

## Lyrics

### LUMINOL The Houston Sessions by Tom Pacheco Frog's Claw 2012

#### WHILE WE LOOKED THE OTHER WAY

The bullies on the playground or on the facebook page  
Tormenting all outsiders, sending gays to early graves  
The politicians bought and paid for by the rich elite  
Who live in gated compounds while whole families sleep in streets

The teabag thugs at rallys cheering racist campaigns speech  
Just like Hitler's brownshirt gangs in 1933  
The fabric of our flags where all our hopeful dreams were sewn  
Ripped in a million pieces every thread is on its own

#### Chorus

While we looked the other way, we looked the other way  
We whistled while the waters filled with serpents and with snakes  
We didn't raise our voices or ring bells like Thomas Paine  
We let the last brave candle burning blink out in the rain  
While we looked the other way.

The sky, the land, the sea so sick from toxins it contained  
The cable tv news addictions worse than crack cocaine  
The wildlife disappearing as the strip malls all closed in  
While everyone watching "Dancing With the Stars" with stupid grins

The mercenaries hired to give war profiteers a boost  
The danger on our own shores when those birds come home to roost.  
Militias in the woodlands with their God, grenades and game  
Wait for insurrections or the orders to start one

#### Chorus (While we...)

Where once we had democracy at least we thought we did  
Though looking at our history maybe all that was a myth  
Don't ask the Indians whose land we stole and filled with slaves. The robber barons never  
quite dissolved inside their graves.  
The rich are getting richer with each yacht that they acquire  
The poor are getting desperate with the numbers climbing higher

Wall Street should be charged with economic homicide  
Milton Friedman's ghost laughs with the devil at its side

Chorus (While we)

People stare in silent reverence at their laptop screens  
Sitting in cafes where conversations used to be  
Cyberspace is now the place where time and life exist  
No one ever notices the world outside they've missed

And the wars we keep on fighting every soldier that is slain  
The country facing bankruptcy is circling down the drain  
It's not hard to believe that so many say it is "correct"  
That Moses rode on top of a Tyrannussourous Rex.

Chorus (While we)  
Repeat Chorus

### **THE CUMBERLAND ROBBERY**

Cassie lit up a Camel  
Mickey lit up a joint  
They were staring out at the harbor lights  
Out at Fisherman's Point  
The beat up Ford in the background  
Half hidden in the moonlit trees  
They were counting the cash they'd stolen  
From the Cumberland Robbery

Mickey worked eighteen hard years  
At a paper mill up in Maine  
When they laid off half the workforce  
Mickey was one of those names  
Cassie was five months pregnant  
The baby died suddenly  
They could pay off some of those medical bills  
From the Cumberland Robbery...

He buried his coat and his Nixon mask  
In the beach grass by the shore  
They'd stolen that car from the Boulevard  
He wore the mask when he hit the store  
When you're desperate, broke and hungry  
And your rent is behind 10 weeks

You'll do what you have to do to survive  
Like the Cumberland Robbery

Cassie watched Mickey throwing  
The toy gun into the sea  
Somehow each ripple that rolled out  
Made her feel a little more free  
They'd never done anything like this  
It seemed like a movie dream  
Like taking the video camera tapes from the Cumberland Robbery

Tomorrow they'll wake in the trailer  
And pray that they got away clean  
When someone finds that stolen car  
The fingerprints will be seen  
Nobody was killed or injured  
So the story won't make the TV  
Maybe they can just fry some bacon and eggs  
From the Cumberland Robbery.

### **BIG JIM'S HONEY**

Donnie Boy had a big field of marijuana  
Sixteen acres out in New York State  
With a barbed wire fence all around the place  
And guards with rifles and machete blades

Land mines planted every twenty feet  
And dogs with teeth that could eat concrete, Big  
Jim had a honey farm right next door. Big Jim and Donnie never met before and

Chorus:  
Everyone loved Big Jim's Honey  
Big Jim made a whole lot of money, you'd  
See him with his bees when the day was sunny  
Everyone sure loved Big Jim's honey

Now his bees would take off in the summertime  
Lookin' for the best flowers they could find  
To Donnie boy's plants every bee would go-and  
Suck up the nectar and fly on home

And start makin' honey in the honeycomb  
Till every last honeybee sure got stoned  
It was Woodstock '69 in that hive, they called the

Queen Bee Janice and she buzzed with pride.

