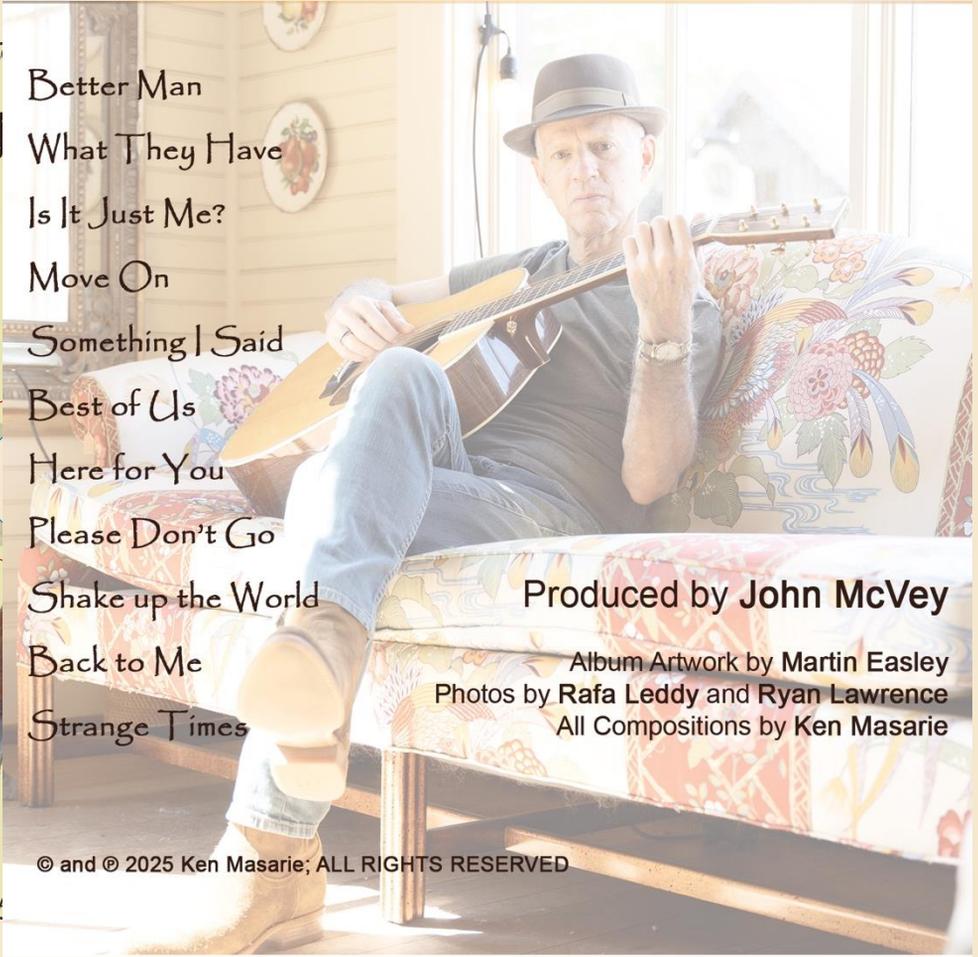
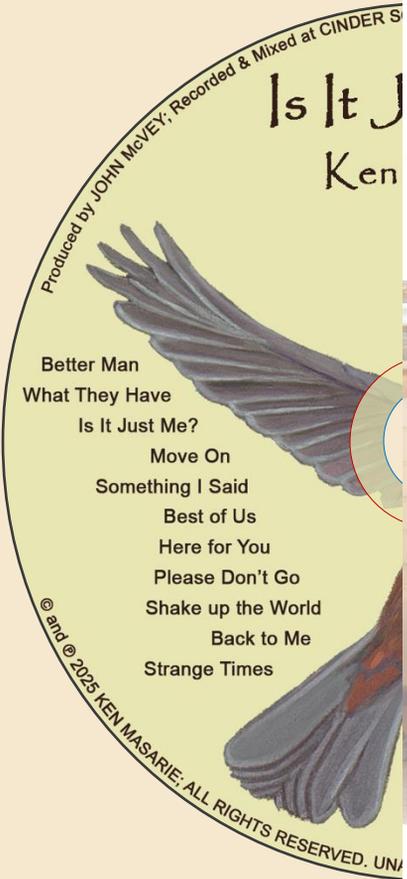


