

SHADOWS OF THE PAST

A man in a dark suit and tie walks towards the viewer in a dimly lit, stone-walled hallway. He is carrying a briefcase in his right hand. In the background, a bright, glowing archway is flanked by two large, golden, winged figures. A single light fixture hangs from the ceiling. On the floor in the foreground, a dark shadow of a man in a suit is cast, mirroring the man walking. The floor has a checkered pattern.

Ray von Schmalz

ALBUM
BOOKLET

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SHADOWS OF THE PAST

Sometimes our long-forgotten dreams and projects suddenly awake from a deep slumber as if they have come back to demand completion...

Shadows of the Past had a different name, back when I was not alone, treading the fields of music with fellow musicians and friends, who were members of a band called NOW. A road that brought us a sparkle of success but also uncertainty and division, that would end with the resignation of our biggest dreams, of a six-year journey to the edge of an abyss that required a leap of faith to reach either glory or death. As the founder of the band and main songwriter, I certainly took the biggest blow when we decided to just forget about it all and follow different paths, careers, and lives. We were separated physically and spiritually, and all we had worked for was shelved, probably forever.

However, almost 30 years later, these Shadows of the Past arose and demanded that at least a small part of that old project that encompassed more than 200 songs be completed. At first I was reluctant, as my hectic schedule left no room for this humongous, time-consuming task, but then again, that could be my last chance to fulfill what once was my heart's greatest desire. That's how this album came to be.

The road to this accomplishment was rougher than I had anticipated in some aspects, but a lot smoother in others. Although I never completely abandoned music, going professional again was beyond my expectations, and suddenly I felt all that vibe and music flowing through my fingers as if I had never stopped for a single moment. It was magic.

I must also add that such an immense endeavor required a great deal of encouragement and support, which I was blessed to have received from some very special people.

First or all, I should like to express my thankfulness for all the motivation I have received from my wife, Denise, and my children, Viktor and Christine, who stood by me throughout this stormy period.

Then, I would like to make special mention of the few extraordinary, talented souls that helped me produce this album.

My son, Viktor von Schmalz (Lefty of the band All in Four), extraordinary musician, singer, and songwriter, for his contributions in arrangements and recordings, and above all in the final edition of the songs.

Fernando Doszsanet Elias (Lopy, drummer of the band All in Four), a personal friend and amazing drummer, with whom I have played many hours of good music, for recording the drum tracks for some of the songs.

My nephew, Lucas Angeloni (Luke of the band All in Four), fantastic guitarist, for his unique talent as a graphic designer, creating the cover of this album.

My nephew, Luiz Angeloni (Litty, of the band All in Four), outstanding bassist, for his encouragement and enthusiasm for the results of this production.

Marcelo Gelbke Costa, lead guitarist of the band Landfall, outstanding guitarist and owner of MGC Studios, where most of the tracks were recorded, whose immense talent and studio experience helped me reach expected results.

Rafael Fortes, an extremely professional photographer and video producer, whose invaluable skills added some magic to this album.

Mariel Mocelin, my friend and former drummer in the band NOW, at the time we won a music contest 30 years ago, who recorded the drum track for the song Home to My Arms Again, just the way we used to do it back then.

I'd also like to make a special mention of my late friend Gerson Olivetti, who co-authored the melody of When Flowers Fade Away, and who was one of the most talented guitarists I have ever played with. God bless your soul, my friend.

Finally, a special thank you to all my good friends, in many different countries, for all the cheering and reassurance, which was essential to help me find the required strength to accomplish this mission.

Ray von Schmalz
November 11, 2019

IN ARABIA

“A wounded heart may seek healing far away from home...”

*Well, I came to Arabia to run away
From the night you have made out of my days
Walking on the sand through these desert nights
In my thoughts you are, and there you'll remain
I remember all our spats and fights
How it breaks my heart, I can't stand this pain*

*Now I'm in Arabia, oh lonely days
'Cause you just told me words you shouldn't say
Oh, I tried to find someone new for fun
Tried to fool myself, thinking I was free
More and more I've seen you're the only one
You are in my heart, and you'll always be*

*Well, I came to Arabia to run away
I know it won't last, I'll be back someday*

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Oriental-style riff by Viktor von Schmalz (Lefty) of All in Four

In Arabia was written on December 5, 1987. The song was meant to portray the bewilderment of someone who is suffering from a broken heart and needs to escape to a far-away place to ease the pain and try to get one's thoughts back together. It also highlights the hope for eventual reconciliation.

