



Song by Song

1. Blessed Are The Ones

My parents had a bottle of wine someone had given them as a gift for an anniversary; it had their names and their wedding date hand-painted on the bottle. It sat above our dish cabinet for years and years, as long as I can remember of my childhood. My favorite line from *Blessed Are The Ones* is from the second verse: it says, “Let’s build a house with turned out doors so we can share what love affords, and pour ourselves out like a wine we’ve been saving.” *Blessed* is a statement about what Billy and I want our marriage to be – lifelong, missional, giving, and sacrificial.

2. Even The Winter

Certain times in our lives can almost directly mirror the seasons. There’s something decidedly wintry about a long period of disconnection with someone you love. That can feel interminable...despairing, really. But there is a strong, deep, overarching belief in my heart that truly, when you lay your life down for someone else, even the winter won’t last forever.

3. The Way You Move

It’s not often I write a song to a virtue, but this is my little love song to Love. It’s Love I’m referring to when I say “You’re like a lion standing in my house, taking off the doors on your way in.” Love costs nothing, but demands everything of those who accept it.

4. Sparrow

I first heard the song “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” when I was ten years old, in the movie *Sister Act 2*. Lauryn Hill sings it in the chapel. And my mom used to sing it in our house when I was growing up. I’ve always loved the lyric. So I decided to rearrange it to a new melody, and now I sing it at every show. I think it’s really sweet.

5. Breaking You

Breaking You is about jailbreak. Heartbreak can be a prison. I’ve spent years in it before. I want my heart, and the hearts of those I love, to be free.

6. O My Soul

Several months back, I was watching Feist’s documentary/live DVD, “Look At What The Light Did Now”. I found her brave creativity and strong vision so compelling, so inspiring...and I thought of a lyric right there on the spot, thinking about how much I let my fears inhibit me in love, in creativity, in dreaming. And so I wrote down, “Deep in your heart, you feather and tar your folly and fear: expose them for the fools they are, and the world comes clear. Don’t lie to yourself, o my soul.” This is one of my favorite songs on the album. I put it right in the middle so it wouldn’t get missed. Fear is a terrible master, and I do not wish to serve it.

7. Won Me Over

Won Me Over is, simply, a look over my shoulder at the “hound of heaven”...He’s pursuing, persistent, and patient.

8. No Turning Back

I wrote the beginning of these lyrics on a late night flight home from somewhere or other... “My little heart is swelling with a song from somewhere else. It’s filling up with glory and I’m ringing like a bell.” It’s about full freedom--running recklessly forward on the narrow road, my heart almost bursting out of my chest. I don’t write a lot of songs about that stuff. But Joy is important. I wanted to write a song about it.

9. Lament

This is perhaps my favorite song on the record -- it also happens to be the oldest. I wrote it with Pete Kipley way back before my first record, *The House You're Building*, was even recorded. I've never been able to get it out of my head...and so it made it onto *Heart*, and I couldn't be happier.

In the Old Testament portion of the Bible, it talks about Jacob wrestling the angel of the Lord for a blessing. Thousands of years later, I'm wrestling with God in the night too. It's part of being human to be afraid of God, and to be uncertain of God. My beliefs anchor me, but I'm still human. "You wrestle me at night and I wake in search of you; but try as I might I just can't catch you. But I want to, because I need you."

10. Wherever You Go

The story of the Prodigal Son certainly emerged as a theme on this record...not overtly, but sort of as a surprise to me actually. I look back at these songs now, a year or years after writing them, and they're telling me things about my own heart. *Wherever You Go* is a song for someone running away...a call to return home...and it's musically one of my favorites on the album. When we tracked this, Jeremy Lutito's drumming at the end of the track brought me and several others to tears. There's just something sort of special about it, I think.

11. Slow

Perhaps one of the most personal, honest, close lyrics I've ever written (and I wrote this song alone), *Slow* is about intimacy with God. It speaks for itself, I hope. "You've drawn so close that it's hard to see you. And you speak so softly that it's hard to hear you."

12. New Song

This is another one of my favorites (I do play favorites, even with my own songs). I wrote it with Bryan Brown one day last year. He played me a guitar lick he had been playing around with and I immediately thought of these words "Far off hymns and funeral marches sound the same again." These words are about that weird feeling I get when all my emotions and experiences run together into one big grey mess. Sort of like ennui, or apathy, I guess. Sometimes I need a fresh breath, a new song...