Is It Just Me?(2025, album)



Thank you for taking time to listen to these songs and read these words. This project took several unexpected turns. First, I went searching for a slightly different sound, one with a bit more of an edge. To this end, I did not record any demos before going into the studio; the songs were complete but still moldable. I then asked John and those exceptionally talented musicians to go where the melody and lyrics take them. The result is a sound that reflects my heart through the hearts of others. Second, I intended to release this album online only. When childhood friend and amazing artist, Martin Easley, and I reconnected in 2021, we decided to collaborate on this project; his artwork and my tunes. As a result, this album is available on vinyl, CD, and online. Lastly, these songs reflect my thoughts and experiences and as I make my way through this life. I find that I am often grateful, content, inquisitive, inspired, silly, and reflective. And sometimes, I am anxious, and I fret about so many things that I cannot control. And so I wonder... Is It Just Me?

Is It Just Me?(2025, album)



Better Man
What They Have
Is It Just Me?
Move On
Something I Said
Best of Us
Here for You
Please Don't Go
Shake up the World
Back to Me
Strange Times

Produced by **John McVey**
Album Artwork by **Martin Easley**
Photos by **Rafa Leddy** and **Ryan Lawrence**
All Compositions by **Ken Masarie**

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Thank you, John McVey. You have been a friend and mentor to me for more than a decade now. Thank you, Eric Moon (keyboards), Kevin Matthews (Drums), Bradley Morse (Bass), Katie Mintle (Vocals), and Natalie Padilla (Fiddle) for sharing your amazing talent. Thank you, Martin Easley for taking me on this amazing journey with you. Thank you, Pieter and Susanna for modeling how to be. Thank you, Alex and Annie for pure joy, inspiration, and friendship. And thank you My Love for sharing yourself and this life adventure with me.



Is It Just Me?(2025, album)

Is It Just Me?

Produced by JOHN McVEY

Recorded at CINDER SOUND STUDIOS, Longmont, CO;

and at BLAIR HOUSE STUDIO, Franklin, TN

Engineered by JOHN McVEY and KEN MASARIE

Mixed by JOHN McVEY

Mastered by MARK FULLER

Album Artwork by MARTIN EASLEY

Photos by RAFA LEFFY and RYAN LAWRENCE

Musical Contributions by

JOHN McVEY (Guitars, Vocals);

ERIC MOON (keyboards);

KEVIN MATTHEWS (Drums);

BRADLEY MORSE (Bass);

NATALIE PADILLA (Fiddle);

KATIE MINTLE (Vocals)

All songs by KEN MASARIE

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When you look into the mirror,

tell me who is it you see.

Is it the old one you've become

or the child you used to be?



Lyrics

Better Man (Masarie, 2024)

We don't stand on common ground/No matter how we both might try/These four walls can't hold the two of us/It's best we said goodbye/ Now I have something to say/Something I hope you can hear/I've learned to forgive and let go/I thought you'd want to know/That I am a better man/I am a better man/Took me years to say we do the best we can/And now I am a better man/How the years rolled right on by/ With our hearts held in our hands/There's nothing much left to reconcile, behind these lines drawn in the sand/Now I have something to say/something I hope you can hear/I've learned to forgive and let go/I thought you'd want to know/That I am a better man/I am a better man/Took me years to say we do the best we can/And now I am a better man/We never try to know each other's pain/Or tear down these walls in our way/We only share a lifetime of shame/Blood and a name/There's oil, oil and water/There's war, war and peace/ You know night and day don't exist together/ And neither can you and me/God says we should love one another/ But not everything goes as planned/Somehow we always circle back around/Behind these lines drawn in the sand/Now I have something to say/Something I hope you can hear/I've learned to forgive and let go/I thought you'd want to know/That I am a better man/I am a better man/Took me years to say we do the best we can/And now I am a better man/A better man

What They Have (Masarie, 2020)

