



All songs written by Jennifer Schaffer except *Dream Ditty* co-written with Deborah Ackley and *Panic Life* and *Sunday Morning, New York City* co-written with Simon Law.

All songs produced by Simon Law.

Executive producer (and keeper of the song keys): John Teshima.

Recording engineers: Jeremy Darby, Simon Law, Gary Barnacle, Lain Gray, Bo Heart, Wale Owoade.

Mixed by Jeremy Darby at Canterbury Music Co., Toronto, Canada.

Mastered by Miles Showell at Abbey Road Studios, London, UK.

Art Direction and Design by Martha Townsend and Tina Sher/Mint Design.

All photos by Kristin Briggs and Evan Trestan.

[WWW.JENSCHAFFER.CA](http://WWW.JENSCHAFFER.CA)







Jen Schaffer

## Games We Play

### By Jen Schaffer and the Shiners

We would like to thank those folks who have supported us over the year-and-a-half-long making of this album, and more broadly, those who've been our boosters over the past ten years since the band started.

Specifically, we have to thank **Jeremy Darby** for his dedication and support of the project and band. We appreciate all his time, talent and use of his amazing studio Canterbury Music Company for recording and mixing the album. And a big thanks to his trusted studio comrade-in-arms, **Julian Decorte**, for all his contributions.

Thanks to **Miles Showell** at Abbey Road Studios in the UK for mastering the album so beautifully. And thanks to all the kind folks at SonyATV for the use of their studios in Toronto: **Gary Furniss**, **Dave Quilico** and **Mishelle Pack**.

A heartfelt thanks to all the artists who contributed to taking this project to the next level: **Lain Gray**, **Denis Keldie**, **Gary Barnacle**, **Bo Heart**, **Carmen Wiebe** and **Manny Szeptycki**. Also thanks to the Shiner friends who descended upon Canterbury one day to clap and ooh on command! They are **Hannah Szeptycki**, **Manny Szeptycki**, **Dorothy Hwang**, **Klaudia** and **Luka Meier**, **Stacy Zosky**, **Jennifer Zosky**, **Karen Wingrove** and **Rachel Kasimer**. And to **Martha Townsend**, thank you for the beautiful art work (and resurrecting backgammon into our lives) and **Tina Sher** for realizing that artistic vision with her art direction and design. And to **Kristin Briggs** and **Evan Trestan** for the perfectly complementary photography.

I would like to thank my kids for their genuine interest (a mother's dream) and participation in many parts of the music making, including being muses and typists. And my family writ large—my **parents** for their support and inspiration, my **sisters** and to the dedicated **Kasimers** who faithfully attend Shiner gigs! Also thanks to friends and fans who have also been ringside for Shiner events, literally and figuratively (you know who you are). A special thanks to **Deborah Ackley** for her beautiful poetry on the song, *Dream Ditty*. And **Hazel Ipp** and **Deborah Levine**, for their invaluable guidance. I also want to express a gratitude to my inspiring music teachers over the years, both formal and informal, going all the way back to **John Plant** and **Ted Price**. These teachers cannot be heralded enough. And of course thanks to my amazing, faithful, dedicated, talented, funny, wonderful band: **Astrid**, **John**, **Simon** and **Jonathan**. A particular shout out to Astrid for letting us descend upon her basement at Donlands and Mortimer for our Thursday night rehearsals over these many years. And John for making this project and band possible in so many ways. And Jon for expanding the Shiner sound with his many stringed instruments (expect banjo on the next record)! And finally, I especially want to thank my partner in music and in life, Simon, but for whom my music would not have emerged and flourished as it has. — *Jen*

I'd like to thank everyone for the last ten years... it's been a joy to be a Shiner! A big thanks to my band mates (3 Js and an A!!) for expanding my musical horizons and for getting to be 'just the drummer'. I treasure that precious and glorious feeling of being in a band! I'd like to thank Waves for their great instruments and plugins that I use on every session. I'd like to personally thank my **Mum** and **Dad**, **Karyn Klapcecki**, **Lee Hamblin**, **Lain Gray** and **Gary Barnacle** who helped in this album's journey, and especially I am forever grateful to **Jen Schaffer**, for being my life partner and also my musical partner... that is a true blessing! — *Simon*

Thank you to Carmen and my parents. — *John*





## Garnet Strand

I came upon him, head in hand  
More like refuse than he was man  
But dusted off, the soot and sand  
Revealed the gem, the garnet strand

Semi-precious  
Ruby to me...

Out of the mine, the sun on skin  
Escape the discord, drone and din  
Polish hard, brilliant from bland  
He'll shine again like a garnet strand

Semi-precious  
Ruby to me...