RECORDING FACTS:

In Arabia was recorded on March 22 and 25, 2019. Lopy, of All in Four, did the drums, and Ray von Schmalz did everything else, that is, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.



SEPARATE LIVES

“There are moments when one can be divided between love and one’s dearest dreams...”

*Dawn ain't coming, you're far away. I always knew that you wouldn't stay
Stifling feelings inside my heart. I never thought we could live apart
Everything you once said to me, trying to feed my old fantasies
Empty words that have passed away, in a song we should have never played*

*Oh how can destiny be so hard, separating lives, breaking all my heart?
Oh how could you leave me with this love shining in my soul for you?*

*Dawn ain't coming, you're far away. I always knew that you wouldn't stay...
With me*



ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Separate Lives was written on July 16, 1988. This song is about the dilemma of giving up one's dreams for love, or giving up love for one's dreams.

RECORDING FACTS:

Separate Lives was recorded simultaneously with In Arabia on March 22 and 25, 2019. Lopy, of All in Four, did the drums, and Ray von Schmalz did the bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.

HAND IN HAND

"Opening one's heart to someone else can be a hard step to take..."

*(One, two, three, four) I got a plan to say what you wanna understand
It's gotta be today, will you hold my hand?*

*If gold can fade away, disappear in the land, true lovers stay
I hope you hear the words that I sing in this song*

And playing all the chords, we keep going along

Watching the stars at night, I say this love is so true. You are my light...

*Every morning bird, for me, announces a brand new day
You're the only girl I see, in my heart you will stay*

*I got a plan to say what you wanna understand
It's gotta be today, will you hold my hand?*

*If gold can fade away, disappear in the land, true lovers stay. they stay
Hand in hand, hand in hand, hand in hand, hand in hand, hand in hand*



ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Hand in Hand was written on January 28, 1988. It's an upbeat rock and roll tune showing a joyful way to declare one's love.

RECORDING FACTS:

Hand in Hand was recorded in three recording sessions, on April 17, 18, and 23, 2019. Lopy, of All in Four, did the drums, Lefty the piano and Ray von Schmalz did everything else, that is, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.

CURIOSITY:

Hand in Hand was the only song that Ray von Schmalz recorded with NOW, actually with Gerson Olivetti, in a professional studio on January 20, 1991. That version was never released to the public.

HOME TO MY ARMS AGAIN

"The emptiness of a broken heart yearns for the unlikely return of the loved one..."

*Since the moment when you went away, tears have been in my eyes
When I remember your embrace, and now you're cold as ice to me
All the good and bad times, I lived with you, are memories I can't forget
All that love was so true, and now I just regret I have lost you*

*All that love we loved along was so true, it was so strong
But now you're gone I am alone. What can I do to bring you back home?
Home to my arms again*

*I can't live without you anymore. I love you, can't you see it?
Oh I beg you more and more: Oh baby, please, please come back to me
Or I'm gonna die without you*

*All that love we loved along was so true, it was so strong
But now you're gone I am alone.
What can I do to bring you back home?
Home to my arms again*

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz



Home to My Arms Again was written on November 1, 1985. Songs about heartbrokenness were very popular in the late 1970's and early 1980's, which had a strong influence in the lyrics of this song.

RECORDING FACTS:

Home to My Arms Again was recorded in seven recording sessions, from April 29 to May 21, 2019. Ray invited Mariel Mocelin, former drummer of my 1980's band NOW, to do the drums, and Ray did the bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and piano tracks, as well as all voices.

CURIOSITY:

Home to My Arms Again was one of NOW's most popular songs in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

EVERY BIT OF YOU

“There is no bigger source of musical inspiration than a teenage heart that is in love...”

You're my guiding light in the dark road

I've been walking along

You are the bird that sings the living song

You're the shining star I'd like to see,

You are the one that I want for me

I love every minute I'm with you



You are the flower in my soul. When I'm with you I lose control

And every minute is a life, when you look at me with your blue eyes

And I love every bit of you

I want you to make my heart your home. You'll never ever be alone

I want always to be with you

And you, you're the inspiration of my heart. You touched me right from the start

I want to share my life with you

You are the flower in my soul. When I'm with you I lose control

And every minute is a life, when you look at me with your blue eyes

And I love every bit of you

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Every Bit of You was written on October 13, 1985. Ray wrote this song for his wife, Denise, on the day after they started dating, thirty-four years ago. They had been happily married for thirty years when this album was recorded.