I love my walks late at night/Alone with my thoughts under the moonlight/I'm not looking to find someone else/No I'm good here by myself/Until the day I was caught off my guard/They appeared out of nowhere and jumped my heart/ They were talking and laughing, and carrying on/They were two

young lovers having too much fun/How could I have been so wrong/To think I'm better off here on my own/Now I've seen how love can last/I want just what they have/I want what they have/Whenever I'm out walking, they're out walking too/Always hand in hand, sometimes they're howling at the moon/They make it look so easy, look so fine/But I know love like that's so hard to find/He still makes her smile, she holds on to his hand/They can walk along in silence or they can talk and laugh/It's love like that you don't see everyday/ No it's love like that you just can't explain/How could I have been so wrong/To think I'm better off here on my own/Now I've seen how love can last/I want just what they have/I want what they have/I use to think I had answers/To some of those questions why/But with matters of my heart I was lost and in the dark/'til those two young lovers happened on by/They happened on by/ Seasons come and go, and I'm still here on my own/I think he might be gone now 'cause she's walking alone/And she looks right through me with a smile on her face/She'll carry his love to the end of her days/How could I have been so wrong/To think I'm better off here on my own/Now I've seen how love can last/I want just what they have/I want what they have/Now I've seen how love can last/I want just what they have

Is It Just Me? (Masarie, 2022)

Lately I've been having the same bad dream/Where I can't move or wake myself, I can't scream/It's a cold place with childhood friends I haven't seen since way back when/I say, hey, how you been? they turn and run from me/You see they all haven't changed a bit, they're still the age they were as kids/ Except for me, I'm 63, I'm old but I feel young/ That ain't right, that ain't fair these kids caught up in my nightmare/I could use your help to clear the air 'cause I wonder "Is it just me?"/

Lyrics

I'm tired and I want to get some sleep/I'm hoping you might just humor me/When you look into the mirror tell me who is it you see/Is it the old one you've become or the child you used to be?/Forgive me, I'm sorry, I've been going on awhile/Tell me all about yourself, I bet you're livin' in style/It seemed to me you always knew, exactly what it was you'd do/So how's that turning out for you, did you win the game of life/I wish we would've stayed in touch, but life is full, and hard enough/To get these ducks all lined up, maybe someday/But that ain't why I'm calling you, this dream I dream's got me unglued/And I need your help to see the truth 'cause I wonder "Is it just me?"/I'm tired, and I want to get some sleep/I'm hoping you might just humor me/When you look into the mirror tell me who is it you see/Is it the old one you've become or the child you used to be?/I don't feel at all like I've got one foot in the grave/I've got energy to spare, I'm still learning everyday/And I just don't feel like that old man inside the mirror/who looks somewhat like my father in his later years/What's that? yeah the kids are fine/They're all grown now, they got their own lives/I got one in music city, climbing ladders sittin' pretty/A force of nature really, she's my everything/And my boy's in Colorado, he's doing things that matter/Going to make this planet better, he's my everything/But that ain't why I'm calling/you, this dream I dream's got me unglued/And I need your help to see the truth 'cause I wonder "Is it just me?"/I'm tired, and I want to get some sleep/I'm hoping you might just humor me/When you look into the mirror tell me who is it you see/Is it the old one you've become or the child you used to be?/Lately I've been having the same bad dream

Move On (Masarie, 2000)

It's cold as ice in there/The fire has no life, smothered by the years/Air that burns your

lungs and scars your soul/Can never warm your heart again or heal this broken home/So carefully you move about the room/With one eye on the storm that's always brewing/The sky swells with anger and thunders from its cage/Strikes as you seek shelter from its rage/Move on/Dry those eyes/ Don't look back, you've paid your dues/ Move on/ Strands of life, stretched thin/They're worn and frayed, and torn at the ends/You try to ease the tension and minimize the strain/But honesty is brutal here, life will never change/Move on/Heal your wounds/Find your strength to leave this room/Move on/Nobody knows what goes on behind those walls/We only see what we are meant to see/Nobody knows what goes on behind those walls/In that old house down at the end of the street/Still it's cold as ice in there/Just the two of them remain, no one else comes near/They stand alone defeated by unmeasured loneliness/ The war is finally over and no one, no one's left/ Move on/Dry those eyes/Heal your wounds/Find your strength to leave this room/ Don't look back, you've paid your dues/Move on, move on/You're full of self-doubt, the burden of blame/You carry this guilt with its eternal flame/You're on to them now with their foolish games/You're angry and restless and free from your chains/Move on/Move on/Move on

