

The Difficult Second - track notes



From Suzi:

'The Difficult Second' track notes...

Among these diverse tracks in the sand, may you find familiarity, comfort, hope, joy, amusement. Experience the songs at face value, or seek the not-so-hidden contemporary stories, "Cause you know sometimes words have two meanings"...

1. **'Mood Swings And Roundabouts'** - was something I overheard as I was pushing my trolley around the local supermarket. A couple of older fellows were catching up with each other, "So, how's the missus?", "oh, the usual - mood swings, and roundabouts". I tied it into a jaunty song about separation - probably over one half's particular taste in prog music.

2. **'The Difficult Second'** - about a faulty alarm clock. Maybe. Also, the 'second' track :)

3. **'Light Of My Life'** - a lot of us will have been affected by deep personal loss in recent years - not just through Covid. For the musicians gone, we still have their music keeping them alive. There's more to it, but that's all I'll say right now.

4. **'Shifting Sands'** - an instrumental with a Middle Eastern vocalisation from Yael that includes classic micro-tonal intervals.

5. **'Eastern Eyes'** - in a similar vein - difficult to build a future without a solid foundation. It takes courage and clear-headedness to ensure security and equality for succeeding generations.

6. **'The Song Of The Siren'** - Greek mythology, or is it? Sexual predators appear in many disguises. I originally wrote this for an '80s rock band that I was playing in at the time. It's changed a bit since then.

7. **'Hope'** - when it seems we have nothing left, or the world seems to be in turmoil, twisting itself in knots, there is always hope.

8. **'Sandworm'** - I wrote this about 10 years ago as an instrumental, but added lyrics two years ago. And then the remake of 'Dune' was released. Big fan here.

9. **'Shukraan Jazilaan'** - another instrumental using middle eastern scales, among others. The original version got its first airing about seven years ago at a 'special' birthday party for my cousin Jeremy Shotts - who introduced me to Yossi Sassi (& the Oriental Rock Orchestra) and his musician friends, plus my galactic guitar mentor Daniel Weiss.

10. **'Warlords'** - an epic. This started many years ago and has been through many revisions since. I wrote it for a prog band I was in during 1975-1980 called Bazazz.

I designed the cover with clues to the songs - plus my kitchen clock and me sinking into the sands of time...