



Bruce Guthro
No Final Destination - The Interview Disc

1. Where did you record the album and who played on the sessions? Musicians that you have played with before?

We recorded the record in three territories. The bed tracks were done in Nashville where a good friend of mine lives. Gordie Sampson is a Grammy-winning songwriter who I grew up with in Cape Breton. He said he could plug me into the cool musicians in Nashville, let us use his studio and crash in his house. It was an offer I couldn't refuse. It was the first time I had met all the players, but the list of great records they had played on went on forever so I felt I was in very good hands.

Kristian Gislason (co-producer) then went on to do some overdubs in Demark with some of the guys from my live band and a few other Danish session people.

I did most of the vocals between Key Largo, Florida and my home studio.

2. On your last European tours you have played together with Danish musicians. Do you have special connections to Denmark?

I'd like to think I have a special connection with fans in all countries. I certainly love playing in Denmark and my co-producer lives there so I tend to spend a lot of time in Denmark. Kristian also put together a Danish band for me and has helped a great deal with the logistics that come with touring so, well...yes, I guess you could say I do have special connections in Denmark.

4. When you start recording a new album what are your main intentions, for instance a lot of different styles, a lot of different topics for songs, good arrangements.... ?

My focus is mainly on making the songs come to life to the best of their ability. The song topics and styles are usually addressed before the recording process begins. The only thing I consciously do there, is try to stay away from too many ballads when choosing songs. I (like most songwriters) tend to write a lot of ballads. I think we struck a pretty good balance on "No Final Destination"(NFD).

The players have a huge influence on the style of music that comes out and we, as producers, can direct that a bit, but for the most case I like to let them do what they feel will work. Usually their first instincts are the best and songs start to take shape through what feels like a natural process, not forced or directed too much.

5. The new record is more Folk-Pop and Rock orientated than the last one. Beside that what would you say are the main differences between the two albums?

I think you pretty much nailed it there. I think the songs are more radio friendly and certainly rock out a lot more than "Beautiful Life". The last record was a record I had wanted to do for while. It was an easy listening record but I think NFD is more to the core of who I am musically. It reminds me more of the first record I did with EMI in the late 90s.

6. Do you like to change your style from record to record?

I think it's essential for me to do this. I grew up listening to a very wide range of music and I loved it all for different reasons. I compare songs and records to scripts and movies. I don't want to be the actor that gets caught up into one type of roll. There are far too many genres of music out there to be cornered into any one style. I just keep having fun making the records I want, treating them as separate projects. I hope the spirit of this train of thought reflects in the music you hear from me.

7. Is there a deeper meaning in the album-title "No Final Destination"?

That's up to you to answer, if you read something into it... it's there. That's the beauty of words and songs, they mean so many different things to different people. It may mean No Final Destination in your work, in your life, in your hopes and dreams, or in your spirituality it's yours to make of it what you want, what fits your life at this time.

12. How do you get the two careers, Runrig and your solo-ambitions, together?

If you mean how they work together, it's through careful planning and being respectful of each other. It's really not that difficult, it's just extremely busy.



Runrig has been an amazing ride and I love being part of that band, but it doesn't satisfy my desire to write and record my own music. I guess like life, it's all about balance.

13. You have toured Germany in May. Were the crowds bigger than the last time and how did the people react to the new songs?

Yes, the crowds just keep growing which I am very thankful for. The response to the new stuff was better than I could have imagined. As you said earlier, NFD rocks out a lot more than my last one, so people are really getting into it. I can't wait to do the release shows in September.

14. Do you have a favorite song on the album? Which song and why?

No favorites really, like my kids, I love 'em all equally. I've just listened to the final mastered record two days ago on a long drive to see my brother. The record flows nicely, I never make records for hit singles, I think a balanced record is far more important and will have a much longer shelf life than the one hit wonder records. Mind you, I'm sure the record labels would love to hear a hit single come off of NFD, come to think of it, I wouldn't mind that much myself...lol.

15. What are your plans for the near future? Another solo-tour – beside the two concerts in September? Another album with Runrig? Or something totally different?

I have my hands full at the moment with NFD. Tours are being set up for Germany and Denmark as we speak and the plan is to also release the record in the UK and do some shows there as well. Bring my homeland Canada into that picture, and you have a very busy boy. No plans for a Runrig record at the moment, but I'm sure the MacDonald brothers are writing songs as always, and that will just be a matter of time.

As for something totally different, well, you just never know with me!

Track By Track

I'll try and break a few down for you.

