

Track listing

- 1 **No Wonder** {RA} [3'33]
Words & Music: Elvis Costello
Svante Henryson, cello; Steve Nieve, celesta, organ; Bengt Forsberg, piano, Hammond organ; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, acoustic guitar; Magnus Persson, marimba, percussion; Michael Blair, bass drum, percussion

An existing Elvis song rearranged for this album

- 2 **Baby Plays Around** {RA} [3'11]
Words & Music: Cait O'Riordan & Declan Patrick Aloysius MacManus
Elvis Costello, Lawery organ; Bengt Forsberg, Hammond organ; Pat White, flugelhorn; Svante Henryson, celtar; Mats Schubert, piano; Magnus Persson, vibraphone

A song for which Elvis gives most of the credit to his wife Cait.

- 3 **Go Leave** {RA} [2'49]
Words & Music: Anna McCarrigle
Elvis Costello, baritone guitar; Kalle Moraeus, violin; Svante Henryson, cello; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, acoustic guitar; Magnus Persson, bass drum, percussion

This song is by Canadian Anna McGarrigle

- 4 **Rope** {RA} [3'54]
Music: Fleshquartet / Words: Elvis Costello
Fleshquartet: Jonas Lindgren, violin, electric 5-string violin · Örjan Högberg, viola, electric 5-string violin · Mattias Helldén, cello, electric cello · Sebastian Öberg, cello, electric cello; Christian Olsson, drums, percussion

A song featuring music by the Fleshquartet with lyrics by Costello.

- 5 **Don't Talk (Put Your Head On My Shoulder)** {RA} [3'11]
Words & Music: Brian Wilson & Tony Asher
Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, pedal steel guitar; Svante Henryson, double bass; Magnus Persson, vibraphone

Taken from the much-lauded "Pet Sounds" album of the Beach Boys, written by Brian Wilson, it is not a familiar hit.

- 6 **Broken Bicycles / Junk** {RA} [4'05]
Words & Music: Tom Waits (Broken Bicycles) · Paul McCartney (Junk)
Elvis Costello, vocals; Benny Andersson, accordion; Svante Henryson, cello; Steve Nieve, piano; Mats Schubert, harmonium; Johan Lindström, electric guitar; Billy Bremner, acoustic guitar; Magnus Persson, percussion

Tom Waits's *Broken Bicycles* originally appeared in the Francis Ford Coppola movie "One From The Heart", but Costello put a personal spin on it by combining it in a new arrangement with Paul

McCartney's *Junk* ("this song originally seemed really weird for my voice, but I quickly grew to love it", says Anne Sofie of the Waits composition).

And perhaps no project of this nature could have been complete without a little twist of ABBA being sprinkled into the mix. During work on Costello's arrangement for *Broken Bicycles* and *Junk*, they decided they needed an accordion on it. Somebody suggested that ex-ABBA maestro Benny Andersson would be the perfect man for the job, phone calls were made, and Andersson obligingly bowed up to the studio with an accordion under each arm. "I met him 20 years ago at a folk festival in Sweden", Elvis reminisces. "I was with The Attractions, and for a gag we sang *Knowing Me Knowing You*. Benny remembered and we had a laugh about it."

7 The Other Woman {RA} [3'34]

Words & Music: Jessie Mae Robinson

Svante Henryson, cello; Bebe Risenfors, tenor saxophone; Bengt Forsberg, Hammond organ; Mats Schubert, piano; Magnus Persson, vibraphone

This song is one of Anne Sofie's particular favourites on the disc. It is written by Jessie Mae Robinson and memorably recorded by Nina Simone.

8 Like An Angel Passing Through My Room {RA} [4'56]

Words & Music: Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus

Benny Andersson, piano, Synclavier; Jonas Lindgren, violin; Örjan Högberg, viola; Mattias Helldén, cello

Benny Andersson's participation in "Broken Bicycles / Junk" wasn't all. Since Benny was there in the flesh, Anne Sofie popped the question of whether he would agree to play the piano on *Like An Angel Passing Through My Room*, a ballad from ABBA's final album "The Visitors". Benny agreed, and Costello barely had time to start the tapes rolling before Andersson and von Otter had rattled through an impeccable take of the song. Enthused by the experience, Andersson then took tapes of the track back to his own studio to add some of that magical ABBA fairy-dust. "Benny treated the song to some of his amazing post-production techniques, adding layers of colour", says Costello admiringly. "The result is that we have an amazing track."

