

B A C K T O T H E C E N T R E

Paul Brady



"I had sort of quit performing for a year or two to write so these were all new and yet to be performed songs at the time. It was recorded in Buckinghamshire, largely in Hugh Murphy's house and it was nice to be back with him - I probably felt that I wanted to get back to something closer to 'Hard Station'. Then half-way through the album I wanted to change direction and I took it to London and Ian Maidman and I finished it. One of the nicest things about it was bringing in other artists to play and sing. Eric Clapton plays on 'Deep in Your Heart'. I had been touring Europe with him the previous year and he liked what I was doing. Larry Mullen also played on 'Airwaves'. And the actual recording of 'The Homes of Donegal' was mighty craic - Loudon Wainwright and a lot of friends in the studio in London pretending we were in a pub in Glenties. The first single 'Walk The White Line' was a hit in Ireland. There's a couple of big songs for me on this record. I think 'Follow On' is one of the best things on it. Also 'Wheel Of Heartbreak' remains one of my favourites. I was actually still writing 'The Island' as I stood in front of the microphone. I was sort of forced into actually finally singing the last line and that's the only way I'd ever have finished that song. I'd been writing it for years. This record was the first time I had played with Liam Genockey and Kenny Craddock, both of whom went on to tour with me for a couple of years. Kenny's piano interpretation of my song 'The Island' is a truly magical thing."

Paul Brady



1. Walk The White Line

Here come the footstep, here come that friend of mine
You'd think I'd know by now
Over my shoulder come the familiar line
Keeping me to my vow
Changing the road signs, dragging me here and there
Into the den of night
Touching my body, knowing I love the touch
So I don't know wrong from right
No I don't know wrong from right
Walk the white line
Oh, it's fading away, fading away...

Chorus

Too much needing leave you bleeding inside
Too much wanting bring you pain
When you're running out of places to hide
Get back to the centre, right back to the centre

You know the story...wanting to feel it all
Out on the streets till dawn
Watching her moving, feeling her eyes on you
Energy burning on
Wanting to have her, believing that's all it takes
To fill up the empty zone
How will you stand it, now that the feeling's gone
Leaving you on your own
Leaving you on your own?

Walk the white line
Oh, it's fading away
That's the life line
Oh, it's fading away...fading away

Chorus

2. Wheel Of Heartbreak

Who can keep a moonbeam from dancing on the floor...
Who can hold a feeling till it's morning?
And who can stop his lover from loving him no more...
How much do we have to keep on learning?

So much waiting
So much waiting
So much waiting

Chorus

But I don't mind this hurt I feel
Troubling my soul
Got my shoulder to the wheel of heartbreak
Feel it giving
Feel it give!
Feel it rock 'n' roll!
Opening the way for the delivery
opening the way for the delivery.

Who can keep from wondering just how long is long...
Who can have the nerve to say forever?
And who can find a reason why something right is wrong...
How can we be free yet still together?

So much waiting
So much waiting
So much waiting

Repeat Chorus

3. Deep In Your Heart

The lovers' hour is here, the night is creeping down
This is the moment you've been dreading
Another bar-room in another lonely town
You wish you knew where you were heading
In everyone that you see
You see her
In every dream that could be
You see her, need her tonight

Chorus

You're feeling the hurt again
It's always the way
When the arrow goes straight to the mark
But try not to heed the pain
It's only a gentle reminder
That while you're apart...she's still

Deep in your heart, and it's hurting
Deep in your heart, still hurting

You feel it coming, it's impossible to bear
The thought of one more night without her
You start imagining her perfume in the air
From every woman round about you
You try to find relief in someone else's arms
She senses you're in need of healing
But it would take more than just any woman's charms
To wash away this empty feeling

In everyone that you see
You see her
In every dream that could be
You see her, need her tonight

Repeat Chorus

4. To Be The One

It happens so easy, in the wink of an eye
The moment you cut the cable
The rest of the world goes drifting by
Leaving you high and dry

Your love was there waiting to slip me the key
It's just that behind my curtain
Your love wasn't getting through to me
And setting my spirit free

What started me thinking of changing the plan,
What took me so long to find out
That you only want me as I am?

