

"Long Way to be Free"

Harry Bird and the Rubber Wellies

Jon Lopez (Harry Bird)

jon lopez lit the spark of revolution
in every man and woman that he met
and no-one knew what drove him
be it love or hunger or some hidden debt
he'd appear whenever there was consternation
signs of suffering or somebody in need
and he'd always bring solutions
to the pain, injustice, fear and injury
and so solemn was his vow on each occasion
that they'd follow him like children down the road
but when it came to the hour for their hope to flower
old jon lopez never showed

well the heat and expectation were unbearable
as she stood outside the station in the shade
while the clock was busy striking out
all of the promises he'd ever made
she was thinking 'bout that very first encounter
when she'd looked up at him through swollen blinking eyes
she was thinking 'bout her new life
and the cruelty she'd surely left behind
she turned to face the soft approaching footsteps
the sweat running underneath her clothes
oh she waited for him til the light turned dim
but old jon lopez never showed

he said "how can you reproach me for deceitfulness
when I give all of them something to believe?
when they need a place to go to
i provide a destination for their ease
like that minotaur who bellows in the alley

because he can't see round the corners of his maze
the true joy of seeing visions
is the losing sight of everything you hate
and hope is like sunlight on their faces
it illuminates and makes the body grow
and as flesh turns to dust
if it hurts then it must
when old jon lopez never shows”

well i know that it's no kind of great solution
still i agreed to come and meet him here tonight
and I know i shouldn't trust him
cos of all the times he's lied to us outright
but he told me he had ways of getting through to you
yes he swore he'd make you see that you were wrong
so how could i not be tempted
after missing you so recklessly for so long?
because you burst into my heart like an avalanche
with the strength and beauty of snow
and babe i only want you back
so i came despite the fact
i know that old jon lopez never shows

Who's Gonna Lead the March upon the Jailhouse? (Harry Bird)

who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
when it's finally time for us to pay?
who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
mother, when we lock ourselves away?

o let it be the ones who lay the innocent in early graves
and all for an honest, decent pay go soldier
when duty calls and flags are flown they march out to protect their
own
split blood and brains and breast and bone and then speak of honour

who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
when it's finally time for us to pay?
who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
mother, when we lock ourselves away?

o let it be the men of politics whose lying interested lips
launch fighter planes and battle ships to glory
who far from where the conflict's fought send other people's sons to
war
and then sit back to watch it all on tv

who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
when it's finally time for us to pay?
who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
mother, when we lock ourselves away?

o let it be the business lords who, reaping warfare's rich rewards
smile when their company's share price soars as projected
whose multi-national vampires suck on brand new markets opened
up
cos massive contracts and big bucks are expected

who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
when it's finally time for us to pay?
who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
mother, when we lock ourselves away?

o let it first be you and i who speak the judgement from on high
so quick to cast blame without recognising our own share
we're the ones who give our votes, who buy the big macs and the
cokes
who teach and preach our young folk into warfare

who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
when it's finally time for us to pay?
who's gonna lead the march upon the jailhouse
mother, when we lock ourselves away?

Ban the Bomb! (Harry Bird)

they say “no, no, no, no
children, don't you ever play with matches!”
cos maybe, who knows
you could set the house a light
and there's a danger, o no!
sniffing glue that could muddle up your senses
and as everyone knows
you could kill yourself outright

there's a warning tag on your packet of fags
it's there for your health and safety
but the atom bomb can kill a million
and it's okay to kill you cos you're from another country

1,2,3...
ban the bomb! lay lay lay lay
yeah, it's bad for your health
ban the bomb! lay lay lay lay
they banned everything else

well it's illegal to sell certain plants
cos they've got some funny uses
the government man wants you to understand
he ain't having none of it
and there ain't no exceptional circumstance
you can run around with axes
you wield the blade and they'll put you away
you can be assured of it

they outlawed guns not to spoil your fun
no, they did it for your own protection
but if they care so much then why the rush
to threaten with the weapons of mass destruction?