Something I Said (Masarie, 2018)

Last night she was in to me/Then left while I was still asleep/It must have been something I said/I play it over in my mind/The dinner, dancing, and the wine/It must have been something I said/I know what I feel is true/But sometimes it's the words I choose/They fall short of what I want to say/I can't know how she will hear/What leaves my lips to touch her ears/I'll keep on trying 'til I find/What makes her want to stay next time/So this is how it went for years/She'd love me up then disappear/It must have been something I said/I'd try too much or not enough/To be the man she says she'll love/It must have been something I said/I know what I feel is true/But

Lyrics

sometimes it's the words I choose/They fall short of what I want to say/I can't know how she will hear/What leaves my lips to touch her ears/I'll keep on trying 'til I find/What makes her want to stay next time/When will I learn to sit with words awhile/To hold my tongue until I get them right/Then and only then I'll let them go/And even then I still won't know/Now I can't say I understand/Why she comes back around again/I used to think it was something I said/ But I see it's just a game to her/She twists my lines and turns my words/Until it's my fault instead/I know what I feel is true/But sometimes it's the words I choose/They fall short of what I want to say/I can't know how she will hear/What leaves my lips to touch her ears/There's always something there between the lines/I'll keep on trying 'til I find/What makes her want to stay this time

Best of Us (Masarie, 2021)

I walked into this room, I can't remember why/I'm sure I had a reason but now it slips my mind/So I pretend I'm deep in thought to hide that I'm confused/But she's already on to me and mildly amused/She says, retrace your steps my love/I'm sure it will come back to you it always does/Happens to the best of us/And then there was that time when I couldn't quite explain/I introduced my best friend to her as what's his name/We all had a good laugh but I was mortified/'cause he's been like a brother to me all my life/She says, take a deep slow breath my love/I'm sure it will come back to you it always does/Happens to the best of us/The best of us, remind the rest of us/We all make mistakes and play the fool/And when the mind goes blank with only ourselves to thank/She's always there with kind words to say/Don't know what I did to be here with the best of us/It's funny how life works, we'd both given up the search/When suddenly we find each

other's world/It's never too late for another first date/Even if I don't remember it's our first/Happens to the best of us, and the best of us, is in us all/After a good night out on the town/I park the car, turn off the lights, begin to fool around/She puts her hand on mine and with her sweetest smile/She says why are we here in our neighbor's drive/Let's clear our heads and walk awhile my love/I'm sure it will come back to you it always does/Happens to the best of us/The best of us, remind the rest of us/We all make mistakes and play the fool/And when the mind goes blank with only ourselves to thank/She's always there with kind words to say/Don't know what I did to be here with the best of us/Don't know what I did to be here with the best of us

Here for You (Masarie, 2018)

We see you hiding in the darkness/See you try to wipe those tears away/We know that fear in those eyes of yours/It's hard, hard to find your way/This time of year can test your faith/When expectations run so high/Everyone's smiling and laughing/And we all have darkness somewhere inside/We are here for you, here for you/We are here for you, here for you/This is what we do/This is who we are/This is why we're here/You say you're tired of feeling lonely/And where's that angel watching over you/You wish there was someone who you could blame/Or know that others feel the way you do/So you turn to friends who can be cruel/Who cut you down when they are feeling small/Don't you walk away feeling less of who you are/Sometimes those friends aren't friends at all/We are here for you, here for you/We are here for you, here for you/This is what we do/This is who we are/This is why we're here/All of us have lost our way at points along the road/It's darker and it's colder when you're down and

Lyrics

on your own/You sometimes hide behind a smile so others just won't know/But they'll know, they will know/And you'll know too/You'll know too/When you find your way back home again/Standing tall, strong and free/There's nothing now that you can't overcome/And no one, no one you can't be/We are here for you, here for you/We are here for you, here for you/This is what we do/This is who we are/This is what we do/This is who we are/This is why we're here

Please Don't Go (Masarie, 2021)

