



Issue 2 - August 2023

The Dirt On Digger Dan

REST IN PEACE OF MIND

WITH A FACE WHERE EACH LINE SEEMED TO SMILE
WITH A BIG WARM HUG THAT LASTS A LONG, LONG WHILE
WITH A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE
HE DEMANDS TO KNOW WHY
YOU NEVER ASKED HIM TO MOVE THAT PILE

HE WISHED HE CARRIED ON IN SCHOOL
AND MAYBE SOMETIMES HE FELT LIKE A MULE
BUT HE GRADUATED LIFE WITH HONOURS
HELPING THE SUPPOSED GONERS
AND MEASURING WITH THE CARPENTERS RULE

HE'D GIVE THE SHIRT RIGHT OFF OF HIS BACK
THEN HE'D FIND ANOTHER ONE ON THE RACK
THEN HE'D PASS THAT ONE OUT
COLD IN A BLACK OUT
WARMING ALL WITH A WISE CRACK

SOME ARE BORN INTO WEALTH OF ALL KINDS
BUT YOU EARNED IT IN ORDER TO FIND
THAT YOU PAID OFF ALL YOUR DEBTS
PLEASE HAVE NO REGRETS
AND REST IN PEACE OF MIND

HE WAS FROM THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOX
HIS PA DIED ON THE ROCKS
HIS MA GAVE TIRELESSLY
AND HIS SIS PROVIDED HARMONY
THROUGH DEX'S DETOX

This Issue:

HAPPY 78TH BIRTHDAY
DEXTER KAY SLOAN!

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ROLL YOUR SLEEVES UP
AND LET'S GET DIRTY:
Digger Dan Gets Into The
Guitar Teaching Business!

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GETTING DIG DOWN: AN
ONGOING SERIES ON THE
RECORDING PROCESS.

The Celist Sessions
Part TWO &
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A LUCKY MAN WERE YOU
NOT JUST ONE BEAUTIFUL WIFE, BUT TWO
THE BOOKENDS THAT HELPED KEEP YOU UP
WHILE YOU CLEANED THE INSIDE OF YOUR CUP
A LEARNED TO BE STRAIGHT AND TRUE

SURROUNDED BY ALL THEIR LOVING HOUNDS
ON THAT WINDING ROAD THAT LEADS TO THE
ELK VIEW POUND
IT WASN'T JUST PETS THEY TOOK IN
BUT FOLKS WITH NO NEXT OF KIN
A LOVING LOST AND FOUND

CHORUS

YOUR NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CHAIR
BUT YOUR RESPONSIBLE FOR MY HAIR
THE APPLE FALLS NOT FAR FROM THE TREE
YOURS PROVIDES SHADE AND TRANQUILITY
THAT I CAN FEEL EVERYWHERE

YOU HAVE HARDLY HEARD ANY OF MY SONGS
STILL I WANT TO SING THEM TO YOU ALL
NIGHT LONG
I HOPE YOU CAN HEAR THEM IN HEAVEN
CAUSE ALL I WANT TO DO IS LEAVEN
SOULS UNTIL MY SWAN SONG

PRE CHORUS

THIS IS NOT OUR FINAL GOODBYE
THE THREADS WE TIED I'LL CLIMB INTO THE SKY
I'LL MISS YOU EVERYDAY
DEAREST DEXTER KAY
AND THE TEARS WILL FLOW UNTIL I DIE

CHORUS END

Today, Dear Reader, is the day my father was born seventy-eight years ago in the shadows of World War Two. Dexter was a fabulous man. When he was sober, he was a beaming light. When he said Hi to you, you felt it. When he

saw you, he lit up. He would ask questions about you, and take a deep interest in not only your story, but in your well being. He did a lot of work in order to turn things around in his life, and eventually, in mine. My kindness, openness, congeniality, and giving nature are from him.