RECORDING FACTS:

Every Bit of You was done in five recording sessions from August 8 to September 8, 2019. Ray von Schmalz played all instruments, from drums, to bass and guitars, and performed all vocal tracks.

GIVE ME A SMILE

"The last plea of a broken heart..."

Give me a smile, and with your hands please dry my tears

Give me a smile. Don't tell me words I don't want to hear

Give me a smile. Please don't leave me all alone

Give me a smile. When you leave life will be gone

Give me a smile. Once you told me I was your man

Give me a smile. Foolish things we just pretend

Give me a smile, and let me understand your heart

Give me a smile. You are tearing me apart

In your smile I can see I can't live without you

Give me a smile. I'm not asking for too much

Give me a smile. Let it be our last touch

Give me a smile, for that love we once had grown

Give me a smile, for the things I've never known. Give me a smile

If by the way you come back and you see that I'm dead, don't cry

Give me a smile



ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Give Me a Smile was written on April 10, 1987. The lyrics were added to the music later, and the vibe of the melody called for words that related to the pains caused by an unrequited love.

RECORDING FACTS:

Give Me a Smile was completed in five recording sessions from August 8 to September 7, 2019. Lopy, of All in Four, did the drum track and Ray von Schmalz recorded the bass, guitars, keyboard, and all vocal tracks.

CURIOSITY:

The guitar solo of Give Me a Smile was improvised during a previous home-made recording session on January 1, 2002. It was recorded again for this album exactly the way it was in the original recording.

ROAD ACROSS THE USA

“Chilling out with friends in a carefree adventure...”

*We're on a road across the USA. We're in a car, backpacks, tents, from California to Maine
We've got a long, long way to go 'cause we're in the USA
Oh, California, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, in Kentucky we had fun all day
Passing by Memphis, Tennessee, Jackson, Mississippi in New Orleans everything is great*

*We're on a road across the USA. We're in a car, backpacks, tents, from California to Maine
We've got a long, long way to go 'cause we're in the USA
We're going north of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri. We're getting to Nebraska State
We have seen Denver, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana. Houston, Texas is so far away*

*We're on a road across the USA. We're in a car, backpacks, tents, from California to Maine
We've got a long, long way to go 'cause we're in the USA
Now we're going through Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania. We'll stay in New York all day
And then Virginias, Carolinas, oh, Georgia, Alabama. In Florida a sunny day*

*We're on a road across the USA. We're in a car, backpacks, tents, from California to Maine
We've got a long, long way to go 'cause we're in the USA
We're on a road across the USA. We're in a car, backpacks, tents, from California to Maine
We've got a long, long way to go 'cause we're in the USA*

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Road Across the USA was written on October 1, 1987. The inspiration came from a conversation that Ray von Schmalz had with some friends in a bar, when they had an idea to cross the U.S. together. The trip never happened, but the song did.

RECORDING FACTS:

Road Across the USA was recorded in three recording sessions, on April 29, May 2, and May 23, 2019. Lopy, of All in Four, did the drums, and Ray did everything else, that is, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.



PRISONER OF YOUR HEART

"Love can be a cage without bars..."

*Baby, my love is so strong, I love you so much, my love is so true
That I could give up all my life any time you just said: "I love you."
What is the use of my life if I can't live with you? You are all for me
Oh, you're the most beautiful thing God has put on earth one can see*

*I want to be with you at every minute of my life
I want to say "I love you" all the time
And every day, I want to fill my heart
With your loving grace
The more I kiss you, the more I feel your embrace
I can see that I'm a prisoner of your heart*

*I want to be with you at every minute of my life
I want to say "I love you" all the time
And every day, I want to fill my heart with your loving grace
The more I kiss you, the more I feel your embrace I can see that
I'm a prisoner of your heart. I'm a prisoner of your heart
I'm a prisoner of your heart*



ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Prisoner of Your Heart was written on November 24, 1985. This ballad was meant to delve into the emotional captivity love can promote.

RECORDING FACTS:

Prisoner of Your Heart was done in four recording sessions from May 24 to September 7, 2019. Ray von Schmalz did the drums, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.

NO TIME

"Sometimes we bite off way more than we can chew..."