I want to be wrong, don't want to be right/But I hear it in your voice, I see it in your eyes/Don't want to wake up in the morning/And wish I'd stayed the night/And it hurts my heart to see you in pain/Struggling alone with the weight of your chains/In all those times when I was lost/It was you who always helped me find my way/I don't want you to go/No, I don't want you to go/Who will I talk to now/Only you know me inside and out/So please don't go/I can say your name, without any regrets/I remember those times, we were at our best/When you and I were thick as thieves/It was us against all the rest/But it's been awhile since those days/We let our lives get in the way/You know I thought I lost my chance/To tell you what I've always meant to say/I don't want you to go/No, I don't want you to go/Who will I talk to now/Only you know me inside and out/So please don't go/I'm here for you/You're here for me/When you're alone in the night/Follow my voice into the light/I want you to know, you can change your mind/It's never too late, there's always time/No one's keeping score/We've all been there before, and it's all right, it's all right/I don't want you to go/No, I don't want you to go/Who will I talk to now/Only you know me inside and out/So please don't go/Please don't go

Shake up the World (Masarie, 2021)

A friend of a friend mentioned your name/All those memories came flooding back again/We were young and strong, making changes, righting wrong/There was fire in our belly in those days/But now we sit around and talk about old times/Piss and moan about the world and the big bag of lies/We're stuck here in our past those days were never gonna last/ Come on let's find a cause to get behind/Let's make some noise and rattle cages/That's why we're here, why we're here/Like those before and those to come/We got to rise above, keep on shaking up/This world/Now some folks say we've passed our prime/Who the hell are they to think they decide/I don't know about you I'm gonna keep on doing what I do/Fuck those who say we've passed our prime/Let's make some noise and rattle cages/That's why we're here, why we're here/Like those before and those to come/We got to rise above, keep on shaking up/This world/We got one run down this road/Before it's time to go/We can take it slow or hit the gas/Take it fast, and hope we don't lose control/It's up to us, you know, we got one run down this road/Down this road/So let's you and I linger here awhile/We can raise more Cain before we dim the lights/And still make changes on this stretch of road remaining/When we die, we'll die fighting/ Let's make some noise and rattle cages/ That's why we're here, why we're here/Like those before and those to come/We got to rise above, keep on shaking up this world/Shaking up this world/Shaking up this world

Back to Me (Masarie, 2023)

I don't know why I sometimes lose my way/Thought by now I'd know myself and know my place/It's no wonder I go searching for something/To put my mind at ease/There's a voice rambling on inside my head/Casting

Lyrics

doubts on all I've done and all I've said/Do I really need reminding of all the times my life's gone off the rails/I'm almost to where I'm going/May be hard I know for some to understand/But I'm so close now to where I'm going/Where I'm going is back to who I am/If I could find the strength to ask a friend for help/And not be afraid to open up to someone else/Maybe I could make just one small change by/Getting out of my own way/It's okay that I sometimes come undone/And that I march to the beat of my own drum/When I try to be someone I'm not/It never works out well for anyone/I'm almost to where I'm going/May be hard I know for some to understand/But I'm so close now to where I'm going/Where I'm going is back to who I am/Who I am, is all places I have been/All the strangers, the family and the friends/And all my ups and all my downs and in between/That's what made me, what's made me, me/So here I am, this is me/My imperfections are the features that you see/I've found my road to travel down so I'll see you at the end of our days/I'm almost to where I'm going/May be hard I know for some to understand/But I'm so close now to where I'm going/Where I'm going is back to who I am/Where I'm going is back to who I am

Strange Times (Masarie, 2020)