1,2,3...

ban the bomb! lay lay lay lay
yeah, it's bad for your health
ban the bomb! lay lay lay lay
they banned everything else

She's Lost to Me (Harry Bird)

she's lost to me like a morning
you wake too late to discover
she's lost like the sun 'neath the ocean
to shine upon another

she's lost to me like a cold ember
now she burns in another man's fire
and blessed be the one who has taken
the thing I most desire

sweet be the wine that they're tasting
and long dwell the toast in their ears
and loud ring the swell of those marriage bells
to drown my raging tears

Hummingbird (Harry Bird)

hummingbird, won't you tell me where you've been so long?
don't you know i missed you and your sweet morning song?
everywhere i looked i hoped you'd greet me with a smile
hang around like you used to do and sing with me a while

hummingbird, you don't ever light on any tree
you don't wanna get stuck somewhere you shouldn't really be
there's hunters in the bushes out to catch you in the dark
but i don't need you in my hands to hold you in my heart

hummingbird, everybody someday gotta choose
and every time you gain something there's something else you lose

if i can't touch you anymore then i'll have to love the breeze
that one day just might bring you home my hummingbird to me

Dirty Hands (Harry Bird)

i've always kept myself well out of trouble
i've always kept my tongue inside my head
i've always kept a clean cut reputation
and the good book somewhere close beside my bed

but there's only one thing i want
when my time on this earth ends
a pair of dirty hands, oh lord
and a clean conscience

well everywhere i've been i've seen oppression
and everywhere i've been i've seen abuse
and everywhere i've been i've put a blind eye on the table
cos it never costs you anything to lose

but there's only one thing i want
when my time on this earth ends
a pair of dirty hands, oh lord
and a clean conscience

lay lay lay...

they said jesus shouldn't heal a man on sunday
he shouldn't eat with sinners and he shouldn't have fun
well some rules are just waiting to be broken I guess
so i think it's time i started breaking some

but there's only one thing i want
when my time on this earth ends
a pair of dirty hands, oh lord
and a clean conscience

The Beard Snood (Harry Bird and Christophe Capewell)

the beard snood sat on my beard-i-o
stopped hair from falling in the baker's dough
the beard snood sat on my beard-i-o
whilst my beard did grow
lay lay lay lay.....

the beard snood sat on my tash-i-o
stopped hair from falling in the pistachios
the beard snood sat on my tash-i-o
whilst my tash did grow
lay lay lay lay.....

the beard snood sat on my sidies-o
stopped hair from falling in the bridies-o
the beard snood sat on my sidies-o
whilst my sidies did grow
lay lay lay lay.....

the beard snood
protects the food
from hairy intruders

La Grietita (Harry Bird)

en mi casita hay una grietita
un agujerito en la pared
para que entre la luz de la luna
y el sol que apenas se ve
¡y la grieta soy yo!
¡y la grieta soy yo!
porque un cambio de aire se necesita ya
y si todas las grietitas se juntan verás
en vez de la casa un gran agujero
tanto espacio para hacer posible otro mundo

en mi casa hay mucho dinero
pero no tanta igualdad
en mi casa hay mucho derecho
pero no tanta libertad

en mi casita hay una grietita
un agujerito en la pared
para que entre la luz de la luna
y el sol que apenas se ve
¡y la grieta soy yo!
¡y la grieta soy yo!
porque un cambio de aire se necesita ya
y si todas las grietas se juntan verás
en vez de la casa un gran agujero
tanto espacio para hacer posible otro mundo

lay lay lay.....

en mi casa hay muchas armas
pero no tanta seguridad
en mi casa hay muchas palabras
pero no tantas de verdad

en mi casita hay una grietita
un agujerito en la pared
para que entre la luz de la luna
y el sol que apenas se ve
¡y la grieta soy yo!
¡y la grieta soy yo!
porque un cambio de aire se necesita ya
y si todas las grietas se juntan verás
en vez de la casa un gran agujero
tanto espacio para hacer posible otro mundo

lay lay lay.....

