



## The Songs of American Wilderness Odyssey by Steve Bonham and The Long Road.

- 1 Ballad of Duane and Billy Marie
- 2 Interstate 25
- 3 Canyons In The Desert
- 4 On A Bridge Across The River
- 5 Wrapped Up In You
- 6 American Wilderness
- 7 Do You?
- 8 Moonshine Running
- 9 Midnight Radio
- 10 If There's A God Out Here
- 11 White Lightning / Red Mustang
- 12 Looking For Love, Looking For Gold
- 13 Silver Moon, Silver Girl
- 14 Waiting on a Storm
- 15 Western Requiem

It may be a quality of great music that people hear in it something that resonates and calls to them personally summoning up their own particular ghosts, So it is with the music of Steve Bonham and The Long Road and their epic American Wilderness Odyssey. People have heard the spirit of early Laurel Canyon, recognised americana, roots, folk music but not as they have ever heard it before, caught echoes of the Doors, early Eagles, Dr John even Pink Floyd

These are songs of the open road and the less-beaten path. Literally so. For the spirit of the vagabond troubadour lives on and these songs are written from the direct, visceral experience of long treks and road trip across the southern states of the USA. The band say they went in search of the myth, madness and moonshine of USA and the 15 songs that arose explore the shadowy enchantment of the American Wilderness. The themes are of revenge and redemption, the loss of innocence, love at the edge of darkness, defiance and self-reliance and the strange resonant conversation between people and place. They about the extraordinary stories of ordinary folk.

**The Ballad of Duane and Billy** Enigmatic and mysterious it grew out of a trek on foot Steve made through the Appalachian forests and mountains, finding 4 days from anywhere, initials carved upon a tree. The structure shifts and changes with some great guitar from Kev and echoing ghostly piano from Chris. It is at once strange and yet absolutely Americana.



**Interstate 25** was written after visiting a ghost town at twilight in Northern New Mexico and finding the last resident was still there. One Ben C De Bacca who told him what happened to the place. A place once nicknamed 'Sodom on the Mora' where an outlaw rode his horse into a saloon and shot is because it wouldn't take a drink. A place where the inhabitants were eventually cheated out of their land and the town faded to golden dust and empty walls.

### **Canyons in the Desert.**

A sense of threat, of being lost, a voice offering salvation but how real is it? The Long Road really play with their sound here, brooding bass, simple hypnotic rhythms, strange piano licks, acoustic guitar phrases that flicker in and out of consciousness.

**A Bridge Across The River** . Opening with a simple guitar riff, almost immediately the bass, drums and Hammond organ enter accompanying a wonderful strange vocal from Kev Moore which echoes in from the wilderness. Ostensibly the song is about a preacher calling out to crowds of football supporters crossing the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge for a game between the Nashville Titans and the Kansas city Chiefs but as the narrative unfurls the riverboats, slaves, the whores and gamblers rise up from the Cumberland River and lost times to join the crowd.

**Wrapped Up in You**, was a hit on independent radio globally and number 1 on UKCountry Radio. It sits in an easy groove as the old gunfighter finally finds the love of his life. And least for the time being.

**American Wilderness** Is an epic powerful ballad. Travelling around the southern states trekking and road tripping, Steve came across the strange story of Paula Angel – said to be the first woman to be hung in New Mexico. The story follows her fate and the characters who are witness to it: Benedict the travelling judge, the gaoler, the feckless soldier, the baker and stableboy. If the Coen brothers wrote a song it would probably sound like this.

**Do You** is a co-write between Steve and Chris and is a 'secular prayer' borrowing chords from jazz and beyond. It celebrates the power within which we have within to stand strong as the wilderness threatens.

**Moonshine Running** is good ol' piece of country rock in praise of the moonshine drivers of legend, people like Junior Johnson and Willie Clay Call (the Uncatchable). The distillery is still there and the spirit lives on!

**Midnight Radio** is a song about Elvis and Steve! More fundamentally about the voodoo spell of rock'n'roll. Features a great acoustic guitar solo from Kev Moore who also played bass and drums on the album.

**If There's A God Out Here**, is a brooding, almost cinematic depiction of a part of America (Appalachia) forgotten and abandoned despite its heart-breaking beauty. Based on Steve's trek on foot through the region it focuses on a world where no longer is it moonshine whiskey that is distilled in the backwoods, but 'Hillbilly Heroin' also known as crack cocaine. A place where a corporate greed had

**AMERICAN  
WILDERNESS  
ODYSSEY**

**BENEFACTOR AMERICANA  
STEVE BONHAM  
&  
THE LONGROAD**



created a painkiller dependency that effects more or less every family. Steve and Kev share the vocals in a haunting and moving song

**White Lightning / Red Mustang** is a song from Steve and Kev: an incantation, a spell, the white witch of the prairie? A piece of country rock that demands an open car and the endless highway.

**Looking for Love / Looking for Gold.** In the great American tradition of 'far-from-home' songs. Or maybe it should be 'trying-to-get-back home songs. A consequence of the vast distances of the American landscape, A beautiful melody lies within.

**Silver Moon, Silver Girl** takes a New Orleansy feel with Chris's piano letting you know exactly where it is coming from. A surreal road trip of a song with an irresistible beat.

**Waiting on A Storm** is a shuffling groove of a piece about illicit love and hound dogs on a man's trail. It features some wonderful rootsy piano from Chris 'the Bishop' Lydon.

**Western Requiem** An elegiac, sweeping take on the broken dream of America. It is remembrance of a time that never was but is redolent with spirit and story. Geronimo, the barnstormer, the man in black, the bandit queen, ghost dancers and wild mustangs: of such things are legends made. A world of a rough kind of innocence.