



STEVE FAIRCLOUGH POSTCARDS

Postcards. Vol. I.

- 1) Onthe Water, Montreal.2017
- 2) Sao Bernado di Campi.2014
- 3) Sao Paolo.2014
- 4) Bourbon Street.New Orleans.1981
- 5) Lakefront Nights, Chicago. 2005
- 6)The ‘A’ Bar, Neukollen, Berlin. 1999
- 7) Main Square at Midnight, Nantes.2016
- 8) New Jersey Turnpike. USA. 2006
- 9) Fetiylhe,Turkey.1986
- 10) Early Evening Kensington. UK. 1996
- 11) High St, Oxford. UK 1986-1997
- 12) Berlin Night, Germany. 1998
- 13) The Boy from Missouri. USA 2002

All instruments played and programmed by Steve Fairclough
except Bass guitar on tracks 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,13. by Neil Fairclough.
All tracks written, arranged and produced by Steve Fairclough Copyright 2022

STEVE FAIRCLOUGH: POSTCARDS VOL. I.

It seems strange as I write this, to reflect on the idea that here are many people, who have no knowledge of postcards. Outmoded and outdated, I know very few people who even send letters via the Post Office system, and yet, it seems only a short time ago, that Postcards were a regular deposit onto the doormats of Great Britain, as a family member or friend, tried to relate their holiday experience as close to real time as possible, in three swift sentences and with the help of a Garish photo of the locale on the other side of the card.

The pieces on these 2 albums, all started life in various Hotel rooms or backstage area's, as tunes or idea's that came to me in that location at that particular time. I used to write them down in the form of short memos in a notebook I carried everywhere (the amount of complimentary bottles of wine one receives when you sit alone at a restaurant table and pull out a notebook is heartening) but over time progressed to whatever state of the art recording device I was able to avail myself of, and eventually over recent years, to the iPhone and its wonderful ability to capture, Audio, Video and notes easily and accurately. My intention was always to record them, but the time never seemed right, until the forced lockdown of 2020 and the harsh realities of Covid 19 forced us all into a dark isolation. I knew it would be a big project, but I figured it would be my lockdown legacy, something with a bit of positivity after a world event that affected me not only personally (It killed my Mother in her Alzheimer's home during the first few weeks) but that was to have such a devastating affect on the Art's and Musicians in general.

So, the idea was simply, a musical postcard. A description of the place in sound; however the reality isn't that simple. Some of the music borrows directly from its geography and topography, whilst other pieces are purely subjective, and are based on how I was feeling, or what I was listening to at the time.

As ever, my brother Neil's contributions on bass are beyond stellar. Whatever he turns his hand to, he brings a musically and an interpretation that are second to none.

Forever grateful, love you Bro. So, here we are then. A lifetimes ideas distilled over 18 months with zero consideration for commerciality or pecuniary gain.

If 'by my music you shall know me', these 2 volumes are a glimpse into my musical soul. I hope you enjoy.

SF.

A BIT ABOUT THE TRACKS:

ON THE WATER, MONTREAL. 2017

MY GUITAR TECH AND GOOD FRIEND STU AND A HANDFUL OF OTHER GUITAR TYPES WERE IN CANADA TO VISIT GODIN GUITARS FACTORY AND MY OLD ACQUAINTANCE ROBERT GODIN. ON OUR FIRST DAY THERE WE HAD NOTHING PLANNED AND TOOK A STROLL DOWN TO THE MARINA. AFTER SOME SWIFT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN TOM HARRISON OF 440 DISTRIBUTION AND A LOCAL SPEEDBOAT OWNER, HE AGREED TO TAKE US OUT FOR A 'SPIN' ON HIS VERY NICE BOAT. I WROTE THE 'HEAD' WHILST ZIPPING ALONG THE WATER, AND THE ACCOMPANYING PHOTO IS FROM THAT VERY TRIP!

SAO BERNADO DA CAMPI: 2014

SAO BERNADO DA CAMPI IS WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF MY FRIENDS AT TAGIMA DISTRIBUTION IN BRAZIL ARE LOCATED, AS WITH MOST OF BRAZIL, IT'S A MIXTURE OF SHITHOLE AND LUXURY. I WROTE TWO PIECES DURING THIS TRIP, AND THIS IS THE FIRST.

