

DUANE BETTS

WILD & PRECIOUS LIFE

RPF 2310

The Band:

Duane Betts Guitars, Vocals

Johnny Stachela Guitars

Berry Duane Oakley Bass Guitar, Background Vocals

John Ginty Hammond B-3 Organ, Piano

Tyler Greenwell Drums, Percussion

Additional Musicians:

Derek Trucks: Guitar on "Stare at the Sun"

Marcus King: Guitar on "Cold Dark World"

Nicki Bluhm: Vocal on "Colors Fade"

Bain Beakley: Background Vocals

Susan Marshall & Reba Russell: Background Vocals

Matt Smith: Pedal Steel

John Reid: Trumpet

Bobby Tis: Percussion

Produced by: Duane Betts, Johnny Stachela, John Ginty

Executive Producer: Duane Betts

Recorded & Engineered by: Bobby Tis

Mixed by: Jim Scott

Recorded at Swamp Raga Studio, Jacksonville, FL — March, May 2022

Mixed at Plyrz Studios July 2022, Santa Clarita, CA

Mastered by: Pete Lyman at Infrasonic Sound

Additional Recording by: Matt Ross-Spang at Southern Grooves Studio, Memphis, TN

Bradley Strickland: Studio Assistant, Swamp Raga Studio

Benjamin Knapp: Mix Engineer, Plyrz Studios

Art Direction & Design: Charley Robinson, Iconoclast Design Co.

Photography (Cover): Heather Nigro

Photography (Tintype): Lindsey Ross

Photography (Studio): Chris Brush, Bradley Strickland

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the making of this album. This is the music I heard in my head and in my soul. I'm so grateful to have shared this experience with such talented people, and now I share it all with you.

Also, I would like to thank my lovely wife Lisa, who amazes me every day with her kindness and patience. Love you. — DB

A very special acknowledgement of gratitude to Dr. Alfred Frankel for generously providing access to the original artwork — by Pierre Rochard — that graces the cover of this album. Alfred Frankel has been a dedicated and tireless archivist, preservationist, and advocate for the rich history of Florida artists. His two books — *The Artists of Old Florida, 1840-1960* and *A Dictionary of Florida Artists, 1840-1960* — are available for free download at his website: artistsofoldflorida.com. Thank you, Dr. Fred.

Duane Betts: Forrest Hye Music (BMI), Johnny Stachela: Gunpowder Music (BMI), Tyler Greenwell: Tyler Greenwell Music (BMI), Stoll Vaughan: Commonwealth Artist (ASCAP), Devon Allman: Orion Gregory Music (ASCAP)

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A1

Evergreen

(Betts, Allman 4:37)

There's a fire burning so deep in my heart tonight
I see the smiling faces in the crowd set alight
And I always looked for the truth in my mother's eyes
Sometimes we all have to learn to say goodbye

My father he was a gambler like his daddy too
You try but you just can't explain what you never knew

Sweet sympathy
Don't turn your back on me
Sweet memory
As long as you stay with me
And you know that I'll always be your evergreen

Sweet sympathy
Don't turn your back on me
Sweet memory
As long as you stay with me
And you know that I'll always be your evergreen

A2

Waiting on a Song

(Betts, Vaughan, Stachela 4:50)

Waiting on a fish
Waiting on a song
It can take the whole night
But it's never too long
Just lay back baby
You don't need it now
It always comes at the right time somehow

The rivers are long
The ocean's wide
Water has its way of changing everything with time

Holding on to hope
It's better than gold
Some days move fast
Some move slow
Hanging in the shallows
Hanging in the deep
Whatever we catch
Whatever we keep

The roads are long
Your dreams are wide
Love has its way of changing everything with time

The valley's low

The mountain's high
Dreams have their way
Of changing us with time
The rivers are long
Your dreams are wide
Water has its way of changing everything with time
Love has its way of changing everything with time

A3

Forrest Lane

(Betts, Stachela, Vaughan 4:56)

Palm trees sway on these spring days
Don't care what I forgot
Got my dreams locked and my mind's at ease
I ain't nothing I'm not
The reasons I'm out here
Because I was just born here
So don't you question me
I'll do what I can to help you understand
There's more than what you see

Out here where the cypress grows
Full moon comes and the full moon goes
Southern sweet
Time is slow
Oh it's got a hold on me
Oh you got to hold on

Being easy don't mean it's broken
Just lay them judgements down
Well I ain't perfect
I might drink too much
But I got my family around
We make it through years and it tears at the seams
But together here we stand
The good lord is gracious
I know you're patient
You make me a better man

Out here where the cypress grows
Full moon comes and the full moon goes
Southern sweet
Time is slow
Oh it's got a hold on me
Oh you got to hold on

