



THREE CORNER JACK Lyrics

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Ron Angel

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The Red Ladder Theatre

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MUSICIANS

Gerard Holmes – *guitar, mandolin, piano, vocals*

Leigh Newton – *guitar, piano, vocals*

Maarten Ryder – *double bass, flute, oboe, recorder, vocals*

Engineer – *Chris Adams*

Photo – *Geoff Howe*

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at Good God Studio
Adelaide S.A.

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01 CHEMICAL WORKER

© Ron Angel

1. A process man am I
And I'm telling you no lie
I work and breath among fumes
That trail across the sky
There's thunder all around me
There's poison in the air
There's lousy smell and smacks of hell
And there's dust all in the air

CHORUS

And it's 'Go Boys Go'
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But she goes

2. I've work among the spinners
I've breathed in the oily smoke
I've shovelled up the gypsum
That nigh on makes you choke
But knee deep in cyanide
I'm sick with caustic burns
Been working rough and seen enough
To make your stomach turn

CHORUS

3. There's overtime and bonus
Opportunities galore
Ah the young lads like the money
So they all come back for more
But soon you're knocking on
Looking older than you should
For every bob made on this job
You pay with flesh and blood

LAST CHORUS

And it's 'Go Boys Go'
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But she goes
But she goes

02 MARCH OF PROGRESS

© The Red Ladder Theatre

(The Plane Label and Interaction Impress)

1. The hippopotamus lives in the jungle,
In the depths of the steamiest swamp.
Its design an incompetent bungle,
And its life one long glutinous romp.
It wallows all day in self pity,
No get up and go in its blood;
It's life is incredibly gritty,
And its permanently stuck in the mud.

CHORUS

We're all on the march of progress,
Full of enterprise inspired,
Faster ever faster, escaping from disaster,
Out of the mire.
We don't know where we're going or where we've come from,
But there's someone up the front who knows the way.
Peckers up, we're feeling fine,
And if we don't step out of line,
we're going to get there some day.

2. The ostrich lives out in Arabia,
To the barren desert earth it clings.
Aeronautically speaking its a failure,
It's a miserable bird without wings.
It lacks any soaring ambition,
Fears what it can't understand.
When faced with an awkward decision,
It just buries its head in the sand.

CHORUS

But we're all on the march of progress,
Stand by for take off we're away,
Faster, ever faster, escaping from disaster,
On and upwards, okay.
We don't know where we're going or where we've come from,
But there's someone up the front who knows the way,
Peckers up, we're feeling fine,
And if we don't step out of line,
We're going to get there some day.

3. The lemmings live out in the tundra,
By the dark Scandinavian sea;
How they survive is a wonder,
For their brains are the size of a pea.
Dull, conventional little creatures,
Life seems to bore them stiff;
For fun they play follow the leader,
All hold hands and then jump over the cliff.

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02 MARCH OF PROGRESS continued

LAST CHORUS

But we're all on the march of progress,
The great leap forward can't be stopped,
Faster, ever faster, escaping from disaster, over the top.
We don't know where we're going or where we've come from,
But there's someone up the front who knows the way,
Peckers up, we're feeling fine,
And if we don't step out of line,
we're going to get there some day.

Peckers up, we're feeling fine,
And if we don't step out of line,
We're going to get there some day
We're going to get there some day.

03 HIGHRISE

© Gerard Holmes

1. Looking out my window
Looking at rooftops and chimneys
My neighbour is a closed door
The home-help lady she's my family
She says I need to get out more but where will I go?
There's so many steps to fall down

CHORUS

Living in a highrise don't make sense
When you're living all alone
The city will tell you where to live
But it won't tell you how
Hold on to me
I'm gonna live here till I die
Living in this highrise

2. The baby upstairs is gone now
I used to hear him cry at night
And there goes Bill to the pensioners club
I wonder who they'll talk about today?
I see so many people as they come and go
I'm sure they don't know I'm up here

CHORUS

3. And if God's up in the sky
No wonder we never see him
These three floors keep me in my place
And if he can see so much more than me
What a burden
What a burden

LAST CHORUS

Living in a highrise don't make sense
When you're living all alone
The city will tell you where to live
But it won't tell you how
Hold on to me
I'm gonna live here till I die
Living in this highrise
Hold on to me
I'm gonna live here till I die
Living in this highrise

