

David Elias Slipper DSD Sessions



Slipper DSD Sessions - notes by David Elias - September, 2014

Slipperworld is the studio in La Honda, California where owner and friend Charlie Natzke lives and works. It is in what I and others refer to as a Banana Belt which is nestled in the redwoods down from the ridge of the San Mateo hills separating the San Francisco Bay Peninsula and Bay side from the Coast side. Nearly needless to say, it's very quiet and very scenic. The location is between the more windy rainy hills up top and the more chilly foggy coast below so hence the very sunny and warm “banana” middle ground. Over a period of years Charlie and I shared a lot of music adventures together. Gigging every month if not weekly we were also spending time at Slipperworld (www.slipperworld.net) rehearsing and recording. We may have shared a beer or two up there as well... By the way, slippers at Slipperworld are offered to all from a big box at the door. In Hawaii, slippers (pidgin: slippah) are a way of life. People on the mainland call them flip-flops.

The songs on this collection “Slipper DSD Sessions” represent a small sample of the types of music I have done at Slipperworld. An 8-track Sonoma DSD workstation with Meitner/EMM Labs DAC and ADC units were setup courtesy of Gus Skinas (www.superaudiocenter.com). A simplified recording mecca!

I hope you enjoy listening to some of the nuances of native DSD recording done in a small open room without any isolation (except an umbrella over the drum kit) and without any overdubs. Songs here range from the very quiet solo to the energetic acoustic trio and electric quartet band takes. Charlie did all the engineering as well as the analog board mixes back to DSD stereo on the Sonoma. I mastered these using Korg AudioGate software.

Many thanks as always to all those involved particularly [Charlie](#) (electric guitar, backing vocals, engineer), [Chris Kee](#) (upright bass), [Scott Beynon](#) (electric bass), [Ken Owen](#) (drums). I am always in awe of all of their abilities to both listen to and create music spontaneously.

To [Gus](#), thank you again and again for all the inspiration and collaboration. To all DSD enthusiasts, thank you for supporting independent artists like myself and for helping to validate DSD as the most excellent natural analog like sounding HRA audio format for anyone to use for both recording and listening.

Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha to All,

- DE

DSD albums of mine and many others you may or may not know are available online here:

<http://www.highdeftapetransfers.com>

<http://www.superhires.com>

<http://www.nativeDSD.com>

<http://www.highresaudio.jp>

Cover photo by [Treehouse Skye](#)

Studio Engineer: [Charlie Natzke](#)

DSD64 Recording on Sonoma: Charlie Natzke

DSD Analog Stereo Mix to Sonoma: Charlie Natzke

DSD Mastering and Download Production: [David Elias](#)

SLIPPER DSD SESSIONS - And The Bit Goes On

Native DSD Recordings by David Elias

1. Miracles Take Time (solo)

I wrote this song in 2007 shortly after the passing of [Paul Pena](#). A lot can be listened to and experienced from Paul as an extraordinarily gifted singer, songwriter and guitar player. One chapter of Paul's life in music was captured in the documentary film "[Genghis Blues](#)". You can witness parts of Paul's sojourn to Tuva where he participated in the national throat singing contest. I got to meet and hear Paul play at different places in the San Francisco Bay Area in the years prior to his untimely death. At each of these shows I always felt like I was being treated to a simple, infinite wisdom and kindness. So the song "Miracles Take Time" came out of my recognition of such patience and gratitude from such a great artist and kind soul.

2. Poor Polly

This song features the CasualTees quartet. Poor Polly is a story of discontinuities when the path is unknown and still the gifts are abundant. Someone I knew interpreted it to be about the writer's (my) search for reconnecting with his Muse. Perhaps so. Venturing away from a pure acoustic setting restarted for me in the mid-90's as I became good friends and musical brothers with a number of gifted players from the Celtic community in San Francisco. The influence of this music on me at that time was a complete revelation and return to some essential roots spiritually and musically. So along with unplugged fiddles and bodhrans, guitars and pipes came some good old fashioned R&B and electric roots rock sessions in the pubs and in our homes. Poor Polly is a derivative of that way of both playing and listening at the same time. Another version of this song appears on the Live in San Gregorio album released with a bigger electric band in the General Store. It has its own outrageous dynamics and dilemmas.