Kept in the dark  
Dampened the spark  
Just a passing remark  
That would never see the light of day  
But can't be repressed  
Buffed by distress  
A defiant progress  
Even though she thought that he'd obey

Thought she owned him, soul and all  
Hers to reject and then recall  
But unlike jewels, modest or grand  
He'll not be pawned like a garnet strand

Semi-precious  
Ruby to me...



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitars

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

Hannah Szeptycki, Manny Szeptycki, Dorothy Hwang, Klaudia  
and Luka Meier, Stacy Zosky, Jennifer Zosky, Karen Wingrove,  
Rachel Kassimer — *Handclaps*

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.

## Lament

Tell me what's on your mind  
And I'll leave it all behind  
Because the worries can wait, I'll let them gestate  
Till they dissolve into a dew, into a dew

Ophelia—open up your heart  
Ophelia—before they tear it apart

Tell me the secrets you keep  
The ones that make you weep  
In the night while you sleep, as the sandman creeps  
Into the pool where you lie, pool where you lie

Ophelia—open up your heart  
Ophelia—before you tear it apart

The smile upon your face is so full of grace  
And I ache to believe but cannot conceive  
That you're not drowning in their wake

Ophelia—open up your heart  
Ophelia—before I tear it apart

How is it your destiny to repeat my history?  
Is it too late to ebb that tide, get off that ride  
And just find your pride inside?

Tell me it's in my mind  
And that I'll find, that I'll find  
That your words are true and you'll save me too  
From all my sad and foolish ways, my foolish ways

Don't betray the strength you display  
Ophelia, Ophelia, Om

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Handclaps, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Acoustic and Electric Guitars, Background Vocals

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

DENIS KELDIE  
Accordian

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law



John Teshima

## Games We Play

Can I blow you out like a candles flame?  
Can the love we have not return again?  
Can I bring you back if you stray too far away?

Can you read my mind can you read my eyes?  
If I look away will it reveal the lies?  
Can you banish me and refuse to heed my cries?

And can we stop this game we play?  
You go, I stay  
You shun and I pray  
But after today who'll play?

Would you turn around would you take my bait?  
Would you slow right down would you satiate?  
Would you open wide and receive our tortured fate?

And can we stop this game we play...

These are thoughts I come to when you tend to roam  
I cast my net out widely and call you back home  
I prostrate at your feet then I beat my own retreat  
When I sense defeat

Should I pack my bags and escape the pain?  
Should I walk right out and my pride maintain?  
Should I call your bluff having never called your name?

And can we stop this game we play?



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitars, Background Vocals

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin

DENIS KELDIE  
Accordion

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.

## Gone

She stepped out in the street as she took off her veil  
No longer felt the need to save a faith so frail  
And as the crowds appeared she faded out of view  
Abandoning her life for hopes of something new  
She was gone

Born to a world that had her fear the other kind  
Told she's the chosen one but never taught to shine  
She came from a stiff-necked crowd, always awkward  
squads  
But she alone desired the strength to face down God  
And be gone

If they preach about the coming of the light  
With torches lit and a heart stone-cold from fright  
I'll take darkness over the day  
I'll take darkness over the day  
And be gone and be gone

She caught a glimpse one day of liberty sublime  
And knew her great escape could happen anytime  
The only thing to do was to ignite a pyre  
And burn in effigy with a cleansing fire  
And be gone

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal, Background Vocals

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitar

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin

DENIS KELDIE  
Lowrey Organ

MANNY SZEPTYCKI  
Mouth Percussion

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.



Astrid Foster



## Hit The Bottom Quicker

And when the spirit breaks you feel the pull  
Admit there's no escape from limp and lull  
Gravity magnified by crushed drive  
As feelings dissipate and darkness thrives

You hit the low  
The bottom down  
It's quicker than  
The speed of pound  
The pound and shock  
And then remorse  
You climb aboard  
That hobbled... horse

Can't hold on — but why do you even try to decimate  
the sky  
Strength long gone — the fall will purify the truth you  
try to hide  
Can't hold on — but why do you even try to decimate  
the sky  
Strength long gone

You hit the bottom quicker  
You'll split the lip that bit ya  
And all your vain pretence  
Will reel from no defence  
You hit the bottom quicker  
You split the lip that quit ya  
And all your strained pretence  
Will keel from weight immense

You hit the low  
The bottom down  
It's quicker than  
The speed of pound  
The pound and shock  
And then remorse  
You climb aboard  
That hobbled... horse

Can't hold on...  
You hit the bottom quicker  
You split the lip that bit ya  
You hit the bottom quicker

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Lowrey Organ, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitar, Background Vocals

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, String Section, Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.

