

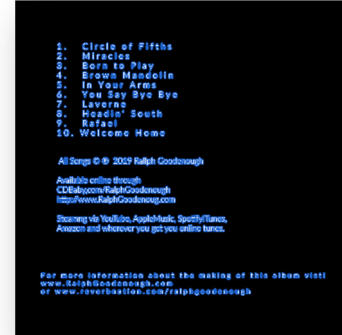


Fireside Chats: The making of the Album "Born To Play"



Available Now!

BORN TO PLAY
RALPH
GOODENOUGH



Back in the 1930s-1940s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used a series of evening radio broadcasts, called "fireside chats," to speak directly to the American people, about the recession, the New Deal, and the course of World War II. His delivery and demeanor were straightforward, and connected him to the people. And now I want to speak directly to you, my audience, about this music and how we recorded it. Back in the days of 12-inch vinyl LPs, the "liner notes" were often a wealth of information about the musicians and the songs. So welcome to "Fireside," the liner notes on the making of "Born to Play."

Original music by Ralph Goodenough, singer- songwriter, performer, multi-instrumentalists. He plays keyboard, guitar, bass, flute, mandolin, accordion, drums, and delivers all vocals on this labor of love.



Ralph Goodenough is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter with over 100 songs to his credit. He brings a wealth of musical knowledge and experience to his performances and compositions, which reflect influences of diverse styles and genres. He has performed on radio and television, and is a veteran of many recording sessions. In a career spanning four decades of American popular music, he has performed in numerous settings of solo concerts, orchestras for theater productions, and many nightclub acts. Early influences included the soft guitars and expressive poetry of the 1960's folk music, the pop sensibility of the Beatles and other seminal rock bands, and the layered harmonies of the Beach Boys and Crosby-Stillts-Nash. Other influences included the warm lyric presentation of James Taylor, the intricate rhythms and complex jazz progressions of Steely Dan, and the free-wheeling improvisations of "jam bands" like Phish and the Grateful Dead.



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The Sessions

I first met Keith Oliver in 2017, and in August of that year we discussed recording some of my songs. One week later, we began by recording the instrument tracks for "Circle of Fifths." One week after that we recorded the 5 vocal tracks, and we were on our way. For three months we met once a week for 3 hours, recording instruments and vocals for 5 songs. In November we took a break for the Holidays, and for my thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail.



Keith

Multi Instrumentalist at work.

Ralph Goodenough



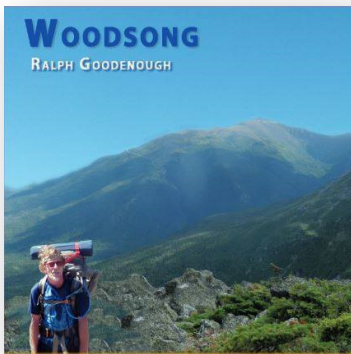


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The Trail

The Appalachian Trail seems to have a profound effect on some people, and I guess I am one of them. Throughout my life it has been my recharging place, my sanctuary, my getaway to another world. I look back now on many amazing memories of things I've seen and done, and people I've met, while walking along this mountain path. Twice I hiked the trail 2000 miles, from Georgia to Maine, and two other times I hiked about 1000 miles before having to stop because of injury or illness. And in between I've done many weekend-or-weeklong hikes, in all the seasons, and all up and down the Trail. My first album, "Woodsong," is a collection of tunes written on, and about, the Trail and the long-distance hiking experience. It is available at RalphGoodenough.com.





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So, in March 2018 I hiked north out of Damascus VA, and straight into a snowstorm near Mt. Rogers. In May my daughter Liana joined me, and we hiked together through Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 80 days I walked over 1000 miles, and into Massachusetts, where I became very sick, norovirus I think, and had to leave the Trail. The last thing I saw on the hike was a mama bear and her two cubs, watching me intently. I felt that they were saying, "Farewell old friend, come back and visit us again sometime." I returned to Charlotte in June, and resumed recording with Keith in August. By late November we had finished the final five songs. We continued to meet once a week, and in June 2019 we had finished mixing the more than 100 tracks. In July the mix was mastered by Dave Harris of Studio B Mastering in Charlotte, NC.



