

DAVID THOMAS AND THE WOODEN BIRDS

CHRIS CUTLER • JIM JONES

TONY MAIMONE • ALLEN RAVENSTINE

BLAME THE MESSENGER



My Town.

(This is a song not by or for human beings, sung by birds)

All the dreams!

All the dreams are paper crowns,
scraps of which thrown,

thrown in the wind fall down—

round the wind corner, tumble down,

scatter by,

fall down—

round around & around my town— my town

Sha-doze!

Shadows sweep the tumble down;

paper birds thrown,

thrown in the wind fall down—

round the wind corner, tumble down,

scatter by,

fall down—

round around & around my town— my town

Birds havin a party,

party when the sun goes down!

Say It!

"Mine a my, na my, my town— My town."

BLAME THE MESSENGER

BY THE WOODEN BIRDS

Chris Cutler • drums

Jim Jones • acoustic & electric guitars, vocals

Tony Maimone • acoustic & electric basses, vocals

Allen Ravenstine • EML synthesizers, piano, vocals

David Thomas • vocals, accordion

A Fact About Trains.

Comes the dawning light,
but it seems strange
that nothing ever runs on time—

I know we need a change!
And now I go by.
And now I'm heard to say,
When times are hard
don't find yourself too far away.

A fact about trains
heading down the railroad tracks,
no matter what the head of steam
it's not true won't come back.

And now I go by.
And now I'm heard to say,
When times are hard
don't find yourself too far away.

A fact about trains—
No, it's not so strange—
No matter what the head of steam,
I know we need a change.

And now I go by.
And now I'm heard to say,
When times are hard
don't find yourself too far away.

King Knüt

There's a story about a King Knüt,
how all the gladhanders he rebuked—
"Down to the sea we must go," says he; says,
"There to see what the waves will know."

The clouds are mighty and the sea is firm;
he makes his stand on the shingled beam.
"Turn away! Turn away! Turn away!" he cries.
"Now tell me," says he, "how the tide tide replies."

When Love Is Uneven.

When love is uneven
it increases a burden.
It lessens a share.
It makes the strong ones cry
& the hands hang weak with despair.
It makes the bones ache and hollow.
It makes the bride cease to care.
It makes a life not worth living.
It makes a life not worth living.

The Storm Breaks.

Darkened dawns,
some days the storm breaks...
Darkened dawns,
some days the storm breaks
early in the morning.

Up again early in the morning,
early in the morning.

In my ears I
I heard a hurricane...

In my ears I
I heard a hurricane blow
early in the morning.

Up again early in the morning,
early in the morning.

I rush to know—
Say, "I need to see."
I rush to know, sayin',
"I need to see"
early in the morning.

Up again early in the morning,
early in the morning.

The Long Rain.

Like the tears so falls the rain.
Like the tears so falls the rain.
Like the tears so falls the rain—
I heard a hurricane.

Like the blood so falls the tears.
Like the blood so falls the tears.
Like the blood so falls the tears—
Thick drops for all the years.

One day we'll say,
Rain, rain go away.
The way it is is bound to change.
The way it is is bound in chains.

Like the rain there falls the blood.
Like the rain there falls the blood.
Like the rain there falls the blood—
Until one day there comes a flood.

One day we'll say,
Rain, rain go away.
The way it is is bound to change.
The way it is is bound in chains.

Having Time.

I'm lonesome me.
I'm lonesome me.
The wind.
The rain.
The why.
The wherefore-art-thou.
Havin' Time.

Friends Of Stone.

Across the blue-darkened ice,
lightning & sunsets abound, abound.
Faces aglow!
That's how we welcome winter home.
(Winter Comes Home)
That's how we welcome it home.

I love those friends made of stone
braving the Big Blue alone.
Windows on fire!
That's how it happens to be.
(Happens To Me)
That's how it happens to be.

We sing the songs of long nights—
Wait for the strangers to go home
whistling the tunes of their own—
They'll leave us to learn the songs
that call from the heart of the wind,
(Cry From The Heart)
that call from the heart of the wind.

The Velikovsky 2-Step

(or, The Wooden Birds Laugh At The Theory Of Uniformitarianism)
Fish leap outa the fossil record,
fully formed & happy to be here.
Birds fly outa the binding rocks,
fully formed and happy to be here.
Here come the dinosaurs!
Here come the dinosaurs!
Homes All Around The World!
Homes All Around The World!
"We like it here,"
they're saying.
"We like it here!"
"We got stuff to eat,
& room with a view."
"We got reason to be
& plenty to do."
"We like it here."
We like it here.

"Oh, now tell me,
What more's a fellow need
"Than somewhere to go
& somewhere to be?"
"We like it here."
We like it here."

CALL IT OUT FOR ALL IT'S WORTH,
NOTHING CHANGES ON THIS EARTH.
ALL THE YEARS ALL THINGS REMAIN THE SAME;
THE WAY IT IS, IT WAS, AND WILL REMAIN.

Here come the dinosaurs!
Here come the dinosaurs!

Take a flesh from off the bone;
Chuck a word about willynilly.
Make your mind up here & now;
Shoulda coulda so it hadta be.

Here come the dinosaurs!
Here come the dinosaurs!
Bones All Around The World!
Bones All Around The World!
Gathered up & put in halls,
Daylight crawls up & down the walls,
Strangers fixed in a strange land,
Debris found on a foreign sand—
The evidence is there to see;
Their own world simply ceased to be.
The evidence is there to see!
The old world ceased to be.

Here come the dinosaurs!
Here come the...Hep!...
They're gone...

Think about the thing revealed:
Suddenly what a change can come.
Say about how I feel:
Also strange.

All songs by the Wooden Birds, except "My Town"
& "Friends Of Stone" which are by Thomas. All
songs ©1986 Hearpen Music.

Engineered by Paul Hamann.
Recorded and mixed at Suma in Painesville, OH
on September 23 & 24, 1986.
Edited at Telarc.
Mastered at Suma by Mike Bishop.

Photo by Mik Mellen
Design by John Thompson

Twin/Tone
RECORDS

TTR 87105
©©1987 Twin/Tone Records
2541 Nicollet Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
Jacket Made in Canada

DAVID THOMAS AND THE WOODEN BIRDS

BLAME THE MESSENGER

1. My Town
(Thomas)
2. A Fact About Trains
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)

3. King Knüt
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)
4. When Love Is Uneven
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)
5. The Storm Breaks
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)

All songs ©1986 Hearpen Music
©1987 Twin/Tone Records

SIDE ONE
TTR 87105
33 RPM

Twin/Tone
RECORDS

DAVID THOMAS AND THE WOODEN BIRDS

BLAME THE MESSENGER

1. The Long Rain
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)

2. Having Time
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)
3. Friends Of Stone
(Thomas)
4. The Velikovsky 2-Step
(Cutler-Jones-Maimone-Ravenstine-Thomas)

All songs ©1986 Hearpen Music
©1987 Twin/Tone Records

SIDE TWO
TTR 87105
33 RPM

Twin/Tone
RECORDS