I've got no time for me. I've got no time to see

To see the sun when the day is bright, to understand when something is right

I've got no time for me

I've got no time at all. I've got no time to fall

I have been living these dreamless days, systematizing me in a way

I've got no time

Max has built a world where there are no souls

And I try to fight. I wanna see the light but



I've got no time for me. I've got no time, you see

Why don't you try to understand just what it means to be a man, oh, oh

I've got no time for me. I've got no time to see

What we have done to our lives. We have to change it to survive

Don't flee

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

No Time was written on June 29, 1988. This song was written during the last year of Ray's civil engineering undergraduate course, when he also held a full-time job as an English teacher, and played with his band, NOW, on weekends. He considered quitting one of his occupations, but he knew how important each one of them was, so he carried them all to the end. That was the most stressful period of his life.

RECORDING FACTS:

No Time was recorded in four sessions from September 11 to September 25, 2019. Ray von Schmalz did the drums, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.

SHE'S MY SWEET LADY

"The uncertainty of undeclared love can weigh down one's heart..."

*She's my sweet lady and I love her so. In her arms I feel so strong
She's my sweet lady, and when I'm with her the whole world seems to be so wrong*

*When I think that she can be far from me, all my thoughts go 'round, I wanna disappear
She doesn't know what she means to me. Without her I could never live, could never live
She's my sweet lady and I love her so. In her arms I feel so strong
She's my sweet lady, and when I'm with her the whole world seems to be so wrong*

*She hardly know she means more to me than all the flowers in a garden one can see
Without her the sun would never shine. My sweet girl you have to be mine, have to be mine*

*She's my sweet lady and I love her so. In her arms I feel so strong
She's my sweet lady, and when I'm with her the whole world seems to be so wrong
She's my sweet lady and I love her so. In her arms I feel so strong
She's my sweet lady, and when I'm with her the whole world seems to be so wrong
She's my sweet lady*



ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

She's My Sweet Lady was written on August 22, 1986. The melody of this song came first and it called for something romantic and upbeat, so it speaks of a romance that is in the make, which still hasn't been declared, but eventually will. It also hints at the fears of rejection.

RECORDING FACTS:

She's My Sweet Lady was recorded in four sessions from September 11 to September 25, 2019. Ray von Schmalz did the drums, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.

COME ON, BE MY BABY

“A young heart’s passion is oftentimes gone unnoticed...”

*Come on, be my baby today. Come on, be my baby tonight
Come on, my sweet babe, if you stay, we’re gonna have fun through the night
Come on, be my baby today. Come on, be my baby tonight
Come on, my sweet babe, if you stay, we’re gonna have fun through the night*

*When you pass by me my heart seems to speed up
When you look into my eyes, I feel I’m falling all apart*

*Come on, be my baby today. Come on, be my baby tonight
Come on, my sweet babe, if you stay,
We’re gonna have fun through the night*

*But it seems you’ll never ever walk along my drive
My sweet babe, you should know at least I am alive*



*Come on, be my baby today. Come on, be my baby tonight
Come on, my sweet babe, if you stay, we’re gonna have fun through the night*

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music and lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

Come On, Be My Baby was written on November 19, 1990. This rock-and-roll song is about youthful passions that are oftentimes unreciprocated.

RECORDING FACTS:

Come On, Be My Baby was recorded in five sessions from October 10 to October 29, 2019. Ray von Schmalz did the drums, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, and all voices.

WHEN FLOWERS FADE AWAY

"Being shunned by the one you love may fill one's heart with gloom..."

*On a road where many rivers used to cross, I was going down
In a sky where many birds in love have flown, I was looking for my heart
Girl I look all way around, but I just can't see why you don't see me
And why you always run away from my arms
Where my embrace waits for you, my love*

*Oh, I cry sad tears that will fall on the ground
In a garden, where flowers someday will grow
And those flowers will call you to pick them up
But you won't know that there
A little bit of my true love remains
And when those flowers fade away, dead will be my love*



*Love makes flowers abound with the beauty of your eyes
Housing all the feelings from my heart with the duty to survive, but they die...
On a road where many rivers used to cross, I was going down
On a road where many rivers used to cross, dead will be my love (I'll be dead my love)*

ABOUT THE SONG:

Music by Ray von Schmalz and Gerson Oliveti (in memoriam)
Lyrics by Ray von Schmalz

When Flowers Fade Away was written on March 4, 1988. This is the only song Ray von Schmalz wrote together with one of the band members. Gerson Oliveti was an extraordinary guitarist, very talented musician, and good friend. Once he showed Ray an idea for a song, which Ray adapted to make the first part of this song, then Ray wrote the remaining parts and arrangements, including the fiddle line and vocal arrangements. The lyrics came to Ray in a moment of inspiration, while feeling the vibes of the melody. Ray von Schmalz chose to add this song to this album as a tribute to his good friend and music buddy who is no longer with us.

