



Slide Man Slim & Penny Hanna - Home Grown

Home Grown is the 4th album we've released so far this century (and for us that's moving fast!). These 10 original tunes were recorded in our project studio from 2020 to 2024. They've previously appeared as singles on our website but have now been re-mixed, re-mastered and (in some cases) re-recorded allowing them to be their best possible selves.

The repertoire touches on Swing, Pop, Brazilian, Classic Country and Jazz grooves while lyrical themes include Life's Third Act, Climate Change, Politics, Religion, and (of course) True Love.

All tunes written and recorded by Slim Heilpern, produced and arranged by Slim Heilpern and Penny Hanna



1. Contact High 3:15

Starting off the album we have a lively chromatic harmonica feature with an infectious bass groove. Pedal Steel and Alto Sax soon join the fun as the tune grooves on. But please be careful if you're driving -- dig it too much and you might catch a strong contact high!

*Slim: Chromatic Harmonica, Guitars, Pedal Steel Guitar, Keys, Drum Programming
Penny: Bass Guitar, Sax Section, Alto Sax Solo*

2. Nature Will Have Her Way 3:22

Penny's gamba chorus backs the opening lyric of this mildly sarcastic take on humanity's likely-to-be-missed opportunity to save itself (from itself). And then, suddenly, a breezy groove fills the air while our messenger further describes the dire situation we find ourselves in. Along the way, sax, guitar, and chromatic harmonica features sweeten the gloom (does a spoonful of sugar really help the medicine go down?).

Slim: Guitars, Pedal Steel Guitar, Chromatic Harmonica, Keys, Drum Programming
Penny: Vocal, Double Bass, Viola da Gamba Section, Alto Sax

*Take my hand, turn down the gloom
The doom of humanity may be coming soon
It haunts you through and through
And I won't tell you it's not true*

*But there'll be time to suffer the pain
When the floods and fires come, hurting everyone
Last chance now for fun
A little joy before we're done*

*Because nature will have something to say
Nature will have her way
At the end of the day we'll all be going away*

*They can say the science is wrong
Or a cure will surely come, saving everyone
If only that were true
You know they haven't got a clue*

*But don't be sad or too quick to blame
The reign of humanity was bound to end in calamity
Human nature made it so
And so it's time for us to go*

*Because nature will have something to say
Nature will have her way
At the end of the day we'll all be going away*

3. Smitten 4:08

In this jazzy ballad, our protagonist is clearly in love with his muse, who joins in with her alto sax to further validate his obsession. He responds with his guitar and harmonica before further elaborating on his affliction.

Slim: Vocal, Guitar, Chromatic Harmonica, Pedal Steel Guitar, Drum Programming

Penny: Double Bass, Alto Sax, Muse

I'm smitten
Not by a Youtube dog or kitten
Not by superficial charms or bling
Or anything that's not true
Unlike you

I'm taken
From the moment I awaken
With each and every little thing that you do
And the big things too
You come through

I never have to wonder why I'm in love
It's plain for everyone to see
You're beautiful baby, inside and outside
The perfect companion for me

Yeah I'm flying
When I'm with you there's no denying
Your love can send me to the highest height
Where everything's alright
And subdued

And I'm certain
There's nothing better out there lurkin'
No adventure that can top our thing
Or the joy that you bring
When I'm blue

I'll never have to search for someone to love
I'll never have to leave or stray
You're beautiful baby, inside and outside
And nothing can stand in love's way

Because I'm smitten
Not by a youtube dog or kitten
Not by superficial charms or bling
Or anything that's not true
Unlike you

Yeah, I'm smitten with you

4. Before My Light Goes Out 3:31

Penny sings and the band swings as we navigate and celebrate life's third act. There are guitar, pedal steel, and clarinet features.

Slim: Guitars, Chromatic Harmonica, Pedal Steel Guitar, Keys, MIDI programming

Penny: Vocal, Double Bass, Clarinet

I wanna little fun, and laughter
Before my light goes out
And I'll be happy, ever after
With the end approaching faster
I may not have a lot of time
But I'll make it count in spades
Each moment, every hour, starting today

I'll spend more time, with my honey
Before my light goes out
And we won't need, a lot of money
Just enough to keep things sunny
We'll take a hike in the nearby wood
And ride our bikes through the neighborhood
And enjoy every minute, starting today

This old world can be a nasty place
But I'll keep that smile upon my face
And as my time is winding down
I'll cast my troubles to the ground

I'm gonna find joy in living
Before my light goes out
There'll be less take, and more giving
Lots of hugging, lots of kissing
I'll lead with love and banish hate
And accept whatever is my fate
Each moment, every hour, starting today

I wanna little fun, and laughter
Before my light goes out
And I'll be happy, ever after
With the end approaching faster
I may not have a lot of time
But I'll make it count in spades
And enjoy every minute
As long as I'm still in it
I'll rejoice without limit, starting today

5. Waiting For Sleep To Come 3:46

A Latin Jazz groove sets up this ballad, a snapshot of marital bliss. And along the way we have nylon guitar and harmonica features.

Slim: Vocal, Guitars, Chromatic Harmonica, Pedal Steel Guitar, Keys, Percussion Programming

Penny: Double Bass

The morning sun is shining
And sneaking through the shade
As I awake while you're still busy dreaming away
What are your dreams for today?