New Year's Eve 2015 is when my Pa passed. Mehrezia brought me closer to my Dad the year before he died and we had our best year together after years of struggle. I was angry and bitter towards my father for a good part of my adult life and I was also just a little boy when my parents first split - they finally divorced in my graduation year of 1989. In this fallen world, we are all victims to a degree. We just have to sort out how long we want to hold on to blaming others and how long we want to hold on to pain and suffering. So when Rest In Peace Of Mind was written it was not only an exercise in capturing the man named Dexter Kay Sloan, but it was also a song of deep forgiveness and appreciation.

My wife and I collaborated on writing the song and overall the lyrics came out easily. Wes Staples said to me at the funeral, and Wes knew him well, "you nailed him Dan". He was a trucker all his life, and lived hard, but in the end he slew his addictions and got hundreds of people sober, including Wes and myself. He went into prisons and hospitals and he built homes in Mexico. He really carried out the task of helping humanity with humility. He never bragged out it. He lived it.





Dear Reader, this is really not about the writing process – it is about a fantastic pair of incidents that happened in relation to this song.

I was at English Bay busking, and on this particular day I was busking with the main goal of polishing the song before playing it at Dad's funeral. I wanted to make sure the melody was sorted, the syllables were properly timed, etc. It was a beautiful clear day. I didn't even think there was a single cloud in the sky. After finishing singing the song, in my head, I said to my Dad: "I hope you like the song". Well, for some reason, I looked up directly over my head after asking that and in the bright blue cloudless sky was a single cloud. It looked similar to this:



It was circular, perfectly. There was a happy face, two eyes, and (unlike the photo) a nose. I was so stunned, I never even thought of taking a picture of it. I just stared at it. Of course, as clouds move along, they change shape, and it did not take long for that once smiling face to distort. That means the cloud had to assemble in short timing for me to see it clearly.

It was as if Dexter was that cloud, or shaped that cloud. It was certainly a sign: I LOVE YOUR SONG! Yes dear Daniel Frederick Sloan, I love your song and I love that you are going to sing it to me at my funeral. You can't tell me that is a coincidence! You just can't!! I'll never believe it to be so. My Dad was a cloud walker, a cloud shaper, an artist in heavenly residence. Or perhaps an angel was with him, or a spirit guide, or the Big Cheese, and they were showing Dad signs and how to make them.

I had another "coincidence" with the song a few years later while playing at Kits Beach. My Dad's ex-wife, Norma, has a son named Jason. Jason's daughter's name is Melia. Little did I know that Melia was at Kits Beach the day I was playing. She heard music playing but she did not realize it was me. She carried on with her day. Then, in playing Dad's song I said the line: "I'll miss you everyday, dearest Dexter Kay" and Melia realized that it was me singing! It brought Melia and I together that day, and maybe there was supposed to be more purpose from that meeting. She could be my conduit back into her side of the family, which I have entirely kept away from since the time of my Dad's passing. I have to follow up on that, so I too, can maybe Rest In Peace of Mind.

A TRIBUTE TO DEXTER SLOAN

BY MFRANKLINPRODUCTIONS

THIS THREE SONG SLIDESHOW IS
A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE TO DEXTER

BY THE WONDERFUL
MEGHAN FRANKLIN!

CLICK ON THE
ICON TO BE
BROUGHT TO
YOUTUBE





Roll Your Sleeves Up and Let's Get Dirty: Digger Dan gets into the guitar teaching business!

**YOU WANNA LEARN THE GUITAR THE WAY I PLAY IT
INSTEAD OF OUT OF A STALE MANUAL? WANNA LEARN IN
PERSON INSTEAD OF ON SOME DIGITAL WASTELAND?**

STARTING SEPTEMBER 1ST

I WILL HAVE A DEDICATED MUSIC ROOM IN MY NEW HOME IN THE CAMBIE & WEST 6TH AREA. THIS WILL ALSO INCLUDE A LARGE, COVERED AREA OUTDOORS TO ACCOMODATE TEACHING THE ACOUSTIC GUITAR.

YOU CAN TAP INTO YOUR SOUL!
WITHIN YOU RESIDES A CREATIVE BEING
WAITING TO GET OUT!