## Jerusalem Fields

She sat in bed next to someone else  
The floorboards between us, continental shelf

Present but gone on this strange new shield  
She left me to wander through  
Jerusalem fields

Their laughter falls to silent silhouettes  
The novelty enthrals, till absence is felt

Present but gone on this strange new shield  
She left me to wander through  
Jerusalem fields

Lush but lonely, far but only moments away  
Guest but voyeurist of her familial play  
Lush but lonely, far but only moments away  
Guest but voyeurist of her familial play

The golden domes sway on slender stems  
Extend like ancient walls between me and them

Present but gone on this Abrahamic shield  
But she led me to the temple doors  
Of Jerusalem fields



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

LAIN GRAY  
Featured Vocals

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Lowrey Organ, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Acoustic Guitar, Grand Piano

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby; Studio  
Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada by Simon  
Law; Callaloo's Emporium of Sound, Houston, TX by Lain Gray and  
at Waltech Studio, Houston, TX by Wale Owade





## Panic Life

Playing out the day that hasn't come yet  
Before it's had a chance I'm full of regret  
It's an anticipated affair  
It's a panic life lived on a dare

Set the clocks running but I'll beat that race  
Close the gap and cut the space  
It's an anticipated affair  
It's a panic life lived on a dare

Stoke the fire, burn the ire  
Keep the tinderred blast  
Pioneering, so revealing  
Of a pace long past

Imagining the curse, see the scenic lot  
Cinematic angst fuels the fated plot  
It's an anticipated affair  
It's a panic life lived on a dare

Hear the train coming before it turns the bend  
Bound wrists too taut to the end  
It's an anticipated affair  
It's a panic life lived on a dare

Stoke the fire...  
Ooh ooh, settle right down...  
It's a panic life lived on a dare



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFFER (SOCAN)  
AND SIMON LAW (SONYATV)

JENNIFER SCHAFFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, FX, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitars

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

CARMEN WIEBE  
Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.



## Ominous Change

A dreary day, clouds coming across the lake  
Must be the nimbostratus kind  
With its dark and ragged rainy edge  
Storm coming up close behind

Here it comes  
Ominous change

Feel the shift at the shoreline  
Two fronts are going to collide  
Air thickens, then it turns real still  
As it penetrates deep inside

Here it comes  
Ominous change

Undulating cumulonimbus, beware the super cell  
Forces far too tumultuous  
to ever think you know them well  
So give it up

Electrical charges build up underground  
'Till it can't wait no more  
The difference too large to be endured  
Lightning unleashed from the storm's core

Here it comes  
Ominous change

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitar

JONATHAN MARKS  
Wurlitzer, String Section, Background Vocals

GARY BARNACLE  
Brass Arrangement, Soprano, Tenor, Baritone and Bass  
Saxophones (Gary thanks Tom Bacon & J.F. at D'Addario,  
Jason Lawton and Justyna McEwan)

CARMEN WIEBE  
Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto, by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey, Toronto, SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada,  
Toronto by Simon Law and at 241 Studio, Kent, UK by  
in Gary Barnacle.



Jonathan Marks

## Secret Poison

You are my secret poison  
Dangerous and divine  
Fill me up with salvation  
That tastes of bitter wine  
You are my consolation  
Soothe my broken heart  
When it seeks reparation  
And craves a brand new start

My thoughts obsess  
Can't look away from you  
As I descend into your deep blues

I open wide and I swallow hard  
This toxic tonic that I crave  
Consumed by thirst and with disregard  
I gladly jump into this grave

My thoughts obsess...

I am awakened  
From my languished state  
With this devil's elixir I take

You have returned for to try again  
To turn my lead to gold, of that I'm wary

Are you my alchemist with potent vials?  
My very own apothecary?

'Cause you are my secret poison...



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal, Panting

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitar

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

BO HEART  
Wurlitzer

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto; SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada by  
Simon Law and at Herzhaft Studio Hamburg, Germany  
by Bo Heart.

## Dream Ditty

Where do you dream little one?  
Tucked up, cuddled up under eiderdown in trundle  
beds?

In sailing ships that steal into bedrooms in the night  
And launch a journey of a thousand miles?

In nests, high in tree tops  
In tree houses and forts  
Built where eagles fly?

In meadows of dandelions puffing out to seed  
After one glorious life of solar saffron!

Do you remember your dreams little one?  
Do you remember?

Nightsapes crowded with adventure and beauty  
And your very own nasty beasties  
Filaments, scenes and images  
Nonsensical and real

They are the shapes and the dances  
Of the next round of life  
Dreams are the secret drawers of hope  
In the ark of life

Open that drawer and out spills  
Gardens and rose trees  
Cascading like waterfalls  
Sunlight dancing in petals

Infinite spinning, infinite weaving  
You becoming, earth becoming

Life becoming, life becoming new again  
On the looms of dreams, On the looms of dreams...