And when you rise
I will be right there to greet you
With all the hugs and kisses you can stand
It's your prize
For allowing me to love you
And now your every wish is my command

As sunlight warms the coastline
We begin another day
With each hour bringing some new revelation
At least it seems that way

And later on
We'll share each other's stories
Over dinner, then another warm embrace
And when nighttime falls
We'll muse about tomorrow
Preparing for whatever, just in case

And as we lay side by side
And the memories rush in
Thinking of all that we've done
On this wild ride
While waiting for sleep to come

6. Above & Below 4:08

This Brazilian Jazz flavored instrumental can be thought of a vacillating between groovin' on the climate above ground vs. the climate below in the world's oceans... or not. That's the thing about instrumentals, they are rather abstract -- always fun trying to name them! This one has lots of harmonica, alto sax, pedal steel, and guitar.

Slim: Chromatic Harmonica, Guitars, Pedal Steel Guitar, Keys, Drum Programming

Penny: Bass Guitar, Alto Sax

7. This Life We've Had 3:57

"Lookin' back it's plain as the day to see..." that our first take on this tune had room for improvement, so here's a newer, shinier version of this pop-ish ballad.

Slim: Vocals, Chromatic Harmonica, Guitars, Pedal Steel Guitar, Keys, Drum Programming

Penny: Bass Guitar

We're standing, on the edge of time
Arms open wide
With nothing to hide
No mountains left to climb

We landed on a western shore
Where every day's new
Just being with you each day
I love you more

Lookin' back it's plain as the day to see
You're the reason I'm happy as a soul can be
You came into my life when I needed you so bad
I'll never regret for a moment this life we've had

The sun sets on its usual rounds
Day after day
Slippin' away
The waves the only sound

You're my only northern star
Year after year
With nothing to fear
No matter where we are

Lookin' back it's plain as the day to see
You're the reason I'm happy as a soul can be
You came into my life when I needed you so bad
I'll never regret for a moment this life we've had

Peace of mind can be hard to find these days
You make it happen for me in so many ways
We just can't know what life has in store for us tomorrow
But these tender memories will be there for us to borrow

Lookin' back it's plain as the day to see
You're the reason I'm happy as a soul can be
You came into my life when I needed you so bad
I'll never regret for a moment this life we've had

8. Slidin' 'round 4:06

A pedal steel instrumental with clarinet, harmonica, guitar, and double bass solos. This is Slim's homage to the steel guitarists he had the pleasure of working with back in the day and who profoundly influenced his playing. Here's to Whitney Eisenwinter, Mark Erlewine, Billy Marshall and John Ely!

Slim: Pedal Steel Guitar, Chromatic Harmonica, Guitars, Drum Programming

Penny: Double Bass, Clarinets

9. Stand Up! 3:09

We first released this Country style get-out-the-vote anthem shortly before the 2022 election here in the USA. And holy cow, it's even more relevant as we write these notes in July of 2024.

Slim: Vocal, Guitars, Pedal Steel Guitar, Harmonica, Drum Programming

Penny: Bass Guitar

It's so much hotter than it used to be in summertime
Flood waters fill our streets, 'cause it rains so hard
Out west the fires rage now almost all year 'round
Leaving so much that we love, all burned up and scarred

Stand up for those who live in constant danger
Don't let petty allegations get in your way
Vote blue for the survival of our democratic nation
Don't let greed, fear and hate rule the day

They're going after folks of different colors again
And those who pray or love, in a different way
They're banning books and hiding from our troubling past
Leaving little hope that others, can see a brighter day

Stand up for those who live in constant danger
Don't let petty allegations get in your way
Vote blue for the survival of our democratic nation
Don't let greed, fear and hate rule the day

The fat cats pour their money into Washington
Keeping worker's wages low, and profits high
Now it's time that we remind them this is our land too
And we don't want politicians, not the ones that they can buy

Stand up for those who live in constant danger
Don't let petty allegations get in your way
Vote blue for the survival of our democratic nation
Don't let greed, fear and hate rule the day

10. If I Believed 3:39

Our protagonist may not be "big on the supernatural" but she does play a haunting sax solo on this humanist love ballad.

Slim: Guitars, Chromatic Harmonica, Pedal Steel Guitar, Keys, Drum Programming

Penny: Vocal, Alto Sax, Double Bass

If I believed in a higher power,
I'd thank the Lord for every flower,
For sunsets and rainbows and the morning dew,
But first I'd thank God for you

If I believed in life eternal
Be it heaven above or hell's inferno
I know you would rather have the better weather
And I'd hope we 'd be up there together

I'm not big on the supernatural
Or fairy tales from above
I put my faith in all things actual
And in you I trust my love

If I believed in predestination
With no free will for all of creation
I would be the creator's biggest fan
'Cause she put you in the master plan

I've got no use for the astrological
pseudoscientific creed
I don't need readings horiscopical
To know you're the one I need

If I believed in a higher power,
I'd thank the Lord for every flower,
for sunsets and rainbows and the morning dew,
but first I'd thank God
(if I was a believer)
first I'd thank God for you

Listen here: SlimAndPenny.com/home-grown

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