I WILL MOTIVATE YOU AS A TEACHER!
WE WILL LEARN TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER AND LOVE
MUSIC TOGETHER AS WELL.

LESSONS CUSTOMIZED AROUND
SONG LEARNING GOALS AND PAST SUCCESSFUL METHODS OF LEARNING.

I WILL TEACH YOU A FASCINATING
RHYTHM GUITAR STYLE. IT WILL MAKE
YOU WANT TO DANCE AS YOU PLAY!

YOU CAN LEARN BASIC SOLOING
CONCEPTS VERY EARLY! WE CAN JAM
VERY QUICKLY TOGETHER!

IF TWO WANT TO LEARN AT ONCE,
I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO JAM TOGETHER!

SONGWRITING IDEAS, BASIC COMPOSITION, AND
CHORD/SCALE THEORY.

250 842 8394

Getting Dig Down

THE
RECORDING
PROCESS

The Celista Sessions - Part 2

IN PART ONE I TALKED A BIT ABOUT OUR REMOTE RECORDING PROCESS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THE NAMING OF THE ALBUM. NOW I'M GOING TO UPDATE THE TIMELINE, TELL ABOUT SOME OF LEE HOLLAND'S SKILL SET, AND LET YOU KNOW ABOUT SOME OTHER VERY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS AROUND RECORDING!

Our original timeline for recording was the summer but things have to be pushed back due to a health problem I need to tend to. Lee is a winemaker, and because their grape season was so awful last year, he has until the end of September to record, so it may just all work out in time. I don't want to drive back in the snow in November, so we got to get the basics done in September, and the overdubs and mastering in the winter sometime.

If, after reading Part One, you think we are doing a non-serious project you need to know that Lee has recorded music and jingles for radio and has already done sound engineering and a lot of live sound in professional settings.

He's the real deal: extremely relaxed, very creative, thorough, and a great teacher. We are also best friends and have been in the deep end together as well as laughing in the shallow pool like kids! I can't wait to bond with The Dawg again!

Getting Dig Down is an Ongoing Series On The Recording Process.

THIS COLUMN WILL COVER THE GAMUT FROM HOME RECORDING TO PROFESSIONAL STUDIO USAGE.

Other Developments

Good news is getting to better! Fingers crossed! I have been approached by two different individuals about doing recordings. The first gentleman wants to remain nameless at this time but I have known him for four years and he has extensive contacts from his time of working at Little Mountain Sound - the iconic recording studio that was just down the street from where I'll be moving soon. He would like to do a four song EP. The other gentleman is a stage tech/producer who also has worked with a lot of people and is now retired and wants to give back to artists like myself. He was blown away by the blues set I did for him while busking!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MYSTERY MUSIC MACHINE!

A TOUR VAN IN THE MAKING



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MAGICAL HEALING VOICE!

BEAUTIFUL INSIDE AND OUT!



A PASSENGER VAN FROM MY GRAD YEAR, 1989!

CAN BUSK RIGHT OUT OF THE VAN!
(SIDE AND BACK DOOR STAGE OPTIONS!)

A MOBILE REHEARSAL STUDIO! A RESTING SPACE.
A SAFE SPACE TO DECOMPRESS FROM WORLD!

INTERESTING MODIFICATIONS DONE FOR THE CHAIR!

I WENT TO SPINAL REHAB WITH THE PRIOR OWNER!

SAVE MONEY ON HOTELS WHEN TRAVELLING! MORE TO
GIVE TO THE FEAST!

SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL COMBINATION OF
BROWN AND CHERRY RED!

A TRUE TALENT! VOCALS TO TAKE YOUR
BREATH, HEART, AND SOUL AWAY!

A BALLADEER SUPREMO!

A MOMENT MAKER! SHE DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE TO TRY TO BRING YOU INTO HER
WORLD!

HAS GREAT ARTISTIC INSTINCTS
AS A JAMMER AND IMPROVISER!

COOL ORIGINALS!

I COULD DO A WHOLE NEWSLETTER ON THE
MUSICAL EXPERIENCES I ENJOYED
COLLABORATING WITH HER!