SAO PAULO 2: 2014

AND THIS IS THE SECOND.

BOURBON STREET, NEW ORLEANS. 1981.

FOR ANYONE WHO REMEMBERS NEW ORLEANS BEFORE THE TERRIBLE EVENTS OF KATRINA, I WANT YOU TO IMAGINE THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING 18 YRS OLD, AND PLAYING YOUR FIRST AMERICAN GIG IN A BAR JUST OFF BOURBON STREET. I PLAYED WITH 'ANDREW HALLS SOCIETY JAZZ BAND OF NEW ORLEANS', AND SHARED THE STAGE WITH TWO VERY FUNNY OLD JAZZ LEGENDS, JUSTIN ADAMS ON GUITAR, AND ERNEST FORTUOUS ON SAXOPHONE.

JUST WONDERFUL....

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT NIGHTS. 2005

JUST ONE OF THOSE SIGHTS THAT STAY WITH YOU. THE LAKEFRONT IS A LOVELY WALK DURING THE DAY, BUT AT NIGHT, THE WHOLE OF CHICAGO IS LIT UP AND IT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL.....

'A'BAR, NEUKOLN. BERLIN. 1999

SOMETHING ABOUT BERLIN STILL CHILLS THE BLOOD A LITTLE FOR PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION. THE COLD WAR WAS WAGED USING POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND PROPAGANDA, AND BERLIN, SPLIT IN TWO BY THE WALL AS IT WAS, STOOD AS A SYMBOL OF THAT UNCERTAINTY. NOWADAYS, IT'S A HOTBED OF CREATIVITY AND COOL, BUT SAT QUIETLY IN ONE OR TWO BARS, IT'S EASY TO IMAGINE ONESELF BACK IN TIME.

THE 'A' BAR IS ONE OF THOSE PLACES.....

MAIN SQUARE NANTES, 2015

I WAS IN FRANCE WORKING FOR FISHMAN AND HAD ENJOYED A FEW BEERS IN A LOCAL PUB WITH MY CONTACT FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR. A NICE YOUNG GUY, HE HAD CLEARLY DRAWN THE SHORT STRAW AND HAD BEEN DELEGATED TO 'ENTERTAIN' ME THAT EVENING. I TOOK PITY AND TOLD HIM HE DIDN'T NEED TO SUPERVISE ME, AND THAT I WOULD WALK BACK TO MY HOTEL THROUGH THE SQUARE. THIS TUNE CAME TO ME ON THAT MEANDER BACK.

LOVELY.

NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE: 2006

I ACTUALLY WROTE THIS DURING ONE OF MANY LENGTHY STOPOVERS AT NEWARK AIRPORT. WITH LITERALLY NOTHING TO DO BUT STARE OUT AT THE 'PIKE', THIS TUNE CAME THROUGH. IT IS THE SYMBOL OF THE START OF A NEW JOURNEY FOR A LOT OF AMERICANS.

THAT'S ABOUT AS INTERESTING AS IT GETS.

FETHIYE 1986.

THE FIRST HOLIDAY MY NEW GIRLFRIEND (NOW LONG SUFFERING WIFE) EVER WENT ON, WAS A LAST MINUTE DEAL TO TURKEY TO THE RESORT OF OLU DENIZ. AT THE TIME THERE WAS ONLY ONE HOTEL AND ONE BAR. (IT NOW RESEMBLES BLACKPOOL SEA FRONT) AND WE WERE GUESTS OF A LADY WHO UNUSUALLY FOR THE TIME, HAD SET UP HER OWN NEW HOLIDAY LET WITH 3 BEDROOMS IN A NEW BUILD.

HER NAME WAS MONHEURIN, AND SHE HAD INVESTED EVERYTHING IN THIS VENTURE. EVEN THOUGH WE HAD ONLY BOOKED THE ACCOMMODATION, SHE VISITED US EVERY MORNING WITH FRESH EGGS AND TOAST AND TURKISH TEA, IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE SURE WE WERE HAPPY WITH OUR STAY.

ONE EVENING SHE ANNOUNCED SHE WAS TAKING US FOR DINNER IN HER APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF FETHIYE.

