

Notes on *Soundtrack Music: Make It All Your Own*

1. **Whistle Shed** (Anon./C. Brown) (1:05) [Anon. (AN)-keyboards, bass, whistling; Matt Brown (MB)-fretless bass; Clem Brown (CB)-keyboards, bass, percussion]

This could be called “Bass Heaven”. A sprightly tune written by Anon, it leads off with his looped basses and my brother joining in on fretless. When the tune kicks in, three walking basses jam under Anon’s high lead bass and whistling. This is an abbreviated version of a much longer composition.

2. **Black Tuesday** (C. Brown/M. Brown/J. Diotte) (4:22) [MB-guitars; CB-keyboards, synth, bass, percussion; Jim Diotte (JD)-drums]

I originally composed this one on the day my father died in March, 2009. In 2016, Jim Diotte solved a drum conundrum I hadn’t been able to solve when I first recorded it. In 2022, my brother Matt gave it some perfect finishing touches. Better late than never.

3. **March Ghosts** (Anon./C. Brown) (2:30) [AN-keyboards, guitar, bass, programmed drums; CB-guitars, erhu, percussion]

An Anon tune--with serious import--to which I added a few atmospheric touches. [The erhu is a high, mournful one-string bowed Chinese instrument that Anon and I have both used via a keyboard-triggered patch.] Note Anon’s superbly bold bass line.

4. **Make It All Your Own** (J. Diotte/C. Brown/M. Brown) (6:15) [MB-guitars; JD-keyboards, percussion, effects; CB-synths, guitar, percussion]

A Jim Diotte composition, which I gilded with lots of synth; Matt and I then topped it with a rock guitar duet (to Jim’s great chagrin, no doubt). Like all rock anthems, it’s a bit over the top, but it’s certainly soundtrack material.

5. **Alfie’s Theme** (S. Rollins) (4:08) [MB-guitars; CB-guitars, bass, percussion]

A favorite soundtrack tune, from Sonny Rollins’ great soundtrack for the 1966 Michael Caine/Shelley Winters movie [later re-recorded for the Impulse label]. Rollins’ “Theme” is not to be confused with Burt Bacharach and Hal David’s lovely title song, also heard in the movie in a version performed by Cher (which doesn’t begin to compare with the definitive version by Dionne Warwick). I recorded an instrumental version of that song for this album, too, but decided to leave it off. Maybe next time.

6. **Five Bells, Newport** (C. Brown/Anon./M. Brown) (4:47) [MB-guitar, mandolin, ukelele, fretless bass, effects; AN-erhu; CB-bells, effects, keyboards, erhu, alto sax, guitar, percussion]

A real soundtrack piece, meant to evoke the rarified atmosphere of mid-70s Thames Street in Newport, R.I., at 2:30 in the morning. I started this many years ago by recording five Indian and Tibetan bells from my collection and completed it thanks to evocative contributions from Anon on erhu and Matt on fretless bass and numerous acoustic instruments. A friend said it sounds more like India than Newport, which makes some sense since my family first came to the Newport area from Calcutta.

7. **Thumbs 2** (Anon./C. Brown) (1:32) [AN-kalimba, keyboards, whistling, bass, programmed drums; CB-synths, guitars, percussion]

A pithy snippet composed and mostly played by Anon, with some synth, wah-wah, and hand-drums added by me. This 2022 piece was our first collaboration since we originally collaborated in the late-1970s.

8. **From San Clemente** (C. Brown/M. Brown) (5:15) [MB-guitars; CB-synths, bass, guitar, percussion, effects]

The easy-going seaside town 62 miles south of LA inspired this piece (nothing to do with Richard Nixon). Originally written in 2010, my brother's recent impassioned and absolutely on-the-money contributions gave it a real sense of purpose. It's amazing how brothers—however different—can sometimes think alike.

9. **Green Thumb** (Anon./C. Brown) (2:01) [AN-keyboards, bass, guitar, programmed drums; CB-synth, guitars, banjo, percussion]

A funky tune composed by Anon, with a few instruments I added to the mix (love that wah-wah). Despite his shyness, Anon definitely has a green thumb: he's a potter, woodworker, horticulturist, drafter, astronomer, telescope-builder, sand artist, string artist, and writer, as well as a veteran composer and a solid and inventive bass player.

10. **It Was a Thursday, No, a Friday** (J. Diotte/C. Brown/Anon.) (3:50) [JD-pianos, keyboards, percussion; AN-bass; CB-guitar, melodica, banjo, percussion]

A beautiful melody composed and played by Jim Diotte (he plays the piano and all the other keyboards), with an absolutely spot-on bass part played by Anon, and a few atmospherics contributed by me. Love those Jim Diotte titles!

[**Total Time:** 35:45]

MANY THANKS TO MATT, JIM, AND ANON FOR THEIR WONDERFUL COMPOSITIONS AND MUSICIANSHIP, TO JIM FOR THE AWESOME COVER, AND TO JAMES M. BROWN FOR ALL THE REALLY HARD TECHNICAL WORK HE DID WHILE CALIFORNIA WAS AWASH AND HE WAS HELPING CARE FOR AN ACTIVE TWO-YEAR-OLD.

IT WOULD BE FUN TO DO THIS LIVE. IN THE MEANTIME, MAKE A MOVIE!