3. White & Blue

Chris, Ken and I make up a trio of what my friend Beth Patterson (Irish Bouzouki, Singer Siren from New Orleans) refers to as Heavy Wood. All acoustic I always liked this take, especially because, as you'll hear during the count off, Ken introduced a completely unexpected Samba rhythm for the song we had never tried much less rehearsed prior. So new adventures in

music for the players are well represented in this take.

4. Silver Pen

The CasualTees quartet performed this live take with Charlie singing backup as well as playing electric and running the Sonoma. This song may sum up one message for the entire album. It is the story of a woman leaving one world and reality for another quite unknown within the change of light of a single night before dawn. These days, relocation and transformation are more a way of life for so many of us on an overnight's notice. So it goes.

5. River of Dreams

If I wanted to plan an experiment to demonstrate and test the dynamics of recording from the very quiet to the very loud in the same song, I might write and record "River of Dreams". Somehow it wasn't planned, yet here it is. This song again presented as the Heavy Wood trio with Chris and Ken. The story lines me up with something I'll never really know, nor will I ever forget. It's all one big River.

6. Miracles Take Time (CasualTees)

This version of the song was recorded live at Slipperworld as the quartet featuring Charlie, Scott, Ken and myself. You might wonder why I put the same song on the album twice. The basic answer is because I like both takes. The band gives the instrumental bridges a lot of musical depth in the way Paul would talk story during his shows. You also get to hear how a recording in DSD can handle the natural ambience of a single guitar and voice as well as the dynamics of a full band, both recorded in the same room on the same gear.

Miracles Take Time - David Elias
For Paul Pena

on and on now
don't be late
silver wings
on silver plates
autumn lingers
can't escape
miracles take time

sing me now
your hands must rest
your body lingers
'gainst the fences
of its own strength
time has tested
miracles take time

tell me now
remind me soon
how silk roads wind
under the moon
carry a windless
silver tune
miracles take time

lightly now
and none to bear
yet songs to sing
and words to hear
silent tears
your heart has shared
miracles take time

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David Elias - acoustic/vocal
Charlie Natzke - electric guitar
Scott Beynon - electric bass
Ken Owen - drums

Poor Polly - David Elias

Settle down the question now poor Polly
Was it you who rode away or was it you who drowned
Was it Halfway Jim who did you in poor Polly
Or did he sweep you off your feet
And ride to higher ground

Settle down the question now poor Polly
Was there silver in that wedding dress
And diamonds on the ground
Were there three horsemen who knew you well poor Polly
Did they tie you in that chair
And bid you never make a sound

Settle down the question now poor Polly
Did you ride out with your lover straight across the border
Where's the papers that he left behind poor Polly
To vindicate your brother
Identify your daughter

Settle down the question now poor Polly
How many days before we hear your cross chain on the floor
Why waste your time with such small time poor Polly
You could have had most anyone
And struggled never more

Settle down the question now poor Polly
You hunger for the truth as you drink from every stream
Will we ever see your pretty eyes poor Polly
Or do you leave us running endlessly
Right back into your dream

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David Elias - acoustic/vocal

Charlie Natzke - semi-hollow electric guitar

Scott Beynon - electric bass --- Ken Owen - drums

White & Blue - David Elias

Red eye mind
done gone along
Red eye mind
done gone along
Green eye winks
summer's gone
Red eye mind
done gone along

The sparrow sings
the swallow falls
The sparrow sings
the swallow falls
Misty wren
sees none at all
The sparrow sings
the swallow falls

White and blue
the sand and sea
White and blue
the sand and sea
In the middle
you and me
White and blue
the sand and sea

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David Elias - acoustic/vocal
Chris Kee - upright bass
Ken Owen - drums

Silver Pen - David Elias

She caught a long train gone
There wasn't nothing to it
In the red red dawn
She just had to do it
Heard that lonesome song
And she could sing right through it
She caught a long train gone

She found a change of heart
In the changing light
Whatever made her start
Could not have been more right
She took her namesake's part
In the dead of night
She found a change of heart

She found a new home town
And she moved right in
And the freeway sound
It didn't come again
And in a drawer she found
Another silver pen
In her new home town

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David Elias - acoustic/vocal/harmonica
Charlie Natzke - semi-hollow electric guitar, vocal
Scott Beynon - electric bass
Ken Owen - drums

River of Dreams - David Elias

I sleep by the fire
Your song's in my dream
I run off to find you
You're nowhere it seems
Blue clouds float higher
Metallic skies gleam
Shadow the answer
This river of dreams