WE WERE DRIVEN BY HER INTO THE HEART OF THE CITY, AND THEN THROUGH A TENEMENT BLOCK UP SOME FLOORS TO HER FAMILY HOME. AS WE PUSHED THROUGH THE FRONT HALLWAY WE PASSED A ROOM PACKED WITH TURKISH MEN SHOUTING AND GESTICULATING AT A SMALL BLACK AND WHITE TV SET WHICH WAS SHOWING THE LOCAL FOOTBALL MATCH.

SHE LED US THROUGH TO THE KITCHEN AND PREPARED PASTA. WE ATE, AND THEN WENT BACK.

THIS IS THE THEME TUNE TO THAT BIZARRE EVENING.

EARLY EVENING KENSINGTON 1996.

BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN MUSIC INDUSTRY TRADE SHOWS HAPPENED A LOT, EARLS COURT WAS ALWAYS A FAVOURITE VENUE. THIS WAS WRITTEN ONE HAPPY SUMMER IN THE '90S AFTER THE FIRST COUPLE OF A NUMBER OF LIQUID REFRESHMENTS WALKING THROUGH THE POSH BITS OF LONDON (AS NOW FEATURED REGULARLY ON 'MADE IN CHELSEA')

HIGH ST, OXFORD. 5AM 1986-1997

AN OLD GIRLFRIEND HAD BEEN STUDYING AT KEBLE COLLEGE OXFORD, AND IN MY FEW SHORT VISITS THERE, I HAD ALREADY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE PLACE. ON A SUBSEQUENT RETURN, I FOUND MYSELF A LITTLE 'OVERSERVED' AND WANDERING THE STREETS OF THE TOWN IN THE EARLY HOURS AS THE SUMMER SUN BEGAN ITS DAY. SPLENDID PLACE. I WROTE THIS BACK AT THE HOTEL.....

BERLIN-MITTE 1998

WITHOUT WANTING TO SOUND LIKE A BERLIN TOURIST COMMERCIAL, THIS IS THE OLD BERLIN: COSMOPOLITAN, ECLECTIC, POMPOUS, THEY EVEN HAVE A MUSEUM OF WEIRD SHIT (I THINK THAT'S THE NAME.) ANYWAY, I HAD AN IDEA FOR A 'SPY' LIKE THEME, WHICH DANNY ELFMAN RIPPED OFF ME 6 YEARS LATER. FOR THE INCREDIBLES.

YES HE DID.....!

THE BOY FROM MISSOURI. USA 2002

DEDICATED TO JOY METHENY. THERE ARE A FEW ARTISTS THAT HAVE BROUGHT ME CONSISTENT JOY OVER THE YEARS, AND NONE MORE SO THAN MR METHENY.

ALL THESE TUNES CONJURE UP IMAGES FOR ME THAT ARE LINKED TO MEMORIES, AND NEARLY ALL THOSE MEMORIES ARE LINKED TO MY LIFE IN MUSIC. FOR WHICH I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.

THANKS FOR LISTENING.

"STEVE IS A DELIGHTFUL HUMAN AND A MASTERFUL MUSICIAN, WITH A DEEP WELL OF SKILLS AND STYLES AT HIS DISPOSAL. "POSTCARDS" TAKES YOU WITH STEVE ON A MUSICAL JOURNEY THAT I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED GOING ON."

GREG KOCH 2022

* "MASTERFUL MUSICIAN" ARE THE FIRST TWO WORDS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN I THINK OF STEVE. HIS GUITAR SKILLS SET A VERY HIGH BENCHMARK FOR ALL, WHETHER ACOUSTIC, ELECTRIC OR ELECTRONIC, THE PLAYING IS SURE TO DELIGHT!

ELLIOTT RANDALL

"I'VE KNOWN STEVE FAIRCLOUGH FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS. HE IS A BRILLIANT GUITARIST AND PRODUCER. EVERYTHING HE TOUCHES IS MADE CONSIDERABLY BETTER. FROM HIS METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL, QUALITY AND CREATIVITY. HE OPERATES ON A GENIUS LEVEL, AND HE'S A BEAUTIFUL, WARM AND FUNNY GUY"

MATT SMITH - (6 STRING RANCH, AUSTIN TEXAS.)

