

Album Lyrics

John Flynn Mercy

Standing Ovation by John Flynn

You stood with me in the driving rain
In the howling wind and the hurricane
And your soul was kind and your heart was true
And you stood with me now I stand with you

You stood with me when few others did
Back when I was not much more than a kid
You showed me faith I had never known
And I knew that I'd never stand alone

When my hammer rang on that hard cement
You showed me what standing for something meant
When I'd hear your voice on the laughing wind
I would smile knowing I had a friend

Who stood with me when the battles raged
When the lines were drawn from another age
And our songs would try to say something true
You stood with me- now I stand with you

As your hammer rings on this hard cement
When they ask where standing for something went
I will hear your voice laughing on the wind
And I will smile knowing I have a friend

I'll stand with you in the driving rain
In the howling wind and the hurricane
For your soul is kind and your heart is true
And you stood with me, now I stand for you

Mercy

By John Flynn

Although it was in despair it
Longed for peace and so your spirit
Laid your anger down to stay free
From your prison you forgave me

Trapped within a heart that hated
I too was incarcerated
By scars someone else inflicted
Never could I have predicted

Mercy would save my life 'cause
Mercy showed me when I was
Thirsty for condemnation
Mercy was my salvation
Mercy pride could not ask for
Mercy's redemption cried your
Worthy to be blessed with this
Mercy and sweet forgiveness

So much had been taken from me
Fear and rage I felt help numb me
To wounds even I could not see
To my very humanity
You reached out but I doubted when you
Told them you forgave me then you
Met me and I realized
That I saw within your eyes

Mercy saved my life because
Mercy taught me when I was
Thirsty for retribution
Mercy brought resolution
Mercy he did not ask for

Mercy's redemption cried your
Worthy to be blessed with this
Mercy and sweet forgiveness

Mercy can heal the soul
Mercy can make you whole
Mercy can ease your pain
Mercy can break the chains
Mercy gives but it takes
Mercy for our mistakes
Forgive us our trespasses
Raise us up from these ashes

Lashing out with hells own fury
I had been your judge and jury
Enraged every time you pleaded
Innocent though you proceeded
To prove though you felt forsaken
In those years that I had taken
From this wrong would come some justice
And now you've taught me to trust this

Mercy saved my life because
Mercy showed me when I was
Thirsty for bitter vengeance
Mercy'd commute my sentence
Mercy I could not ask for
Mercy's redemption cried your
Worthy to be blessed with this
Mercy and sweet forgiveness

Buffalo Nickels

by John Flynn

He was sweating like a longneck in a Shreveport bar at midnight
Full of beer and 'bout to lose his head
In his hand he waved a pistol like a blind man in a knife fight
Then he pointed it and fired it and bled

CHORUS:

And the angel said don't he look natural
And the devil said don't he look fine
And the devil's eyes shined like two buffalo nickels
He bought for a Roosevelt dime

The land had been like Sarah, proud and oh, so stubborn
He lost them both a little at a time
The bankers took the one, his drinking took the other
All he had left for losing was his mind chorus

The Shreve Times ran a story about a suicide that took place
Thursday morning in a downtown bar
The front page ran a picture of a much younger man's face
Taken years before he bought the farm chorus

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Don't Just Do Something (Stand There)

by John Flynn

It's what we do, ain't it?
If it looks worn paint it
If something's broke mend it
When it's bent, un-bend it

But when a heart's breaking
Or someone's soul's shaking
And your bag of tricks is
Clean out of quick fixes

CHORUS:

Don't just do something
Don't just do something
Don't just do something
Stand there...

Don't quote from renowned sages
Or Sunday school pages
Paths of least resistance
Will keep at a distance
The challenge of seeing
The whole human being
In all their fierce beauty
And your profound duty (chorus)

BRIDGE:

In the still and screaming silence
With the illness and violence
Where the cosmic joke is on us
Tears and laughter keep us honest

Whether it's deep sadness
Or borderline madness
Do not disrespect it
Or look for the exit
Stand in the breach, brother
Stand with one another
Your presence, sweet sister
Can heal and minister (chorus)

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Between the States

By John Flynn

I will die in this battle I have a premonition.
Her beauty is a bullet that will pierce my beating heart.
I'll fall from the saddle and lie in death's condition
Until dogs chase the crows and tear what's left of me apart.

CHORUS:

O, Virginia...hear your son,
Please forgive the wrong I've done.
O, Virginia...hear your boy,
Let these tears be tears of joy.

Fires are burning, a voice is softly singing
Sweet songs from a world that seems a thousand miles away.
The angels are learning the names they'll soon be winging
To the throne, but in the meantime we got hell to pay.

CHORUS:

We walked by the river underneath the moonlight,
When I close my eyes I still can see it shining in her hair.
The words to this letter have to come out just right
If they're gonna shine for her someday when I'm not there.

CHORUS:

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Eldorado Poem by E.A. Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old-
This knight so bold-
And o'er his heart a shadow
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow-
"Shadow," said he,
"Where can it be-
This land of Eldorado?"

"Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,"
The shade replied-
"If you seek for Eldorado!"

Soul

by John Flynn

They touch sometimes of this I'm sure
That yours touched mine and I touched your
Soul... soul

From cups too full we sip the wine
Your spirit spilling into my
Soul... soul

Chorus: Don't be afraid now sister
I won't betray your whispered
Confidences... I'm defenseless
Against the light that's shining
There in your eyes and finding
Something timeless, is it kindness?