Ain't Got Far to Go (Harry Bird)

i'm ready with the butcher's knife
i'm ready with the blow
up you get my own true love
cos we ain't got far to go

no, don't you fear the wolves at night
and don't you fear the ghosts
only fear the ones you love
when they're tearing at your throat

your eyes they look like earth to me now
the day is nearly done
soon i'll lay your body down
with the sun

so won't you take my hand now love
and won't you take my coat
and won't you kiss me one last time
cos we ain't got far to go

no, don't you fear the wolves at night
or the thundering skies
only fear the ones you love
when there's sadness in their eyes

Bonnie Glenshee (Traditional)

o do you see yon shepherds
as they all walk along
with their plaids pulled about them
and their sheep they graze on?

busk, busk bonnie lassie
won't you come along with me
and i'll take you to glenisola

near bonnie glenshee

o do you see yon soldiers
as they all walk along
with their guns on their shoulders
and their broadswords hanging down?

busk, busk bonnie lassie
won't you come along with me
and i'll take you to glenisl
near bonnie glenshee

o do you see yon high hills
all covered in snow?
they've parted many a true love
and they'll soon part us two

busk, busk bonnie lassie
won't you come along with me
and i'll take you to glenisl
near bonnie glenshee

The Lizard (Harry Bird)

when the sun comes out
out comes the lizard
lazing around and flicking her tail
when the sun goes home
home goes the lizard
til the sun comes out again

see the way she slides
my what a lizard!
she's got so many beautiful scales
see the way she shines
she's wearing mirrors
lighting up the coast of wales

going down to the atlantic sea, yeah
all the boys all sigh
she's sitting underneath a palm tree
drinking a bottle of hawaii

she's catching flies
that greedy lizard
her long, sticky tongue doesn't make any sound
she gets a pomegranate
out of the cupboard
that's the way to wash 'em down

Fire in the Hold (Harry Bird)

there's a gunpowder fire down below deck
and none want to die in the flames
so we'll scupper ourselves and get shipwrecked
so to drown in the sea faring way

cos there's fire in the hold, ready to get scuppered
yes there's fire in the hold, ready to jump overboard
there's fire in the hold and a chopping at the beams
ready to get scuppered and welcome the sea

all through my life as a sailor
i've climbed in the rigging so high
well now i'll be ascending much higher
on the steps that lead up to the sky

cos there's fire in the hold, ready to get scuppered
yes there's fire in the hold, ready to jump overboard
there's fire in the hold and a chopping at the beams
ready to get scuppered and welcome the sea

drink boys there's plenty of liquor
drink while the ship's still afloat

cos soon you'll be drinking salt water
you'll just have to open your throat

cos there's fire in the hold, ready to get scuppered
yes there's fire in the hold, ready to jump overboard
there's fire in the hold and a chopping at the beams
ready to get scuppered and welcome the sea

now the captain's wife is a woman
in search of longevity
well now she'll never sleep in a coffin
never taste that mortuary

cos there's fire in the hold, ready to get scuppered
yes there's fire in the hold, ready to jump overboard
there's fire in the hold and a chopping at the beams
ready to get scuppered and welcome the sea

the captain's got a chest full of silver
and a leg that is made out of wood
well you can swim for your life with his treasure
but i'd steal me his leg if i could

cos there's fire in the hold, ready to get scuppered
yes there's fire in the hold, ready to jump overboard
there's fire in the hold and a chopping at the beams
ready to get scuppered and welcome the sea

Long Way to be Free (Harry Bird)

so much to be thankful for, so much i lack
i keep on moving forward, no, i don't look back
on fifty thousand miles beneath my feet
i died in the desert, i died in the deep
you won't remember mister cos my blood is cheap
but i've come such a long way to be free

i fought for every single step i took
through poverty and prejudice and paperwork
to each and every day his enemy
i've marched in the street, i've lain in prison
i've sung the police all my best bob dylan
and i've come such a long way to be free

i've come such a long way
i've come such a long way
i've come such a long way to be free

i come looking for a job but i've had no luck
i need a pie in which to get my finger stuck
i thought i knew what hunger did to me
i've sold everything to buy this field
now i'm just left here praying that the pearl is real
o i've come such a long way to be free

i've come such a long way
i've come such a long way to be free