See how the silence sends it on down to you
Now all you need is to believe it's true

This lesson is over, this message got through
I'm turning the corner
You know that I'm coming back to you
To be the one I can be

I know you told me but I had to find it out for myself
Oh sweet baby I cried
And when I saw the way I hurt you
Saw the tears in your eyes
But now it's different cos I'm learning from my past mistakes
And I never make the same one twice
Listen to me when I tell you this is no disguise



County Donegal, Winter 1985 Photographed by Paul Brady
Left to Right - Phil Palmer, Kenny Craddock,
Liam Genocky, Mollie Brady, Ian Maidman

5. Follow On

Shutters on the windows, chains upon the door
Sleepless nights spent waiting for an answer
Dreams of heaven falling, panic in the town
Lonely men with fingers on the future...

When all is said and done
You are the only one

Follow on
For the open road is waiting,
Like the song,
We will welcome what tomorrow has to bring
Be it fair or stormy weather
Take my hand
And we'll walk the road together
I won't mind
If it turns out that we never find the end
For all I ask is that you want me as a friend

Days of beauty calling, vanish through a haze
Lost inside some spiral with no ending
Still you bring me loving, free me with a touch
Lead me out to greet the calm descending

When all is said and done
You are the only one

Repeat chorus

6. Soulbeat

I stood so long outside the doorway to your heart
I tried to reach you
But I couldn't seem to find the combination
Still something told me that I'd found the right address
And if I stuck around
I'd end up with the missing information

Day after day I wondered if our love was true

Sometimes it gets so hard to love the one you love
Sometimes it takes so long
To hit upon a true communication
Some people turn around, they walk the other way
They want to quit
They want to find themselves a different situation

Day after day I wondered if our love was true
Losing my way each time that I'd come close to you

It takes time
To hear the soulbeat
Ease your mind (it takes time)
To hear the soulbeat

How come a simple thing could be so hard to find
How could I take so long
To stumble on the key in my possession
Why should this always be the way it has to be
That when you think you know the answer
Then you find another question

Day after day I wondered if our love was true
Losing my way each time that I'd come close to you
Wanting to say that you and I would make it through

Repeat Chorus

7. Airwaves

This rhythm gets too hot to handle
Like news that's too good to be true
You want to get in on the action
And make believe it came from you
And then you start to lift the tempo
Cos who's got time to hang around?
But in the noise and the confusion
You're losing contact with the sound

Of the airwaves...
Check the message on the airwaves
All you need is on the airwaves
Don't let it slip away.

A lover slips into your orbit
To show an easier way through
But like a fool you think her mission
Is to supply the missing parts of you
And then you find she can't deliver
Your world is turning upside down
And in the noise and the confusion
You're losing contact with the sound

Of the airwaves...
Check the message on the airwaves
All you need is on the airwaves
Don't let it slip away.

Time will come
When you and I will be as one
Reaching out
To touch the heart in everyone.

8. The Island

They say the skies of Lebanon are burning
Those mighty cedars bleeding in the heat
They're showing pictures on the television
Women and children dying in the street
And we're still at it in our own place
Still trying to reach the future through the past
Still trying to carve tomorrow from a tombstone...

Chorus

But Hey! Don't listen to me!
This wasn't meant to be no sad song
We've heard too much of that before
Right now I only want to be here with you
'Till the morning dew comes falling
I want to take you to the island
And trace your footprints in the sand
And in the evening when the sun goes down
We'll make love to the sound of the ocean

They're raising banners over by the markets
Whitewashing slogans on the shipyard walls
Witchdoctors praying for a mighty showdown
No way our holy flag is gonna fall
Up here we sacrifice our children
To feed the worn-out dreams of yesterday
And teach them dying will lead us into glory...

Repeat Chorus

Now I know us plain folks don't see all the story
And I know this peace and love's just copping out
And I guess these young boys dying in the ditches
Is just what being free is all about
And how this twisted wreckage down on Main Street
Will bring us all together in the end
And we'll go marching down the road to freedom...
Freedom

9. The Homes Of Donegal

I've just dropped in to see you all
I'll only stay awhile
I want to hear how you're getting on
I want to hear you smile
I'm happy to be back again
And greet you big and small
For there's no place on earth just like
The homes of Donegal

I long to see your smiling children
Standing by the door
The kettle boiling on the hearth
As I walk up the floor
And then to see a welcome free
For travellers one and all
For your hearts are like your mountains
In the homes of Donegal

I'd like to stay along with you
And while away the night
With fairy lore and tales of yore
Beside the turf fire bright
And then to see laid out for me
A shake-down by the wall
For there's rest for weary wanderers
In the homes of Donegal