Liana





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During the time Keith and I worked together, we took time to go for long walks and discuss our plans and the progress of the recording. We also rode in his 1949 Plymouth Deluxe and enjoyed some of his superb home-made kombucha.



This project has been a labor of love, and at times has involved a love of labor! It was rewarding to hear the songs come together, little stories from my life that I hope you enjoy. Next... here's some background info on the origin of the songs.





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The Songs

Over the years, I have had an on-again/off-again relationship with music, sometimes the love of my life, sometimes the heartbreak of my life. Some of my songs reflect this. "Welcome Home" sounds like an encounter with an old friend, but it is not a woman, it is the music. Also, "You Say Bye Bye" is about the music, not a person. And "Laverne," now there's a story. Some years ago I lived in Washington DC and played keyboards in a rock band out of Richmond VA called Left Exit. We had a bus and we traveled up and down the East Coast from Alabama to Massachusetts. Six guys on a rock and roll tour, we saw some pretty wild and crazy times. And the name of the bus was Laverne. So again, a love song, but not about a woman.



"Miracles" refers to a book I spent some time studying. It is called "A Course in Miracles," and I found that parts of it made a lot of sense to me. Wouldn't it be nice if we could all just be friends? And this song came out of that time.



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“Born to Play” is just for fun. I spent much of my youth on the Jersey Shore (the song mentions Barnegat Bay), and there I went to college with another young local singer-songwriter named Bruce Springsteen. He and I both followed our dreams, and although he went a lot farther than I did (way to go, Bruce!), it has been a good run. I feel blessed to have made music my life, and I feel rich in memories. I am thankful for all of them, and for all of you, for being a part of my story.



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Instruments I used

- 1963 C.F. Martin 00-21NY acoustic guitar
- Epiphone PR-5E acoustic-electric guitar
- 1986 Fender Start, American Standard
- 1981 Fender Precision Bass
- Roland JW50 Workstation Keyboard
- Hammond Organ Model T-200
- Koehler & Campbell Spinet Piano
*Wane Marett, Piano Tech Extraordinaire
- Buescher Flute, model "Aristocrat"
- Brown Brothers A-Style Mandolin
- Drums and Various Percussion





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Gear we used

Vintage analog Focusrite ISA 5128 pre-amp on vocals, Focusrite Octa-Pre on drums

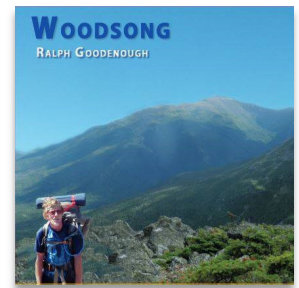
"Dangerous" Analog Summing D-Box

ProTools HD software, 192 IO HDX3 interface

AKG 414 CBULS mic on vocals and guitars

Royer R84 ribbon mic on mandolin

Snare drum: Shure SM57 top, SM56A Beta bottom, reverse phase



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**Engineered and mixed by Keith Oliver at Oliver Recording Studios, in Rock Hill SC,
August-November 2017 and August-November 2018**

Mastered by Dave Harris at Studio B Mastering, Charlotte NC, in July 2018

Cover photo by CharlotteVibe Photography

Distributed by CD- Baby and Goodenough Music

@ www.RalphGoodenough.com and <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/RALPHGOODENOUGH>

**Available on Most Streaming Platforms including Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music and
most anywhere you stream music.**

All songs written by Ralph Goodenough © 2019 Goodenough Music

All vocals and instruments performed by Ralph Goodenough



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With grateful thanks to God, for many gifts and blessings in my life: my music, my travels, my family and friends. And big thanks to Keith Oliver, for the work we've done, the music we've made, and the friendship we've shared. And to Pam, for all your love and support, and the occasional background vocals. And to all of YOU: friends and fans, former bandmates, and extended families, back on the Jersey Shore, way up on the coast of Maine, and here in Charlotte, for listening, and for sitting in on a fireside chat. Namaste



Keith



Pam



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