Repeat Chorus

And Donnie Boy never quite understood  
Why the grass weed he sold wasn't all that good  
But everyone puttin' Jim's honey in their tea  
Always seemed so happy when they walked the streets

Repeat Chorus

### **LATE NIGHT IN A STRANGE TOWN**

On a late night in a strange town I left my hotel room  
And walked down a side street to a green corner bar  
There was no one but a bartender and a tall woman  
On a barstool singing softly with a 12 string guitar

She sang Joni Mitchell, Bessie Smith, Leonard Cohen  
Then stepped off the stage for a break and a beer  
I clapped all alone I would I hear my hands echo  
She smiled at me sweetly and I felt her draw near

Chorus:

On a late night in a strange town  
You can still make a friend  
You never know where or know when  
If the right stars align and a lucky moon shines  
And your footsteps go round the right bend  
On a late night in a strange town, angels attend

She asked me if I might be a traveling musician  
The way that I looked I guess gave me away  
I said "yes I was" she re-arranged her position  
And asked if I'd join her up there on the stage

There was an old Stella guitar in a corner  
She brought it to me and we went up to play  
I backed her up best as I could on a few songs  
And, sang one myself that she knew right away

Chorus

We sat down at a table till closing time closed in  
We talked and we laughed by the pale music's light  
She gave me her name on a rainbow guitar pick

I promised I'd use at my show the next night.

Chorus

On a late night in a strange town we'll meet again

## YOUTUBE

Hold your cell phone camera then click  
A video tape that will do the trick  
You're Oliver Stone, you're Felini too  
The whole world opens every private view  
A Kangaroo acting rude  
They'll love it on "You Tube"

There's somebody standing on the Brooklyn Bridge  
He's gonna jump soon when the cold wind shifts  
You don't try to talk to him and say  
His life's worth living, don't throw it away  
You wait till he makes the leap then you  
Put it on "You Tube".

Chorus:  
Put it on "You Tube"  
Put it on "You Tube"  
Nothing's sacred anymore dude  
Put it on "You Tube"

Greedy politician in a bright red tie  
The kind of politician money can buy  
Hangs out with a lobbyist he knows well  
At a blue corner table in a big hotel  
Take a picture of the cash that's passed and  
Put it on "You Tube".

Your Rock and Roll girlfriend she left you  
You're jealous, angry, ego bruised  
You find a few sex tapes that you've got  
She never had a clue that the film was shot  
Everybody's gonna see her silicone boobs  
On "You Tube"

Chorus

## **ARE THE BEST YEARS OF OUR COUNTRY STILL AHEAD OR HAVE THEY GONE?**

I see the homeless scuffling down the streets  
The storefronts boarded up in quiet defeat  
The foreclosed homes and empty factories  
The food stamp cards that families use to eat.

The bridges, roads and tunnels breaking down  
The crumbling dams that threaten every town  
The nations who were once down on their luck  
All leaving us behind like broken trucks

Chorus:

Are the best years of our country  
Still ahead or have they gone?  
I still don't know the ending to that song.  
Are the best years of our country  
Still ahead or have they gone  
Is that pale light a sad sunset or the rise of a new dawn?