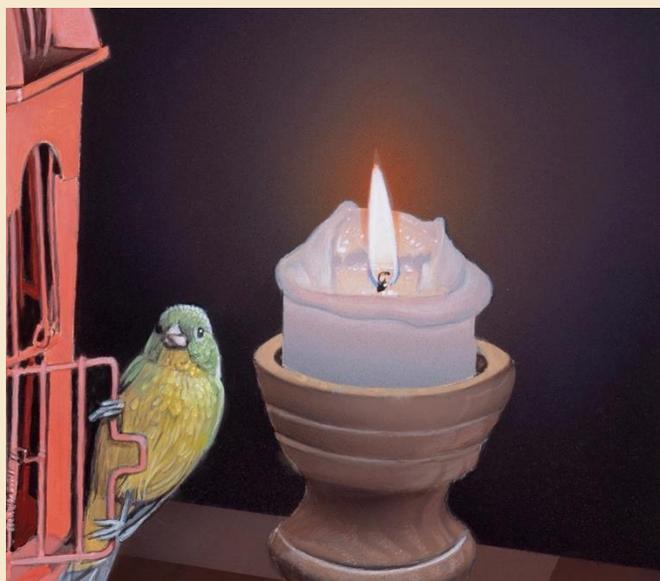
You all better stay away from me/Don't know where I've been or who I've seen/I may be the devil in disguise/You better take cover, you better run and hide/How did we get here, how did we get here, and how do we get home/I fear most the fear that's in his eyes/I know it's gonna make him run or make him turn and fight/When his back's against the wall, somebody pays/The strong survive, the weak are left to pray/How did we get here, how did we get here, and how do we get on home/Strange times, stranger days/I see you, I miss you, now stay away/You got to take care of

yourself, there ain't nobody else/These are strange times, stranger days/I got nothing new to say/I didn't leave the house again today/But I read the news they say we will be fine/It's just gonna take a little more time/Guess we're going to know when the time is right/To step out from the dark into the light/I'm grateful, I'm grateful don't you get me wrong/ But millions of us are gone, gone, gone/ How did we get here, how did we get here, and how do we get on home/ Strange times, stranger days/I see you, I miss you, now stay away/ You got to take care of yourself, there ain't nobody else/ These are strange times, stranger days/ Strange times, stranger days

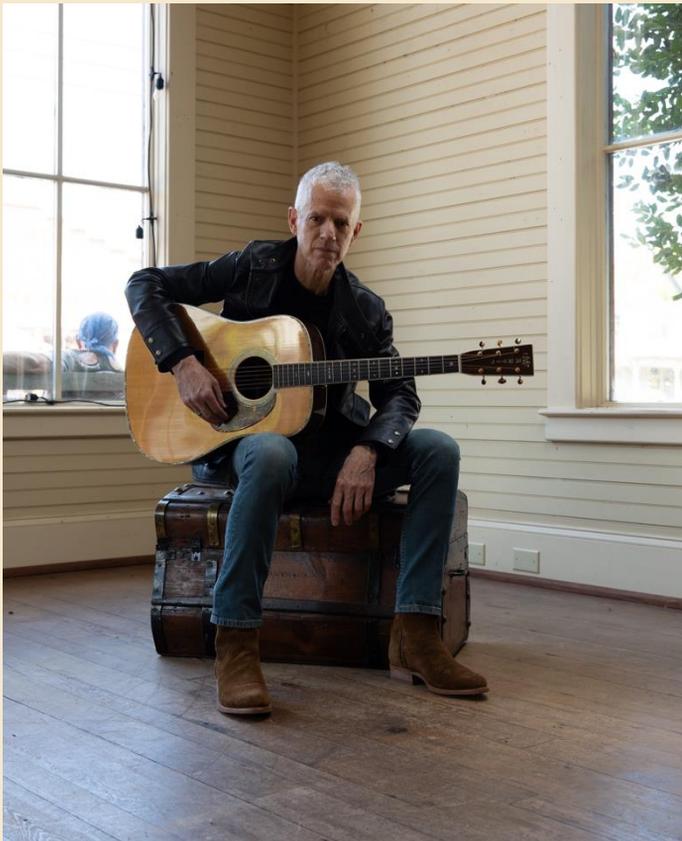
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The Band

Guitar, Vocals: Ken Masarie
Guitars, Vocals: John McVey
Drums: Kevin Matthews
Bass: Bradley Morse
Keyboards: Eric Moon
Vocals: Katie Mintle
Fiddle: Natalie Padilla



Photos



Album Art created by old friend and artist, Martin Easley. Producer John McVey, the man, the myth! Creative geniuses at work in the studio include Eric Moon (keyboards), Kevin Matthews (drums), and Bradley Morse (bass) peace. Katie Mintle (vocals) and Natalie Padilla (fiddle) not shown.



Photos

