snake  
Decay of the blossoms and roots well hacked  
Spoil the hidden waters dying at the base of  
Two silver trees, two silver trees  
Two worlds in need, two silver trees

Branches falling down  
From sources underground  
False identities  
Stranded in each single seed

Nick Luca – electric guitar, Chinese guizeng  
Martin Wenk – omnichord 1983, glockenspiel  
Paul Niehaus – electric guitar  
John Convertino – drums, marimba, banjo,  
Joey Burns – Venezuelan cuatro, electric bass, electric guitar,  
piano, vocals, accordion, cassette player

### a3. **The News About William**

4 in the morning the sidewalk's asleep  
Dogs on the porch, spiders on the leaf  
Shipwrecked by night sailing through days  
Nobody noticed the slipping away

Connecting the dots with thorns in his side  
Boarded up the windows with pain and with pride  
The music box broken that once was his soul  
Its sad little song spinning out of control

Then came the storm that washed the roads out  
Closed both his eyes and pointed straight south  
Second line drums marched into the sea  
While the clouds overhead cried "mutiny"  
They parted for Cathy and her bitter news  
As her words fell and the sky grew dim  
Recalled how close to that exit I've been

Ours not to reply, ours not to reason why

The news about William  
The lifeline retreats  
Desire for release  
The thorns in his side

Michael Fan – violin  
Rose Todaro – violin  
Martin Wenk – French horn  
Paul Niehaus – pedal steel  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – nylon acoustic guitar, upright bass, vocals

### a4. **Sarabande In Pencil Form**

John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – nylon acoustic guitar

### a5. **Writer's Minor Holiday**

Thumb tacks spread out  
Across your hometown state  
Hollow tree at half mast  
Wait until wintertime  
Leaves a paper trail a licorice plant that's overgrown

Like a cabin in the woods on a minor, like a minor holiday

Woolrich red plaid wolf  
Irish whiskey glass  
Here comes my fine bright haired lass  
Like a trash fire burning and burning it  
My heart could never right the words never fail

Tucked under your cap and for a moment  
There's a stillness before the room spins again  
Minor holiday, spin it again  
Ride it out so you can tell

Wasted on the weekend  
Making good time with my excuse  
Where the plot lines are like dead ends  
Floating in her eyes at the bottom of a well  
Floating in her eyes ride it out for a spell  
Minor holiday  
Transfer this weight  
Minor holiday  
Transfer this weight  
Going back and forth  
On a minor, minor holiday

Adrienne DeNike – backing vocals  
Jacob Valenzuela – vibraphone  
Paul Niehaus – Harmony electric guitar  
Volker Zander – bass  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, vocals

### a6. **Man Made Lake**

I'm gonna walk these streets  
Of cold concrete  
Like I'm a ghost  
Searching for its grave

Then I'll dwell by the edge of this man made lake  
And descend into the city  
That holds no place for me

But the streets  
With no stir of life  
And all the houses on the streets  
Are wholly submerged

Then I'll gather the leaves from cell phone trees  
And return them  
To their place  
And pretend someone's calling for me

Paul Niehaus – electric guitar fuzz solo, baritone guitar  
Volker Zander – electric bass  
Jairo Zavala – vibraphone  
Martin Wenk – glockenspiel  
Joey Burns – piano, Hammond organ, three string Stella tenor  
guitar, vocal, electric guitar  
John Convertino – drums, tambourine, shakers

### a7. **Inspiración**

Yo canto de mi corazón  
Y tu mi amigo me inspiras mis pasos  
Me voy por el mundo conociendo varia gente  
Pero nunca hallé una persona como tu

Mirame ya estoy aquí  
Si pudieras mirarme que pensaras de mi  
Pero hoy es muy tarde para decirte que soy cambiado  
Me duele me duele que ya no estas aquí

Ya es muy tarde  
para decirte que soy cambiado

Mirame ya estoy aquí  
Si pudieras mirarme que pensaras de mi  
Pero hoy es muy tarde para decirte que soy cambiado  
Me puede me duele que ya no estas aquí