This lonely search for something more
Than pleasure's church brought me to your
Soul... soul

Bridge:
Something in my heart smiled
The first time I saw your face
Like a lost child who wakes up at last
in a familiar place

No wall, no fence not even love
Protects against the nakedness of

Soul... soul

Chorus: Don't be afraid now sister
I won't betray your whispered
Confidences... I'm defenseless
Against the light that's shining
There in your eyes and finding
Something timeless, is it kindness?

We touch sometimes
of this I'm sure

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Get Up (Tracy G's Last Will and Testament) by John Flynn

Intro:

Wont let his blood on the cement
Be his last will and testament
So I take his last words to me
Inside the penitentiary

VERSE:

Tell my brothers as their bits
Get down to the get up
Don't let nothing make 'em quit
Get down to the get up
If they've really had their fill
Get down to the get up
Of this place called gander hill
Get down to the get up

Chorus:

Get up, get up
Everybody get up
Get up, get up
Get down to the get up

Whether they be short or long
Get down to the get up
Make the dream of freedom strong
Get down to the get up
For the ones they love he said
Get down to the get up
Ain't no good locked up or dead
Get down to the get up chorus

Bridge:

He said, i cried a million tears
He said i slept a thousand years
Now that i am finally free he swore
I don't need to sleep no more

From the needle and the gun
Get down to the get up
On the streets of wilmington
Get down to the get up
Old heads and the youngun's too
Get down to the get up
Got a lot of work to do
Get down to the get up chorus

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If I Fall Behind

by John Flynn

In the field by the stone wall
A crowd gathers round
As runners move up to the line
Though I'll match your stride
At the sound of the gun
Don't worry if I fall behind

I smile to remember
Not so long ago
You'd struggle to stay by my side
But green leaves have turned now
To yellow and to red
Don't worry if I fall behind

CHORUS:

We've each got to run our own race, child
Though one day we'll stumble and fall
We'll meet up again when the circle of friends
Gathers at the old stone wall

Gently the hills bid us quicken the pace
As higher and harder we climb
If I can give is all that I have
Don't worry if I fall behind

Now you pull ahead with the sun burning gold
On your strong young shoulders it shines
Like all of the pride and the love in my heart
As I start falling behind
(chorus)

The finish-line breeze will leave salt on my skin
Where sweat like tear stains has dried
I'll lie in the cool grass as doubt, fear and pain
Soon begin falling behind

In the field by the stone wall a crowd gathers round...

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Just like Merle Haggard Said (Sing Me Back Home)

by John Flynn

Hey Mister singer-man, sing me a song
Though I haven't been there in so very long
My soul can fly over walls made of stone
If you'll lift your voice, Sir, and sing me back home

Please sing back to a place in the sun
Where men can be more than the worst things they've done
And only God numbers their days or their bones
Please Mister Singer-man, sing me back home

Deep in my heart, sir, I have to believe
What I've done ain't all that there is to me
But if I'm just my story, then, Mister, please sing
Not just one awful verse, but the whole god damned thing

Sometimes in my dreams I can almost recall
A time when my heart knew no pain at all
When nights held no fear, and my days held no shame
Singer-man, please sing me back there again

Please sing me back to a place and a time
Before my life was much more than a crime
Back to the laughter and love I have known
Please Mister Singer-man, sing me back home

Deep in my heart, sir, I try to believe
That my life is more than history
But if I'm just my story, then, Mister, please sing
Not just one awful verse, but the whole god damned thing

Please Mister Singer-man, sing me a song
I know what I've done with my life is wrong
My body is shackled no more shall I roam
Please Mister Singer-man, sing me back home

Just like Merle Haggard said, sing me back home
Just like ol' Merle said, sing me back home

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Backstage With The Devil (A Song For Kris)

by John Flynn

Backstage with the Devil that he beat so long ago,
Wondering if there were still hard feelings.
It never gets no easier for a man to save his soul
But it had been a while since they had dealings.

The Devil said you really dodged a bullet there old son.
I thought that you were just another dreamer.
There ain't many nowadays who could do what you have done,
Besides as I get older I get meaner.

The Old Man's eyes grew narrow as he stroked his beard of gray,
Then he picked up his guitar and he began to play.

The Devil said the price of following the heart's too steep,
His laughter sounded just like rolling thunder.
As he said dreams of mortal men are purchased on the cheap,
Their birthright sold for promises of comfort.

The Devil said I tried so hard to buy that soul from you,
When I came bearing money, fame and pleasure.
Somehow you picked my pockets and still found ways to be true
To the songs and freedom that you treasure.

The Old Man's eyes were bluer than the tunes he'd love to hum,
As he looked down at his guitar and he began to strum.

On top of that, the Devil said, You made it tough for me
To strike up deals with those in desperation.
Your maddening three chord parables of human dignity
Spoiled several of my negotiations.

In the end not one single soul gets out of here alive,
The Devil hissed as they parted the curtains.
The Old Man laughed because he could not remember a time
When of a lie, he'd ever been more certain.

The Old Man looked like someone who was less than half his age,
When he strapped on his guitar and strode out on the stage.

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