A fortnight's a long time
To wait by the door
Your footsteps don't echo
They been here before
I pull my coat tighter
Look out one time more
Your shadow's the answer
It lies on the floor

I'll cast one more time
To the river of dreams
With a net made of willow
And sycamore leaves
I won't look behind me
As tears turn to streams
Echo those answers
In rivers of dreams

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David Elias - acoustic/vocal
Chris Kee - upright bass
Ken Owen - drums



David Elias
photo by Peter Buranzon, pacific-visuals.com



Charlie Natzke (left) with John Havard in the San Gregorio General Store
photo by Peter Buranzon - pacific-visuals.com



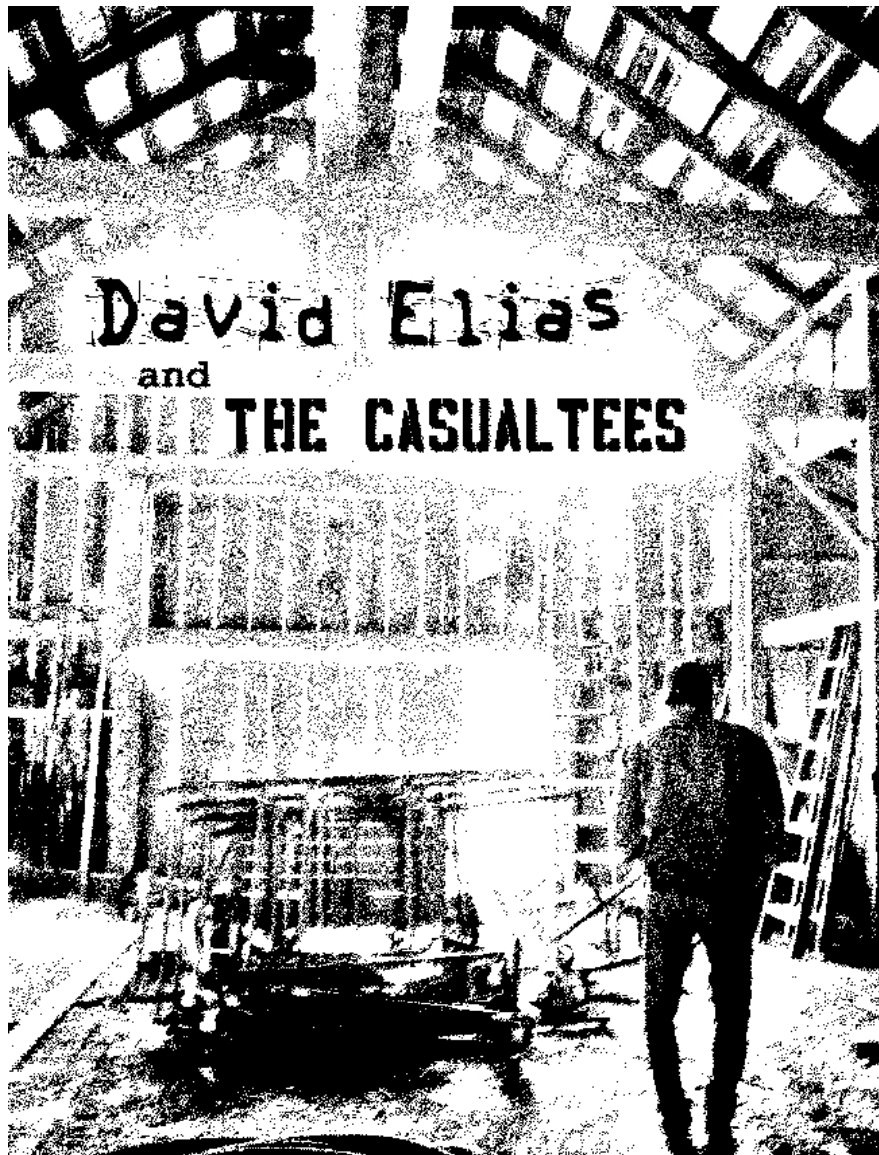
Scott Beynon
photo by Peter Buranzon - pacific-visuals.com



Chris Kee (left) and David Elias at GAMH, SF
photo by Peter Buranzon - pacific-visuals.com



Ken Owen
photo by Peter Buranzon - pacific-visuals.com



The CasualTees
Photo + Graphic by David Elias



slipperworld - la honda, california
photo + graphic by david elias