The time has come for me to go
And bid you all adieu
For the open highway calls me back
To do these things I do
But when I'm travelling far away
Your friendship I'll recall
And please God I'll soon return unto
The homes of Donegal

Donegal, Pride of all
Donegal, Pride of all

*All Songs Written by Paul Brady except 'The Homes Of Donegal' Written by Sean McBride/Arr. Paul Brady
All Songs Published by Hornall Brothers Music except 'Soulbeat' Published by Hornall Brothers Music/Tracks On Wax
& 'The Homes Of Donegal' Published by Hornall Brothers Music/Walton's Ltd.*

*All Tracks Mixed at Utopia Studios, London by Ian Maidman, Paul Brady & John Lee - Dec '85/Jan '86
Except Track 1 Mixed at Mayfair Studios by Simon Vinestock - 1992
Tracks 2, 3 & 4 Recorded at Birdland Studios, Buckinghamshire - Feb/May '85, Produced & Engineered by Hugh Murphy
& at Utopia Studios, London - Oct/Nov '85 Produced by Ian Maidman & Engineered by John Lee
Tracks 1 & 6 Recorded at Surreysound Studios, Leatherhead, Surrey - Nov/Dec '85 Produced by Nigel Gray & Phil Palmer
Engineered by Jim Ebdon & at Utopia Studios, London, January '86 Produced by Ian Maidman & Engineered by John Lee
Tracks 5, 7, 8 & 9 Recorded at Utopia Studios, London - Oct/Nov '85, Produced by Ian Maidman and John Lee
Assisted by Paul Rabiger, Mog & Simon Vinestock Engineered by John Lee Assisted by Paul
Overall Production by Ian Maidman*

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Phil Sautchi appears courtesy of A & M Records. Loudon Wainwright III appears courtesy of Demon Records.*

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1. Walk The White Line 5.04

Liam Genockey: drums

Ian Maidman: bass

Paul Brady: acoustic & electric rhythm guitars, keyboards & vocals

Kenny Craddock: Hammond organ & keyboards

Phil Palmer: lead guitar & additional electric guitar & backing vocals

Sally Ann Triplett: backing vocals

2. Wheel Of Heartbreak 5.09

Ole Romo: drums

Ian Maidman: bass

Paul Brady: keyboards, piano, tin whistle, lead & backing vocals

Phil Palmer: electric guitar

Kenny Craddock: Hammond organ

3. Deep In Your Heart 6.01

Ole Romo: drums

Ian Maidman: bass & percussion

Eric Clapton: electric lead & rhythm guitars

Mitt Gamon: harmonica

Phil Palmer: electric 'picking' guitar & atmospherics guitar

Paul Brady: acoustic guitar, keyboards, vocals & tin whistle

Betsy Cook: additional keyboards

Mary Elliott: archery

4. To Be The One 4.51

Ole Romo: drums

Ian Maidman: bass, backing vocals & percussion

Kenny Craddock: Hammond organ

Paul Brady: electric & acoustic guitars, bouzouki, lead & backing vocals

Kenny Craddock & Paul Brady: brass keyboard

5. Follow On 4.15

Liam Genockey: drums

Ian Maidman: bass & percussion

Phil Palmer: electric guitar

Kenny Craddock: Hammond organ

Mitt Gamon: harmonica

Paul Brady: acoustic guitars, piano, keyboards & vocals

6. Soulbeat 4.51

Liam Genockey: drums

Ian Maidman: bass

Paul Brady: electric guitar, keyboards & vocals

Kenny Craddock: Hammond organ & keyboards

Paul Brady & Phil Palmer: Backing Vocals

7. Airwaves 4.44

Larry Mullen, Jr: drums

Ian Maidman: bass & percussion

Phil Palmer: lead electric guitar

Paul Brady: piano, keyboards, electric rhythm guitar & vocal

Phil Sautchi, Loudon Wainwright III, Paul Rabiger,

Ian Maidman & Paul Brady: backing vocals

8. The Island 5.28

Kenny Craddock: piano & soft pedal shuffle

Phil Palmer: acoustic guitar

Paul Brady: vocal

9. The Homes Of Donegal 7.30

Liam Genockey: drums

Ian Maidman: bass

Kenny Craddock: Hammond organ

Phil Palmer: electric guitars

Phil Sautchi, Loudon Wainwright III, Paul Rabiger,

Ian Maidman & Paul Brady: backing vocals



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