The jobs we had that fed our families  
Shipped overseas to feed more corporate greed  
The middle class who's hands built all we see  
Abandoned and betrayed and on their knees

If there's to be a change to come at all  
The timid grass must grown and tumble walls  
Together we're a mighty hurricane,  
Alone we're only single drops of rain

Chorus

## **BLUES IN THE KEY OF MISSISSIPPI**

She works for a law firm on Wall Street  
She makes multimillion dollar deals  
She's envied all through New York City  
She's a major success in her field

Every night she's alone in her penthouse  
With a loneliness no one can see  
Though there's no cotton field out her window  
She's got the blues in the key of Mississippi

He flies the big jet planes for Delta

To London and Paris and Rome  
He's a captain with honors and medals  
But he just got bad news on the phone

His wife has decided to leave him  
His youngest child she's only three  
And he walks through the cold rain of Stockholm  
He's got the blues in the key of Mississippi

There's a war going on somewhere always  
There's a child a sniper has killed  
And the family has gathered in sorrow  
At a church at the top of a hill

There's a wail from an old peasant woman  
The organ it plays mournfully  
But no matter what hymn they have chosen  
It's still the blues in the key of Mississippi  
It's the blues in the key of Mississippi  
It's the blues in the Key of Mississippi

### **TEXECUTION**

We strap him to the gurney  
We see his drunk attorney  
Through the window drinking from his flask  
And we find the perfect vein to  
Send the deadly poison in thru  
That will make his heart stop in it's track.

If he's really guilty  
Satan's face he surely will see  
And his soul will go straight down to hell  
If he's innocent he will see  
Jesus Christ and all his mercy  
Either way we know it all ends well

Chorus:  
It's a Texecution, it's a Texecution  
This fine Lone Star solution we allow  
Cause this Texecution, that great institution  
Always makes the state of Texas proud

When everything is over  
We sanitize the odor  
Then we wrap the body in a body bag  
There will be a fast autopsy

It might get a little sloppy  
We did Karla Fay Tucker just like that

Chorus

The death penalty in these walls  
Is more popular than football  
We can hear the cracker crowd break into cheers  
Out in the prison graveyard  
We don't need a single cellguard  
It's as quiet as a case of Shiner beer

### **SOLIDARITY**

For the people who stand up and march for their rights  
Solidarity, solidarity  
For the ones who shine lights through the perilous nights  
Solidarity, solidarity  
For the souls who risk everything, strong in their stance  
So their children can have a fair chance  
Power in unity, fighting for what can be  
Solidarity, solidarity

For the workers who strike for a real living wage  
Solidarity, solidarity  
In a time when the rich rule this new gilded age  
Solidarity, solidarity  
Where so many have nothing and a few have it all  
What your grandparents fought for recalled  
Hear their proud voices sing, in your memory dreams of  
Solidarity, solidarity

For the crowds that have gathered and filled the town square  
Solidarity, solidarity  
With hope in their hearts and their hands in the air  
Solidarity, solidarity  
Facing down politicians and calling their bluff  
When you've had enough you've, had enough  
Every fear will recede in that great human sea, of  
Solidarity, solidarity

### **ON THE RUN**

Twenty bolts of lightning tear the clouds to shreds  
He lies like a rabbit shivering in his bed  
Looking at the motel sign in the lashing rain

Fearing every shadow at his windowpanes

Just a week ago his cover it was blown  
Working for the DEA in Mexico  
The Governor's office in Sonora state  
He discovered feeding off the cartel plate

Chorus:

On the run, on the run, on the run,  
From the cartel kings and their hired guns  
On the run, on the run, you can't trust anyone  
When you're on the run

He's got every numbered bank account in hand  
Twenty billion dollars wired to foreign lands  
And he's hiding out in Juarez in disguise  
He can see El Paso on the other side

Rio Grande border is so close so far  
Men in Raybans wait for him in unmarked cars  
Telephones are tapped this goes straight to the top  
There's no one to turn to least of all the cops

Chorus

Twenty bolts of lightning tear the clouds to shreds  
He lies like a rabbit shivering in his bed

## **THE GIRL WITH THE BLUE GUITAR AND THE BLACK BERET**

Omaha Sunday morning, out on the interstate  
Billy's been driving all night long, his truck loaded with freight  
Beside him there's a hitchhiker he picked up yesterday  
A girl with a blue guitar and a black beret