(translation)  
I sing from my heart  
And you my friend inspire my steps  
I go through the world meeting many people but never  
Have I found someone like you

Look at me now I am here  
If you could see me what would you think of me  
But now it's too late to tell you that I am changed  
I regret it hurts that now you are no longer here

Now it's too late to tell you that I am changed

Look at me now I am here  
If you could see me what would you think of me  
But now it's too late to tell you that I am changed  
I regret it hurts that now you are no longer here

Amparo Sanchez – vocals  
Jairo Zavala – acoustic guitar, Leslie electric guitar  
Jacob Valenzuela – vocals, trumpet  
Paul Niehaus – pedal steel  
John Convertino – drums, shaker, cowbell, guiro  
Joey Burns – upright bass, nylon guitar, synthesizer, piano

### a8. **House Of Valparaiso**

Dialing in a forgotten voice  
(coming in like waves rolling off the coast)  
Sweeping through illegal ports  
(rising from the depths falling off the tongue)  
Ships drifting out of tune  
(coming in like waves rolling off the coast)

Many, many more, sculpting the shoreline  
Etching the harbor and the people  
Who've stayed afloat

(coming in like waves rolling off the coast)  
Dialing in a forgotten voice  
(rising from the depths falling off the tongue)  
Sweeping through illegal ports  
(coming in like waves rolling off the coast)  
Ships drifting out of tune  
(can't stop the waves coming like a ghost)

Is that your shape in the foam of the sea  
After all these years coming home to me

La Chascona (hearts to ocean) vows unbroken  
Lying in the bath fully clothed  
Ready for the ocean's wake  
The tears won't wash away  
What her eyes can't erase

Not safe to say in her native tongue  
A radio voice drowning out  
The general's song lingering on  
A raft made of books from a driftwood house  
Returns to the waves

Sam Beam – backing vocals  
Jairo Zavala – acoustic guitar, slide guitar  
Paul Niehaus – electric guitar  
Volker Zander – electric bass  
Martin Wenk – trumpet  
Jacob Valenzuela – trumpet  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – nylon acoustic guitar, Hammond organ,  
vocals, vibraphone, electric bass

## b1 Slowness

Miles of highway poppies, a stretch of maybe flowers  
Past Signal Hill a ways  
We were parked and searching  
For a hubcap rolling into the fields of thorn  
Although we couldn't see a thing that night  
Stars still shone  
In their slowness  
And their slowness  
Took us by surprise

If I never told you how you helped to rescue  
The car and all inside  
Remember roads were steep and  
You and I went sliding down the grade from Gate's Pass  
You asleep and me behind the wheel hovering  
In that slowness  
And that slowness  
Has never gone away

Pieta Brown – vocals  
Bo Ramsey – electric 12 string guitar, guitar  
Paul Niehaus – pedal steel  
Volker Zander – upright bass  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – nylon string guitar, vocals

## b3. Bend To The Road

Watching your eyes go back and forth  
Out on the highway  
Watching your heart bend to the road  
Kiss your forehead as I turn to go

Following those signs  
Driving out  
Only engine smoke frozen in a cloud  
Wishing the space would remain  
You're holding back your tears  
From letting go of your heart  
Leaving the middle of the road  
Letting go just a little bit  
Till it all spills out the side of the road

Hole in the sea  
Hole in the heart  
There's a hole in your hand  
Where the money just falls  
And the pain falls right through  
The hole in your head  
That wears right through

The hole in all your plans  
There's a hole that shines right through

Mickey Raphael – bass harmonica, modal harmonica  
Paul Niehaus – slide acoustic archtop guitar, pedal steel  
Jacob Valenzuela – muted trumpet  
Volker Zander – upright bass  
Martin Wenk – vibraphone  
John Convertino – drums, shakers, bottle cap rattle  
Joey Burns – Harmony electric guitar, Nashville tuning acoustic guitar, vocal