04 PEOPLE FOR PEACE

© Leigh Newton

1. Come on men and women and children as well
A song I will sing and a tale I will tell
While the world's weapons grow every minute each day
The whole human race calls to throw them away

CHORUS

So come people of peace come people of love
Come raise up your voices on high
Sing of your dreams and work for their change
Don't ever just let them pass by
Don't you fall for the false lullaby

2. Oh with all our wise leaders reassure they know best
Both East and West countries both far right and left
As they say they want strength and say they want peace
So the armaments grow while they talk in their sleep

CHORUS

3. There's two countries out front and we say they're to blame
But each one of us here bears the burden of shame
And we all bear the burden of setting it right
And creating a world where we don't have to fight

LAST CHORUS

So come people of peace come people of love
Come raise up your voices on high
Sing of your dreams and work for their change
Don't ever just let them pass by
Don't you fall for the false lullaby
Don't you fall for the false lullaby

05 SALLY WHEATLEY

© Frankie O'Neill (Rubber Records)

1. Well I'm most depressed and sad, when I once was blithe and glad,
I could trip around the town both trim and neatly.
I was happy night and morn, but of all such joys I'm shorn,
Since I fell so deep in love with Sally Wheatley.

CHORUS

And oh dear me, what am I gonna do,
Sally's taken my heart away completely,
And I'll never get it back,
Cos she's gone with Mr. Black,
And they say he's going to marry Sally Wheatley.

2. Well I've never seen such a lass, and I know she liked her glass,
She could toss a pot of whisky over sweetly.
Well it's right to take a drop, if you know just when to stop,
That was just the very way with Sally Wheatley.

CHORUS

3. How I felt I didn't know, the first time I Sally saw,
In a threesome reel she hopped about so neatly.
And I might have had a chance, if I'd asked her up to dance,
But I was over shy to speak to Sally Wheatley.

CHORUS

4. Well, he must have made it right, when he set her home that night,
'Cos after work, dressed up, he goes to see her neatly.
Well there's great danger in delay, or I wouldn't be sad today,
If I had a heart, I'd break it for Sally Wheatley.

CHORUS

5. Well I'm most depressed and sad, when I once was blithe and glad,
I could trip around the town both trim and neatly.
I was happy night and morn, but of all such joys I'm shorn,
Since I fell so deep in love with Sally Wheatley.

LAST CHORUS

And oh dear me, what am I gonna do,
Sally's taken my heart away completely,
And I'll never get it back,
Cos she's gone with Mr Black,
And they say he's going to marry Sally Wheatley.

06 THROW THAT SPANNER

© Gerard Holmes

1. I've had enough and I want to break out
I've got nothing better to do
Someone else's problems getting all over me
And it's time someone broke the rules
For years and years I've taken all of this crap
And have bottled it up inside
Someone told me it would go away
But now my anger is nowhere to hide

CHORUS

Throw that spanner, kill that machine
Throw that time clock to smithereens
Throw that spanner, kill that machine
Blow that time clock to smithereens

2. Well we've come a long way from swinging in the trees
And the primitive ages of man
Our achievements amaze the Lord above
And still I just don't understand
I've been years and years in a wonderful school
Learning useless mathematical codes
And hours and hours reading newspaper ads
Days and days on the road
CHORUS

3. Well I have a friend who had a wonderful job
With a company car a pretty secretary
The Old Lady works although the house is paid off
And you'd say that family hasn't a need
But when I look into his bifocaled eyes
And see there's nothing behind them at all
And the kids are so unhappy it would make you cry
They wish their Mum and Papa didn't have to work at all

LAST CHORUS

Throw that spanner, kill that machine
Throw that time clock to smithereens
Throw that spanner, kill that machine
Blow that time clock to smithereens
Throw that spanner, kill that machine
Blow that time clock to smithereens
Throw that spanner, kill that machine

07 MISTY

© Leigh Newton

Just another night on a front bar stool
Seeing life slip away
Just another girl with empty eyes
Hoping love will find its day
Gettin' high each evening takes the pain
It won't bring healing
As my empty arms find someone near
No whispered words of love to hear
Every night you'll find me here
It's the only place I live
Every night I sleep alone
While others are in my bed
I hear the call to Misti
They know me well in the city
Ah but they don't read my searching eyes
And hide my tears so well inside

Who's there to care for me? Who's there to cry with me?
Who's there to die for me? Is anybody there?