9 Green Song {RA} [4'36]

Music: Svante Henryson / Words: Elvis Costello

Elvis Costello, vocals; Svante Henryson, cello; Mats Schubert, harmonium, Moog bass; Johan Lindström, acoustic guitar, electric guitar loops; Magnus Persson, marimba

Costello added English lyrics to an instrumental composition by Henryson to create *Green Song*.

10 April After All {RA} [2'49]

Words & Music: Ron Sexsmith

Elvis Costello, vocals; Kalle Moraeus, violin; Svante Henryson, cello; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, pedal steel guitar; Magnus Persson, vibraphone, bass drum, percussion

More Canadian input is supplied by *April After All* written by Ron Sexsmith, a songwriter much admired by Costello.

11 You Still Believe In Me {RA} [3'07]

Words & Music: Brian Wilson & Tony Asher

Elvis Costello, vocals; Steve Nieve, piano, celesta; Mats Schubert, harmonium; Johan Lindström, acoustic guitar; Ola Gustafsson, acoustic guitar; Svante Henryson, double bass; Magnus Persson, percussion; Michael Blair, vibraphone

A second song taken from the much-lauded "Pet Sounds" album of the Beach Boys, written by Brian Wilson. Again it is not a familiar hit.

12 I Want To Vanish {RA} [2'40]

Words & Music: Elvis Costello

Bebe Risenfors, clarinet, accordion; Svante Henryson, cello; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, electric guitar; Magnus Persson, vibraphone; Michael Blair, percussion

13 For No One {RA} [1'58]

Words & Music: Lennon / McCartney

Fleshquartet: Jonas Lindgren, violin, electric 5-string violin · Örjan Högberg, viola, electric 5-string violin · Mattias Helldén, cello, electric cello · Sebastian Öberg, cello, electric cello; Christian Olsson, drums, percussion

It was the Fleshquartet who supplied a new arrangement for the Lennon/McCartney song *For No One*.

14 Shamed Into Love {RA} [3'45]

Words & Music: Declan Patrick Aloysius MacManus & Rubén Blades

Elvis Costello, vocals; Bebe Risenfors, tenor saxophone; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, electric guitar; Svante Henryson, double bass; Magnus Persson, drums; Michael Blair, vibraphone

Inevitably, the seemingly infinite tunesmithery of Costello himself is much in evidence. Among his contributions is *Shamed Into Love*, a collaboration with Rubén Blades.

15 Just A Curio {RA} [4'17]

Music: Fleshquartet / Words: Elvis Costello

Fleshquartet: Jonas Lindgren, violin, electric 5-string violin · Örjan Högberg, viola, electric 5-string violin · Mattias Helldén, cello, electric cello · Sebastian Öberg, cello, electric cello; Christian Olsson, drums, percussion; Johan Lindström, pedal steel guitar

Another song featuring music by the Fleshquartet with lyrics by Costello.

16 This House Is Empty Now {RA} [4'36]

Music: Burt Bacharach / Words: Elvis Costello

Steve Nieve, piano; Svante Henryson, cello; Paul Pritchard, French horn; Mats Schubert, harmonium; Magnus Persson, vibraphone

A further contribution of the Costello tunesmithery. This song was co-written with Burt Bacharach.

17 Take It With Me {RA}

[3'16]

Words & Music: Tom Waits & Kathleen Brennan

Svante Henryson, cello; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, pedal steel guitar; Magnus Persson, vibraphone

The second of the two Tom Waits songs.

18 For The Stars {RA}

[2'44]

Words & Music: Elvis Costello

Elvis Costello, vocals, Höfner bass; Steve Nieve, piano; Mats Schubert, piano; Johan Lindström, acoustic guitar; Ola Gustafsson, acoustic guitar; Svante Henryson, double bass; Magnus Persson, drums; Michael Blair, percussion

For a finale to the album, Costello wanted a track that would "come as a bit of a happy surprise to the listener", a requirement he fulfilled by writing *For The Stars* and also by singing on it alongside Anne Sofie.