"STEVE FAIRCLOUGH IS A COLLAGE OF SOME OF THE WORLDS GREATEST GUITAR PLAYERS, AND AS SUCH HE'S ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PLAYERS"

BUSTER B. JONES

"STEVE IS A SUPERBLY ACCOMPLISHED PLAYER. AT HOME IN BOTH THE JAZZ IDIOM AND THE FINGERSTYLE WORLD, AND PLAYING WITH HIM IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE"

PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO

"STEVE IS A UNIQUE FINGERSTYLE GUITARIST. HE PLAYS LOTS OF DIFFERENT STYLES, DIFFERENT MOODS WITH A LOT OF TALENT, FURTHERMORE, HE IS A REAL GENTLEMAN "

JACQUES STOTZEM

"THIS ALBUM IS EXACTLY THAT: A REAL ALBUM. LIKE A PHOTO ALBUM OF MEMORIES, NOT JUST OF THE PLACES STEVE FAIRCLOUGH HAS VISITED AND BEEN INSPIRED BY, BUT PERFECT SNAPSHOTS OF DIFFERENT GUITAR TRADITIONS - JAZZ, BLUES AND ROCK OF VARIOUS DISTINCT ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC FLAVOURS. THERES A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF AND SENSITIVITY TO THOSE STYLES AND THEIR ROOTS. FOR A MUSICIAN THIS ALBUM IS A MASTERCLASS, AND FOR A MUSIC LOVER ITS LIKE THAT ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY."

JON GOMM 2022

"HE'S THE LEAST LIKELY CREATIVE YOU'VE EVER SEEN. HANDS LIKE A BOXER, ASIDE FROM THREE PERFECTLY MANICURED NAILS, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ARRIVED TO FIX THE PLUMBING, BUT THEN ALL OF THIS WONDERFUL MUSICAL CREATIVITY COMES TUMBLING OUT..."

JO FREDERICKS (CREATIVE DIRECTOR)

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO LISTEN TO A CRAFTSMAN AT WORK, AND STEVE FAIRCLOUGH IS A MASTER CRAFTSMAN...

SILVAIN CARTIER (WAVELENGTH MAGAZINE)

POSTSCRIPT: JULY 2022

AT THE END OF FEBRUARY 2019 I SUFFERED AN ACCIDENT WHICH SMASHED MY ANKLE AND KNEE AND PUSHED MY SHIRT OUT THROUGH THE SKIN AT THE FRONT OF MY LEG. IT WAS ALMOST 18 MONTHS TO THE DAY BEFORE I HAD RECOVERED FULLY ENOUGH TO WALK WITH ANY REAL CONFIDENCE.

THE DAMN LEG IS STILL KNACKERED, BUT AS PART OF MY RECOVERY, STARTING SEPTEMBER 2020 I BEGAN TO WALK THE HILLERSDALE DALES OF MY LOCAL AREA WITH MY BEST FRIEND OF ALMOST 45 YEARS IAN FOSTER. (I DEDICATED THE HALF-LIFE ALBUM TO IAN)

WALKING THESE TRAILS WITH A CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST WHO KNOWS THE LATIN NAME AND CAN IDENTIFY EVERY BIRD AND PLANT IN THE UK (OFTEN BY CALLSONG ALONE), WITH SOMEONE WHOSE CURRENT INTEREST IS IN THE UNDERGROUND LIFE OF FUNGI, EDIBLE, PSYCHOACTIVE, MEDICINAL, MUSHROOMS, AND WHO ALSO HAS A MENSINING A KNOWLEDGE OF ROCK & POP MUSIC AS I'VE BEEN AROUND SHORT OF REVELATORY.

WE WALK AROUND 5K IN JUST OVER AN HOUR, 4 MORNINGS A WEEK, AND DISCUSS EVERYTHING. THAT IS NATURE, NURTURE, POLITICS, MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY AND FAMILY, AND I FIND ITS IMPACT ON MY CREATIVITY TO BE IMMESURABLE.

TO THAT END, I DEDICATE THIS ALBUM TO MY WONDERFUL FAMILY, MY NEW GRANDSON, MY COLLEAGUES AT SCAN PRO AUDIO AND ULTIMATELY TO IAN ONCE AGAIN.

IN A TERRIBLE PUN BASED ON HIS CHOICE OF FOOTBALL TEAM,

'MAY YOU NEVER WALK ALONE...'