Dare to dream little one, dare to dream  
That is the work of the real hero

WORDS BY DEBORAH ACKLEY (COPYRIGHT CONTROL)  
AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Acoustic Guitar, Background Vocals

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

CARMEN WIEBE  
Grand Piano, Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and at SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.



## We Had Our Time

Disconnected as expected  
Why would you be different?  
Miles and styles and after a while  
All result in discontent

We had our time my love  
Now I must be going  
And growing and knowing  
That this too must end

The die was cast, it couldn't last  
Not without some sacrament  
But we spilled the wine, questioned the divine  
And now all that's left is to repent

We had our time my love...

I felt his hand slip away from mine  
Wasn't a sign  
Only time to go

We can't look back at what we lacked  
Or at how our story might have been  
Regret is stark, shades grey to dark  
And the only light burns within  
I said the only light burns within  
I said the only light burns

We had our time my love...



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitar

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, Background Vocals

DENIS KELDIE  
Hammond B3 Organ

MANNY SZEPTYCKI  
String Section, Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada  
by Simon Law.

## Blood Of The Lamb

Born to die, oh aren't we all?  
But she was more than most  
A baby's yell as the towers fell  
That caught the holy ghost  
He turned his eye and with a sign  
Proclaimed that she was marked  
He'd see her soon when earth's full moon  
Returned in shades too dark

Blood of the lamb still on our hands  
Wipe it clean till those who can't stand will fall

Raised on glocks and cattle stocks  
That ushered in her knot  
To eat and pray and love the way  
That 'righteous folks' were taught  
But how could she untangle free, from what was yet  
to come?

An angry man, and an angry plan  
And pure delirium  
Blood of the lamb...

Close your eyes and hear the cries  
That echo in sunlight  
A giggle, grin, then from within  
A gasp that brought on night  
She's almost ten and without sin  
But that would not prevail  
'Cause the ghost returned, would not be spurned  
And claimed the marked and frail  
Blood of the lamb...

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JENNIFER SCHAFER (SOCAN)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Drums, Percussion, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric Guitar, Grand piano, Wurlitzer

JONATHAN MARKS  
Violin, String Section, Background Vocals

GARY BARNACLE  
Brass Arrangement (with Simon Law) Soprano, Tenor, Baritone  
and Bass Saxophones (Gary would like to thank Tom Bacon  
& J.F. at D'Addario, Jason Lawton and Justyna McEwan)

Hannah Szeptycki, Manny Szeptycki, Dorothy Hwang, Klaudia  
and Luka Meier, Stacy Zosky, Jennifer Zosky, Karen Wingrove,  
Rachel Kasimer—Background Vocal Oohs

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto, by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey, Toronto; SonyAtv Music Publishing Canada,  
Toronto by Simon Law and at 241 Studio, Kent, UK by  
Gary Barnacle.



Simon Law



## Sunday Morning, New York City

A little slower slide on the low west side  
Take a Chelsea ride on the High Line steel  
You can go for miles penetrate the styles  
That flow between the subway tiles and dreams

Glide through that groove, that vibe  
The island time and feel  
Sunday morning, New York City

Orchards blooming sweet, off Delancey street  
Cherry blossoms cheat the fading sun  
Iron clad the walls of tenements and halls  
'Cause no one there will heed the fall of time

Sweep the grit, doors open wide  
To let in its perfume  
Sunday morning, New York City

The lake stills as space expands to fill its history  
Central Park will tame the pulse  
Of Manhattan's majesty  
The boulders black, the vibrant green  
Softening the manic stream

Fingertips reveal the curious concealed  
The unobserved that yields a certain charm  
Hands will hold and guide and soothe the ripping tide  
That overflows along canals and piers

Wander through that moving feast  
The urban wondrous zeal  
Sunday morning, New York City



WORDS AND MUSIC BY JEN SCHAFER (SOCAN) AND  
SIMON LAW (SONYATV)

JENNIFER SCHAFER  
Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocal

SIMON LAW  
Grand Piano, Percussion, Background Vocals

ASTRID FOSTER  
Bass, Background Vocals

JOHN TESHIMA  
Electric and Acoustic Guitars

JONATHAN MARKS  
Viola, String Section, Background Vocals

Recorded at Canterbury Music Co. Toronto, by Jeremy Darby;  
Studio Wolfrey, Toronto and SonyAtv Music Publishing  
Canada, Toronto by Simon Law.