Any a face on the footpath knows
This is no place to stray
Any a man will take his fill
Take more of me each day
There's nothing left of Misti
I've lost my way in the city
It's an empty life can't someone see
This wretched soul inside of me

Who's there to care for me? Who's there to cry with me?
Who's there to die for me? Is anybody there?

Walking upstairs, one by one she goes
With nothing but despair
Climbing floor by floor, she gets to the top
She's walking to the edge, she's looking all around
There's no one to be found. She's asking...

Who's there to care for me? Who's there to cry with me?
Who's there to die for me? Is anybody there?
Who's there to wonder why? Who's there to see me die?
Who's there to see me lying lifeless in the street?
No there's not a soul in this world who knows my middle name
No one I can go to, to help me bear the pain

Somewhere long way down below on the cold ground lying there
This child of the street has made it home
While others just stop to stare
Someone said it was Misti they knew her well from the city
As they moved the sheet to cover her
It didn't matter much that she was dead

Who's there to care for me? Who's there to cry with me?
Who's there to die for me? Is anybody there?
Who's there to wonder why? Who's there to see me die?
Who's there to see me lying lifeless in the street?
Just another night on a front bar stool
Seeing life slip away

08 ALL WE WANT IS PEACE

© Rob Timbs 1978

Rob Timbs Version in his "PEACES" Album 1979
was titled "They Say I'm A Dreamer"

1. Some say I'm a dreamer but I'm a full time believer
That one day this world would be free
There'll be no more fighting or people deciding
What we're allowed to believe
I've read in the paper that sooner or later
The world will go up in a cloud
But our government leaders pretend not to hear us
When the people of earth cry out loud

CHORUS

All we want is peace for the earth
A place to live under the sun
Where we all can hold our head in the air
And not have to carry a gun

2. Some say I'm mistaken about the lives we have taken
In the name of maintaining the peace
With the innocent dying their mothers are crying
When will this killing all cease?
All down through the ages our histories pages
Are covered with blood of the free
If you really want changing and world rearranging
Then come on and sing this with me

CHORUS

All we want is peace for the earth
A place to live under the sun
Where we all can hold our head in the air
And not have to carry a gun

3. They say to remember the 5th of November
Well I just don't remember what for
Was it when the war started or when the war ended
I really don't care anymore
Well the curtain went up and the soldiers went down
To the valley of dead they were led
A soldier lay dying his mates heard him crying
These were the words that he said

LAST CHORUS

All we want is peace for the earth
A place to live under the sun
Where we all can hold our head in the air
And not have to carry a gun
All we want is peace for the earth
A place to live under the sun
Where we all can hold our head in the air
And not have to carry a gun

09 THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

© Woody Guthrie / adapt Leigh Newton

CHORUS

This land is your land, this land is my land
From Colonel Sanders to the Coca Cola cans
To Nestles Milo, Westinghouse and so ho ho
This land belongs to you and me

1. On Monday morning as I was rising
I thanked the good Lord for the advertising
Of Kelloggs cornflakes and Colgate toothpaste
These things were made for you and me
CHORUS

2. In a brand new Camira, a good old Aussie car
I knew the money I gave would help Australia
The receipt said money paid, thank you from USA
While General Motors rubbed their hands in glee
CHORUS

This land's not your land, this land's not my land
Since massive companies have come from Uncle Sam
They send our money home with nothing in return
Our land's no more for you and me

3. But don't you worry where your money goes
We've got the Phillipines as everybody knows
We'll rip them off like flies before their very eyes
Their land belongs to you and me

LAST CHORUS

This land is your land, this land is my land
From Colonel Sanders to the Coca Cola cans
To Nestles Milo, Westinghouse and so ho ho
This land belongs to you and me

10 SOUTHERN CROSS

© Robin Mann & Andrew Tanner

Come and lay your burdens down
All you lonely and you lost
At the Southern Cross

At Botany Bay we first came ashore
But it didn't seem right for a home
So we sailed up the coast
Just a mile or two more
In the harbour we beached in the foam
And we raised up the flag in the name of the King
With the wind blowing hot on our face
But how can you live where the trees are all bent
And the stars are all out of place
Sailors we've been on the sea
But look where we've been tossed
To The Southern Cross

Soldiers and convicts
We both felt the lash
In this country we call New South Wales
But who could have told us before we set out
We'd both be together in gaol?
With food being scarce and with little to drink
It's a wonder we ever survived
Serving our sentence at His Majesty's whim
For the term of our natural lives
Who's the prisoner, who's the free
Can you tell me who's the boss -
On the Southern Cross?