RECORDING FACTS:

When Flowers Fade Away was recorded in four sessions from October 10 to October 20, 2019. Ray von Schmalz did the drums, bass, rhythm guitars, lead guitar, keyboard (fiddle line), and all voices.

PICTORIAL – HISTORIC PHOTOS



(LEFT) RAY VON SCHMALZ IN 1985

(BELOW) ALEX BANZATTO ON BASS AND RAY VON SCHMALZ ON ACOUSTIC GUITAR DURING A MUSIC CONTEST IN 1990



(LEFT) RAY VON SCHMALZ AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, DENISE, WHOM HE'D MARRY IN 1989. (CIRCA 1987)



(BELOW) RAY VON SCHMALZ IN 1989.



(LEFT) FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ALEX BANZATTO (BASSIST), RAY VON SCHMALZ (VOCALS & GUITAR), MARIEL MOCELIN (DRUMS), AND GERSON OLIVETI (LEAD GUITAR) IN 1989. THEY MADE THE NOW GROUP. (PHOTO BY KARIN WEBER)



(RIGHT) NOW DURING A GARAGE REHEARSAL. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, RAY, MARIEL, ALEX, AND GERSON.



(LEFT) NOW REUNION IN DECEMBER 2019, WITH VIKTOR VON SCHMALZ (LEFT) PLAYING GERSON'S PARTS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MARIEL, ALEX, VIKTOR, AND RAY.

PICTORIAL – STUDIO SHOTS (2019)



(LEFT) VIKTOR VON SCHMALZ (LEFTY), RAY VON SCHMALZ, & FERNANDO DOSZANET ELIAS (LOPY)



(BELOW) MARIEL MOCELIN



(LEFT) MARCELO GELBKE AND RAY VON SCHMALZ



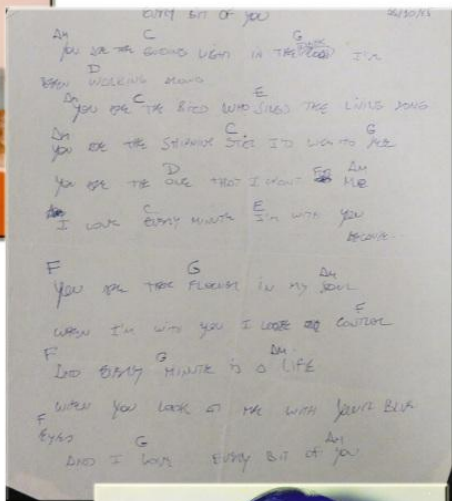
SHADOWS OF THE PAST
RAY VON SCHMALZ

PICTORIAL – CURIOSITIES



(LEFT) RAY VON SCHMALZ AT AGE 14 IN 1980

(BELOW) ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF
"EVERY BIT OF YOU" FROM OCT. 13, 1985



(BELOW) NOW DURING A CONCERT IN 1986



(RIGHT) RAY
VON SCHMALZ
IN 2004



(ABOVE) RAY VON SCHMALZ DURING A PRESENTATION AT
THE CANADIAN ENGLISH CENTRE IN 2001



EPILOGUE

Music has always been my refuge, a place to go and recharge my battery, in order to help me keep facing life with all the energy I have always had. Writing songs has always been a way to drive out my feelings and expand my imagination with voice and instrument arrangements that represent the vibe I am in. So, after almost 40 years of music life, I have written almost 300 songs, and continue writing more.

Then I realized that I should leave at least some of this legacy to posterity, a legacy that will testify to a musical career that life cut short. Well, at least one album, although the large number of songs that I wrote during the 1980's, when I had my heart set on following a full-time musical career, would be enough to easily make 15 albums, but one would be enough as a milestone, or a small memento for the world to remember me by. So, "Shadows of the Past" represents a phase of my musical life. The one when I was most active, performing with my band, and making big plans.

However, after that phase, the sudden collapse of all those dreams brought new insights and perspectives to my mind, which were immediately translated into new musical production, that expressed a more mature approach to life and its vicissitudes, but that's something that I'll save for another album.

Music runs through my veins, and I'll be making music for as long as I live. "Shadows to the Past" has immortalized a small part of my musical work, but above all, it has renewed the vital energy source that makes me tick. It's time to set the course for new horizons. Thank you all for being part of this wonderful experience!

"Shadows of the Past" was recorded from March 22 to October 20, 2019.

Ray von Schmalz
December 24, 2019

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