## b2. El Gatillo (Trigger Revisited)

Martin Wenk – trumpet, whistle, accordion  
Jacob Valenzuela – trumpet  
Jairo Zavala – electric guitar, baritone guitar  
Paul Niehaus – pedal steel  
John Convertino – drums  
Nick Luca – Hammond organ, vibraphone  
Joey Burns – nylon acoustic guitars, Harmony electric guitar,  
upright bass, backing vocals

## b4 Fractured Air (Tornado Watch)

From the delta to the plains  
Storms touching down again  
Devil's hiding in the house  
Angel's in the rain

Corrugated lovers swimming on the wire  
Switching on and off the breakers  
On a night like this  
No one should be alone

In the fractured air

Misfired from a distress flare  
All the while searchlights reconcile  
Cut their losses and run

Clinging to the rooftop  
Losing track of days  
Devil's up in the attic  
Angel's lost her way

Must've misdialed the number  
Or the telephone's died  
Lost you in the darkness  
And never heard back  
Dropped out from the night  
Like a stone

Falling from the fractured air  
Misfired like a distress flare  
All the while searchlights reconcile  
Cut their losses and run

Nick Luca – electric guitar  
Jairo Zavala – electric guitar, acoustic guitar, fuz bass  
Paul Niehaus – electric guitar  
Martin Wenk – trumpet, wah wah trumpet  
Jacob Valenzuela – trumpet  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – acoustic guitar, electric guitar vocals

## b5 Falling From Sleeves

John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – Venezuelan cuatro, cello

## b6. Red Blooms

When the fists of winter fly  
Driving bones into the snow  
Blackened frostbitten nights  
Vodka running dry

The statues cloaked in white  
Migrants from museums  
Losing all the feeling now that  
Sunrise is outlawed

Strangers plant themselves  
Down in the cold hard ground  
Later when the harvest thaws  
Snow drops will be in bloom

Crossed out on city maps  
Prospekt Mira reveals  
Shadows drinking antifreeze  
Neath the underpass

Ordered once a gulag's march  
Now cities send the call  
Falling from the rooftops fast  
And frozen against the wall

Where strangers plant themselves  
Dead souls of the underground  
When February thaws  
Snow drops will be in bloom again

Bloom again, bloom again  
Bloom again, bloom again  
Red blooms, red blooms

Craig Schumacher – lap steel  
Paul Niehaus – pedal steel  
Volker Zander – electric bass  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – acoustic guitar, baritone guitar, piano, wurlitzer, vocals

## b7 Contention City

Through miles of waste to cross upstream  
Risking all dreams for what the surface brings  
Free like the flow that pours from your hand  
Claiming its own, New River

Douglas McCombs – electric guitar  
Paul Niehaus – pedal steel  
Volker Zander – upright bass, Fender Rhodes bass  
John Convertino – drums  
Joey Burns – Wurlitzer, toy piano, vocal

Joey Burns all songs except track 07

(J. Burns, Lunada Bay, BMI adm by Bug Music)  
John Convertino tracks 03, 04, 05, 06, 10, 11, 13, 15  
(J. Convertino, Good Clean Dirt, BMI adm by Bug Music)  
John Burns tracks 02, 03, 06, 08, 14  
(John Burns, Words Fail Music, BMI adm by Bug Music)  
Jacob Valenzuela track 07  
(J. Valenzuela, Bacobampo Music, BMI adm by Bug Music)  
Jairo Zavala track 01 (J. Zavala, EMI Publishing Spain)

Sam Beam appears courtesy of Sub Pop Records  
Amparo Sanchez appears courtesy of La Marmita/Via Lactea  
Jairo Zavala appears courtesy of PIAS Records  
Pieta Brown appears courtesy of One Little Indian Records  
Nick Luca appears courtesy of Fonzalzo Records

Produced by Joey Burns and John Convertino  
Mixed and Co-Produced by Craig Schumacher  
Engineered by Chris Schultz, Nick Luca and John Svek (09)  
Chris Schultz mixed tracks (3, 4, 13)  
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Mixed at Top Hat Studio in Austin TX  
Mastered by JJ Golden at Golden Mastering

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In Memory of Frances Anne Niehaus