



**Manning - Akoustik #2
Press Pack**

Festival Music : 201408
Mechanical Release : 01/08/2014
Electronic Release : 01/08/2014

Available through Festival Music, the Band Website plus via iTunes, Amazon and through all good record shops.
All songs written by Guy Manning.

The Players

** Guy Manning: Acoustic Guitars, Keyboards, Mandolins, Drums, Percussion & Vocals

The Star Contributors

- * David Million: Guitars
- * Ian 'Walter' Fairbairn: Fiddle & Mandolin
- * Jonathan Barrett: Bass
- * Julie King: Vocals
- * Kev Currie: Backing Vocals
- * Marek Arnold: Saxes & Clarinet
- * Martin Thiselton: Piano
- * Rick Henry: Drums & Percussion
- * Steve Dundon: Flute

Song Titles

01. White Waters
02. Songs From The Bilston House
03. Yesterday's Hero
04. A Strange Place
05. Moorland Skies
06. Flight 19
07. Saturday Picture Show
08. Blue Girl
09. Icarus & Me
10. Joshua Logan
11. Ships
12. Winter



Foreword:

2014 was going to be a different year from the offset, as the long serving Manning live band had been retired to give me a rest and some overdue 'me time' to think about what I really wanted to do next, musically. Some ideas for a grand concept album had arisen...but that was really going to be a long term project with no fixed time scale or cast decided upon yet.

After 14 album releases I was suddenly and purposefully drifting! I knew there were other songs that I wanted to explore in terms of re-arrangement in Akoustik settings, plus I had a few ideas to complete for songs that had not previously fitted onto any album.

So, I decided, short term, to keep myself busy and to start on this album. As there was no real live band to support any more, I felt I could throw the challenge out to a wider set of musicians/friends this time around too.

But, once again, the brief was simple...one rule...to only record parts that we could reproduce live! No overdubs! However, extra vocals could be added in where some of the musicians would be unavailable to record.

Again, the songs were picked from the entire Manning back catalogue and then re-arranged to suit the Akoustik mood. The choices were far more adventurous this time around and three brand new songs were also added in to the set list and completed.

Shows were organised to promote both of the Akoustik albums, and one of these concerts gave me my second opportunity to play in the USA!

Guy Manning
2014

Manning



Akoustik
#2

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Yesterday's Hero

Forty miles of track on this northern rail line,
packed up alone and cold, now I'm on the run
Leaving the past well behind, I'm a midnight traitor,
grasping at all the straws that I've laid aside

Too long ago, there was a hero. Many kept me strong as I held the line

Now we're thirty nine yards passed that lonely junction,
counting the sound of the track as we gather momentum.
Noting all the tunnels and platforms, the long lakes and the valleys.
That wave me away through the frosted glass.

Too long ago, there was a hero, Too many kept me as I held the line
but the cracks were there etched on the psyche,
I should have learned to read all the warning signs

If I was to think on the life that I've led with no regrets.
That withstanding, I know ...that I could, have been more.
So I'm leaving all the baggage behind, on the Station masters floor.
Holding all the details of the man...the man I was before.

Too long ago, I was a hero and too many kept me, as I drew the line
but the cracks were there etched on the psyche,
I should have learned to read all the warning signs

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Moorland Skies

The breeze on the skin that calls her name
While standing proud with coat pulled tight
Short grass and stubble under my feet again
the trail is ended , but the journey incomplete

Trailing winds that haunt the blue,
Turners sunsets' constant changing view
Red amber tomorrows are peeling away the disguise
Oh ...Moorland skies

Outcrop mansions of ragged stone,
Silhouettes that dance in the dusk
No path to follow - except the one that's in my heart
Onwards over grown - no way back to the start

All the time we had was not enough to satisfy the feeling
that there could have been more
and seeing eye to eye, hearing voices,
chasing shadows on the wall, precipitates the fall – the fall!

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The Saturday Picture Show

There's nothing like a knee to sit on when you're only small
Grandpa's cuddles and an arm around you, in case you fall
Ice creams on the Summer sand, then we drove back all too soon
to that small wooden box of magic, shining stories into the room

The schedule stays with me - even down all the years
Grandstand with its 4 cameras turning, horses & soccer heroes
Sooty & Sweep "IzzyWizzy" nonsense, messing up all in sight
Dixon emerging from the evening fog - salutes and says goodnight

Pour another cup, biscuits, cake and a fire glowing.
It's the Saturday, the Saturday Picture show

Dr. Who was scary, even in Black and White!
Swirling whirlpools spin on Skaro, we'd better hold on tight!
Next week they'll be more adventures - but to where and when?
You have to tune in for late tea thriller then off to bed again

Pour another cup, biscuits, cake and a fire glowing.
It's the Saturday, the Saturday Picture show