Out here where the cypress grows
Full moon comes and the full moon goes
Southern sweet
Time is slow
Oh it's got a hold on me

B1

Colors Fade

FT. Nicki Bluhm

(Betts, Stachela, Vaughan 5:22)

Just another lost soul
Let the night carry me home
Let the colors fade
I laid awake
Rolling through my veins

As sure as the sun
Meets the morning sky

Sleep with the devil
She'll haunt your dreams
Keep you up late
And bury you deep
Sleep with the devil
She'll haunt your dreams
Keep you up late
And bury you deep

My love for you won't hold me back
Every now and then this train rolls off these tracks
It takes the worry from my mind

As sure as the sun
Meets the morning sky

Sleep with the devil
She'll haunt your dreams
Keep you up late
And bury you deep
Sleep with the devil
She'll haunt your dreams
Keep you up late
And bury you deep

Sleep with the devil
She'll haunt my dreams
Keep me up late
And bury me deep
Sleep with the devil
She'll haunt my dreams
Keep me up late
And bury me deep

B2

Saints to Sinners

(Betts, Vaughan 7:05)

Bright eyes
The endless road
We set our sight

Let the stories unfold
Carolina
A warm summer night
One thing I know
You always made me smile

I said I wouldn't let you down
Never make you cry
Promised you
I told the truth
Even though it became a lie

Saints to sinners
Sinners to saints
Lovers to liars
I want to go the other way

Spend your days
With what you love
Even though it can cut you and hurt you so much
Down in New Orleans
I know I did you wrong
Left you in the Quarter
Where no angel belongs

Dark and lonely there
Don't know how I got home
I swore I loved you
But I woke up all alone

Saints to sinners
Sinners to saints
Lovers to liars
I want to go the other way

Been searching these streets
Laying low
Asking where you went but nobody knows
As the days go by
The picture fades
I hope I find you
Before it's too late

It stood before us
Shadowed by the facts
It's hard to believe
Some good things
Ain't ever coming back

Saints to sinners
Sinners to saints
Lovers to liars
I want to go the other way

C1

Stare at the Sun

FT. Derek Trucks

(Betts, Vaughan 4:32)

You'll always be the one true light
Shadow follows and we fall behind
And the cool rain falls like tears
From my eyes

You have a dream
And a restless mind
Things we bury
The things we hide
And we stare at the sun
No fear

It burns
It hurts
But you know
Who we serve

It burns
It hurts
But you know
Who we serve

And the cool rain calms
Your restless mind

C2

Under the Bali Moon

(Betts, Greenwell 4:47)

(Instrumental)

D1

Sacred Ground

(Betts, Vaughan 4:46)

At first I didn't know just what I was getting into
You fell into my hands
There was nothing I could do
And now we've come so far
This feeling I never knew

Feels like we're walking on
Sacred ground
Together with this love we found
Sacred ground
We're never going to turn around
Lay your money down

I've been working all day
Your sweet love is what I need
Keep me up all night
See the things I never see
I want to hold you my baby
Never let you leave

Feels like we're walking on
Sacred ground
Together with this love we found
Sacred ground
We're never going to turn around
Lay your money down

You right here with me
Nothing left to hide
Standing out here on sacred ground
Underneath this great big ole sky

Sacred ground
With the love we found
Feeling alright now

Sacred ground
Lord knows we ain't coming down

D2

Cold Dark World

FT. Marcus King

(Betts, Vaughan 6:30)

This old town
Is bent and broken
See the rust on your dreams

To yourself
You are a stranger

Is that all you'll ever be

It's a cold dark world
But your heart is beating
So you ain't beat by no cold dark world

Out on these streets
As the angel's sleeping
Feels like you are all alone

You get in deep
Feel like you're sinking
Ain't got no place to call your home

It's a cold dark world
But your heart is beating
So you ain't beat by no cold dark world

There's a hurricane
Rolling in
It might get the best of me
I might be to blame
And that won't change
What will be will be

It's a cold dark world
But my heart is beating
So I ain't beat by no cold dark world

D3

Circles in the Stars

(Betts 3:49)

You might find me in the hotel lobby
Waiting to take your heart
You might find me in all my glory
Just trying to find a little spark
And we might make it all the way
We don't have to go too far
Out in the hollow desert
Just you and me
Drawing circles in the stars

Not long ago
I was told
You don't need much to get by
But with a sweet love
you'll have much more
than all the silver and gold you can find
Now we're lying here
In the sand
Sunset by the tiki bar
And maybe later tonight
We'll find ourselves

Drawing circles in the stars

Drawing circles in the stars

You might find me in the hotel lobby
Waiting to take your heart