

Liner Notes

This is a break-up record. I should get that out of the way first. It's also the result of two and a half years of enormous change, some very good and positive, some terribly, horribly bad. Some of these songs have been kicking around for a while. Some I couldn't bring myself to write until I absolutely had to.

It's a quick record. Nine songs. Most are under four minutes. An effect of my dwindling attention span, maybe. This was a hard record to write, in large part because there were days (a LOT of days) when I just couldn't open Reason and lay down yet another electronic drumbeat or synth progression. I tried to challenge myself when I could.

An example – I wrote the main part of **Dún Laoghaire** (pronounced “Dun Leary,” by the way) while I was staying at a hostel in Switzerland. There were a couple of guitars in the lounge, so I grabbed my MacBook Pro, put some loops together, wrote the piano melody, and recorded the guitar track through the laptop mic. I liked the on-the-flyness of it immensely. More to the point, it allowed me to take advantage of what I was going through at the time, the weight and melancholy and excitement of everything I was experiencing, and channel it immediately.

This is all to say that the music I write from here on out is going to have to come from somewhere different than the pressure of daily mental deadlines. Maybe it will come from the outrage at seeing my city being torn to pieces. Or maybe it will come from a purging of heartbreak and loss and abandonment. Or a combination of both will just splatter out into a pop song. I'd be okay with that.

Be Still My Beating Heart took forever to finish. I need to thank Dru Jeffries for helping me get it sorted, and for all our collaborations. The lovely voice you hear on **The Second After** belongs to Joëlle Lê (<http://www.joellele.be>), whom it's been an honour and privilege to get to know, let alone work with.

This is dedicated to the people that have kept in touch. Particularly if we've dated.

And this is for Alice. Especially Alice.

D J C E (Wire and Light)