

Hi! Thank you for visiting my website. You are very welcome here.

I started work in earnest on the album, “What Will You Be?”, in 2019. I already had draft recordings of the music for “Radio Radio” and “Still Dreaming” and wrote the remainder of the songs and all the lyrics in 2019. By the end of that year, I had reworked the two earlier songs and largely finished recording the instrumental backing of the new songs, making use of a range of software instruments and effects in the process.

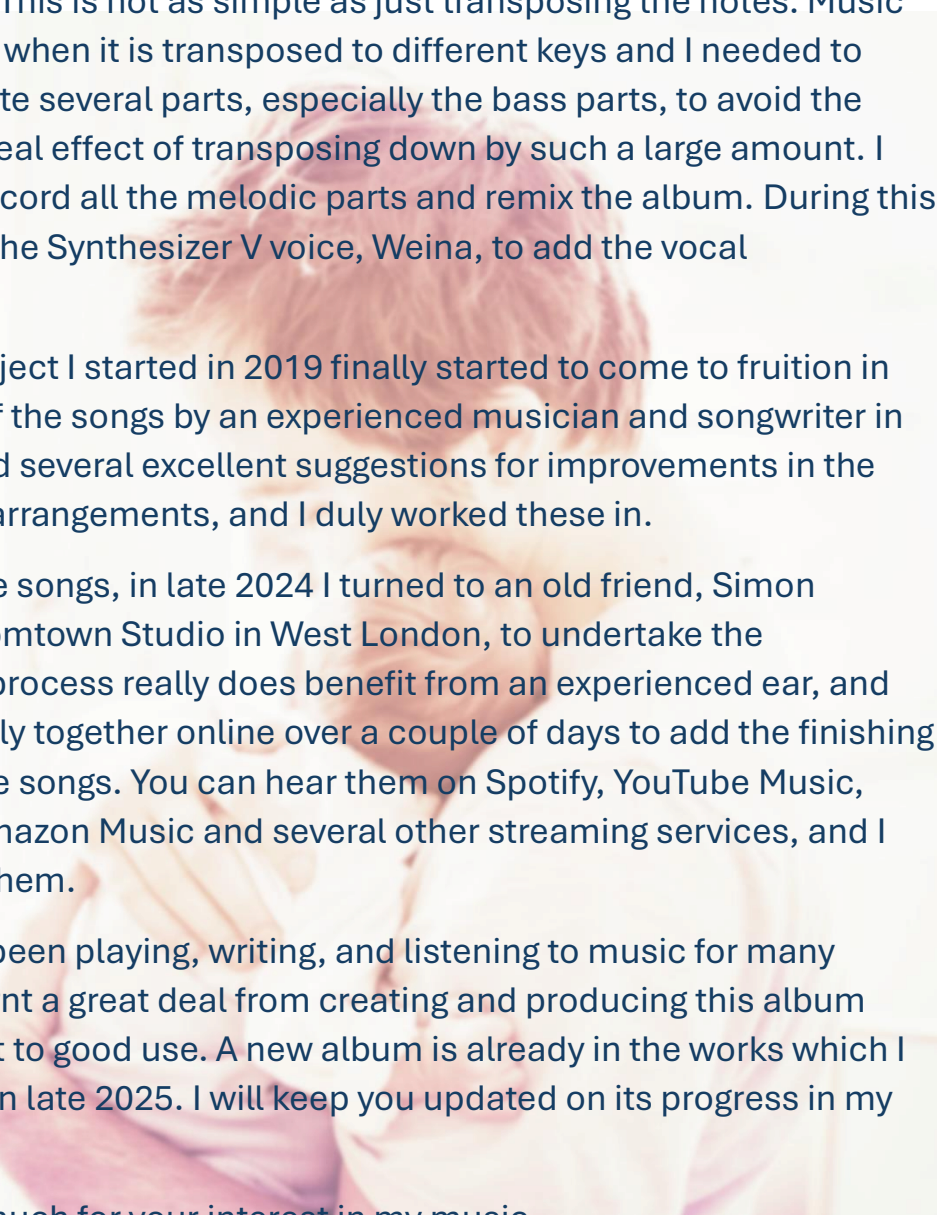
Whilst I had originally programmed the drum parts for all the songs into drum synthesis software, I later changed to using real drummer-played audio loops on most of the songs that closely matched the patterns I had programmed. The energetic performances and high production values of the drum loops really improved the songs I used them on.

I probably put as much effort into writing the lyrics as I did in writing the music, and I continued to refine them during the life of the project. The lyrics are all available to read on this website if you would like to check them out.

The original plan involved recording the vocals at a studio in London using a professional male vocalist, but at that point COVID came along, the vocal recording had to be postponed, and momentum was lost. During the COVID lockdown, I had a go at performing the vocals myself. After attempting several songs, I decided that although I could sing the songs in tune and with a reasonable amount of energy, my voice was just not suited to the material. Somewhat discouraged, I put the project aside for a while.

During 2023, I came across a product called Synthesizer V. This is voice synthesis software that enables users to create realistic-sounding vocals. A choice of many different male and female voices is available to use in the software. The lyrics and notes are entered into the application and then adjustments can be programmed in for power, phrasing, legato, staccato and other aspects of the vocal performance. I set about auditioning the various male voices available in the product and fully tested it out with one of them but again could not achieve the character I was looking for. However, later in the year a new voice, “Hayden”, was released and I felt that this was exactly right for my material, so I began work on the songs again.

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I immediately encountered a problem. Hayden has a different vocal range to myself, and this meant I had to retune all my songs down by 5 semitones to suit his voice. This is not as simple as just transposing the notes. Music sounds different when it is transposed to different keys and I needed to rework and rewrite several parts, especially the bass parts, to avoid the somewhat funereal effect of transposing down by such a large amount. I then had to re-record all the melodic parts and remix the album. During this time, I selected the Synthesizer V voice, Weina, to add the vocal harmonies.

So it is that a project I started in 2019 finally started to come to fruition in 2024. Reviews of the songs by an experienced musician and songwriter in my family yielded several excellent suggestions for improvements in the production and arrangements, and I duly worked these in.

Having mixed the songs, in late 2024 I turned to an old friend, Simon Wilkinson at Boomtown Studio in West London, to undertake the mastering. This process really does benefit from an experienced ear, and we worked closely together online over a couple of days to add the finishing touches to all the songs. You can hear them on Spotify, YouTube Music, iTunes Music, Amazon Music and several other streaming services, and I hope you enjoy them.

Although I have been playing, writing, and listening to music for many years, I have learnt a great deal from creating and producing this album that I hope to put to good use. A new album is already in the works which I hope to release in late 2025. I will keep you updated on its progress in my blog on this site.

Thank you very much for your interest in my music.

Take care.

Fen