Stone By Stone - was written after watching a man who lost his wife in the Katrina flood being interviewed on CNN. He was holding his son's hand was asked where the rest of his family was. He said he tried to hold onto his wife with all his might but the rushing water was too strong. The sorrow in his voice went straight to my heart, far more than the devastating pictures on TV. I find we see so much devastation in the world today that the pictures almost become unreal, like it's all just a movie or something. To hear of the tragedy that took place, during and after Katrina, simplified into one man's story really touched me. I just felt someone had to tell this guys story, someone had to write about what went wrong down there.

I spent a month in New Orleans doing a record a few years back and I loved the musical vibe of the city. I hear they still struggle to this day with the rebuilding process. I just hope the guy and his kids made it through ok.

So Small – I guess that's just me thinking about my immortality I suppose. I mean, this life I'm living is all I could ever ask for. I'm doing what I love to do and making a living at it. I suppose I could wish to be as big as Elvis but then I always believed in that saying "be careful what you wish for". I've been lucky enough to reach many hearts, and I'm surrounded by amazing fans, but in the big picture, I'm just a grain of sand on an endless beach. So amazing.... so small!

Flew MacCarthy Home - was inspired at a gig one night, I had a drink with 2 young Canadian soldiers. We were talking about Afghanistan and a fellow musician who had been in the Middle East performing for the troops said, "you know, we flew McCully home". I soon realized the remains of Corporal McCully were flown home in the belly of the aircraft.

It's an amazing thing these young men do. I mean, it's one thing to fight to defend your country, but to go over there and die for another man's freedom takes some real courage. I just wanted to pay my respects to this young soldier, to the ones before him, and to those who will follow.

I use MacCarthy in the song instead of McCully out of respect for the family. It also lets people know it could be Smith, Anderson, Jones or whoever. They are all just soldiers, sons, fathers, doing their job, praying to come home alive. What's really special about this song is I wrote it with my own son, Dylan, who would be around the same age as some of these soldiers.



Drive – We all have a home, a place with deep memories and feelings attached. The Cabot Trail in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia is one of the most beautiful places in the world to me. I use to have a motorcycle and there was nothing better than to get out on that open road and leave the weight of the world behind me. This is a good one to crank up with the windows down on a sunny day as you drive to your favorite place.

Rush – another co-write with Dylan. This is the only song on the record that he added lyrics to. He had a start on this idea and it was sounding like a guy/girl song. I said Dylan, let's try and write this from two perspectives. We could be singing to a girl or to the masses at a big open-air festival. It was a fun process and we love singing it on stage together where we split the vocal parts.

Going Home – is a song about Bruce getting tired of the road. Usually after about 3 weeks out there I go into cranky mode, lol. I have a great life partner in my wife Kim, and we lean on each other a lot. I started this song in Denmark after a stress-filled, long run of dates. As for Runrig songs, I don't think you would ever see me record one of the bands' songs as long as the band is there to do it. I just think it would be disrespectful and unfair to my band mates.

"Boom Boom Boom" is me writing about the world around me and wondering how much more it can take. Of war, of pollution, of nuclear threats from all sources. It just scares me sometimes when I think of my kids and what kind of legacy our generation will leave for them. Things are changing so rapidly these days. I believe we, the masses of the world, are sleeping through these changes to the greater extent. I try and stay positive but it gets difficult when everything you hear on the news is bad news. The song is more about me getting the demons out of my head than trying to preach to anybody. There are enough people out there preaching, and not doing.

Cross – One of my favorite songwriters is fellow Canadian, Ron Hines. He had a song lyric on his record that went "It would be a kind comfort, if some kind soul, would carry this cross for a while". As soon as I heard it I went, "Damn, I wish I had written that".

Since he had already written I did the next best thing and I answered him with my own song and lyrics like,

"When the music is labored, I will be your hands.
When your mind is weary, a brilliant thought.
When the hard road is favored, your advance,
Count on me brother, I will carry your cross".

It's just about us looking after each other. Some people may get more of a spiritual feel from it due to the Cross reference I guess. I was raised Catholic and every now and then, what I was taught finds it's way into my music.

Without Words

Interesting, I never meant for the song to be sad. I kind of took it from the perspective of young love or falling in love for the first time. As a young man I was always trying to fit in, worrying about being cool and if I was good enough for the world. Dylan (my son) wrote that great acoustic guitar riff off the top of the song and the words just kind of fell out of me, as he would be about the same age as me when I was having those young feelings. There was no one particular person in mind, I was just trying to capture that feeling of young love and letting go of all inhibitions and sense of self.

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