She lies on the seat beside him, asleep with a sad sweet smile  
They talked all night like old friends, for a couple of hundred miles  
She spoke about the life she fled and how she found a way  
The girl with the blue guitar and the black beret

If heaven is where an angel's from  
They're missing one angel now  
Her skin so pure in the prairie's sun  
As soft as cotton clouds  
Her beauty like a wildflower on  
The finest summer day

The girl with the blue guitar and a black beret

He turned on the all news station, she's deep in a peaceful dream  
The newsman sounds excited, his voice almost a scream  
Something about a bank robber in Boise who got away  
A girl with a blue guitar and a black beret

Chorus

She leaves at a lonely junction and walks into the wood  
Carrying her blue guitar that weighs more than it should  
He finds a thousand dollars in his Bible tucked away  
The girl with a blue guitar and a black beret  
The girl with a blue guitar and a black beret

### **THE PLASTIC BAG FROM WALMART**

The plastic bag from Walmart  
Ernie's carried out  
Filled with a few canned peaches  
And a box of frozen trout  
The plastic bag from Walmart, got  
Thrown in Ernie's trash

It got ripped up by tall branches  
Of a skeleton winter tree  
Then rose up like a scary kite  
And kept on flying free  
An eagle that was soaring  
Got tangled in its web  
That eagle tumbled to the ground  
In seconds it was dead

By spring that bird was only bone  
The plastic flew away  
Across the fields and highways  
It bounced and ricocheted  
It grazed along a golf course  
And the playground of a school  
Then glided through a graveyard  
And past a swimming pool

It floated to a garbage dump  
Excited to find friends  
Ten thousand other plastic bags  
Ready to ascend

Together they all rose up  
In a midnight screaming wind  
Across the clouds, across the moon thin skinned and disciplined

They struck a jet plane landing  
It's engine all caught fire  
Two hundred people died that day  
From that celestial choir  
And over the dark ocean  
Nine thousand bags remained  
And settled on the swollen waves  
A ghostly deadly rain

Where schools of dolphins ate them  
Sea turtles ate them too  
They perished from the plastic  
Digested into glue  
They tangled up propellers  
Of small boats in the sea  
And ended up as oily sludge  
Polluting every beach

Somebody had a great idea  
"Well gather them in trucks  
and get them all re-cycled  
and make a million bucks"  
Cause plastic lives forever  
Each filthy rag was snagged  
Transformed and sold to Walmart  
As brand new shiny bags

The plastic bag from Walmart  
That Martha carried out  
Filled with a pack of hot dogs  
And jars of sauerkraut  
The plastic bag from Walmart  
Thrown in Martha's trash  
Got lifted by a wild wind  
To the sky to make a dash

## **A WORLD WITHOUT AMERICA**

We all know the shadows that steal through this land  
Divisions that darken the sun

There's no perfect country wherever you stand  
The planet has not shown me one

But when someone's in trouble whose help do they seek?  
The look for the red, white and blue  
Where people are starving or slaughtered like sheep  
There's only one place in turn to

In a world without America  
Tyrants would be in control  
Just a wasteland cold  
With no rock and roll  
In a world without America

The land that made Jefferson, Lincoln and King  
Where Edison lit up the dark  
Where dreams still come through from the effort you bring  
You can build your own star from a spark

A nation of beauty, of hope and of fun  
The home of the Yellowstone Park  
Each radiant energy second to none  
With an innocence still at it's heart

In A world without America  
It would still be 1910  
Innovations stalled  
A dark age would fall  
In a world without America

We pray to whoever we want  
If we pray  
We're free to explore any trail  
We protest at rallies, all sides have their say  
Without fear of a lifetime in jail

They sell coca cola in Thailand and Spain  
They watch Star Trek in Camaroon  
Though some nations cynically sneer and complain  
Who among them has walked on the moon?

In a world without America  
There would be no baseball games  
Music would be bland  
Polkas and marching bands  
In a world without America

In a world without America  
Hitler would have won the war  
No Chevrolet cars, Fender guitars  
In a world without America.  
In a world without America.