Across the Blue Mountains our fate seemed to call
So blindly we followed behind.
We sowed every seed
Both the good and the bad
The harvest would come in its time
The black man was there, so dirty and bare
Did we notice his blood in the ground
We didn't have time to learn of his kind
It was simpler just shooting him down
We took all you had to give
But we didn't see the cost
To The Southern Cross

The streets were deserted,
The workshops were still
As gold fever spread like the plague
We had no resistance in thousands we danced
To the tune that this pied-piper played
And digging for gold our cattle were sold
Our families were left far behind.
The gold can't supply what gold cannot buy
How could our eyes be so blind?
In our search to find the gold
Our gain became our loss -
The Southern Cross

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10 SOUTHERN CROSS *continued*

When the fever had gone we set out on the road
And many a mate walked that way
There was hunger and hardships
Some begging, some fights
Some work but never much pay
When Gallipoli came we were glad to be game
Yes we marched with the sun in our eyes
But our vision was cleared by bullets by fear
By the useless slaughter and lies
When you need a mate to pull you through
Like the thief upon the cross -
Try the Southern Cross

Still on the road the sun beating down
The traffic so painfully slow
Out on the weekend it's always too short
Looking for some place to go
Searching for pleasure, searching for gold
Nobody to trust, you're alone
Searching for freedom
Somewhere to escape
Won't somebody give me a home?
Come and lay your burdens down
All you lonely and you lost -
At the Southern Cross

11 CALL BY THIS PLACE

© Leigh Newton

Will you call by this place if you're passing
Will you drop in to say hello
To remember our friends and the ones who we love
In this house that was so long your home
Won't you pull up a chair and sit 'round the fire
To relate how your time passes by
On those nights I'm alone wishing you were at home
Something's empty back here on my own

And the dancers go round, the dancers go round
In my mind we're together most every night
Every morning I find I'm alone

Will you call by this place with your greeting to me
Bring the children on over for tea
I know we won't find that old harmony
But singing comes easy to me

Seems not so long ago at the altar we stood
We were pledging our lives for all time
Somehow the time's over we've gone separate ways
And your thinking no longer is mine
Well I'm sorry that I wouldn't listen to you
I was angry but now it's too late
Though the parting was cruel and we acted like fools
Let's be gentle and live with our faith

And the dancers go round, the dancers go round
In my mind we're together most every night
Every morning I find I'm alone

And the garden is growing wilder each day
With month after month of neglect
For all purpose is gone with you moving on
There's no rhyme in the reason you left

Oh our young children's faces I'm missing
With clothes scattered all 'round the room
Then they'd play in the early morning with you
And they'd sleep in the afternoon
In this house I can still hear them run down the hall
And their laughter still echos around
Though I know that they're gone
My hope still lingers on
Such joy in this house once was found

And the dancers go round, the dancers go round
In my mind we're together most every night
Every morning I find I'm alone

Will you call by this place with your greeting to me
Bring the children on over for tea
I know we won't find that old harmony
But singing comes easy to me

12 TAKE MY WORD

© Leigh Newton / Gerard Holmes

Take my Word to all the nations
Show my love to one and all
Take my Word and make disciples as you go
Take my Word and then baptise them
That my Spirit may be with them
And they learn the Truth you've come to know

Take my Word, till the soil
Plant the seed that it may grow
And prepare the way for others down the track
Take my Word to those who know me
Those who now don't listen to me
And those whose love has faded in the night

You can never know where you are bound but I'm your guide
You can never know how the song will sound
Though your plans may falter and the fruits seems far apart
I just won't ask more than you can carry from the start

Take my Word to those in prison
Take this Good News to the poor
To the blind give sight and set the bruised ones free
Be my welcome to the homeless
Be my clothing for the naked
For in hurting people there I'll be

You can never know where you are bound but I'm your guide
You can never know how the song will sound
Though your plans may falter and the fruits seems far apart
I just won't ask more than you can carry from the start

Take my Word to all the nations
Show my love to one and all
Take my Word and make disciples as you go
Take my Word and then baptise them
That my Spirit may be with them
And they learn the Truth you've come to know