

BEYOND ROMANCE
SONGS BY BEN BIERMAN



These songs reflect my life in music. As a New York City journeyman trumpet player, bandleader, composer, and arranger, I worked with many types of ensembles including small jazz groups and big bands as well as R&B and funk bands; as a salsero I played with numerous bandleaders including Ray Barretto, Hector Lavoe, Machito, Johnny Colon, and Larry Harlow; and on the blues circuit I performed with Johnny Copeland, B.B. King, and Stevie Ray Vaughn, among others. I have also studied composition with David Del Tredici, Tania León, and John Corigliano and have a life-long passion for American popular songs and musical theater. All told, these experiences have made me the musician that I am, and I present these songs with great pride.

After writing the music for *Beyond Romance* with only a vague notion of musically expressing my thoughts on love and family life in middle age, I turned to my friend and collaborator, Earl Shuman, to write the text. Earl is a paragon of old school professionalism having published and recorded over 400 songs including hits such as “Hey There Lonely Girl” and “Seven Lonely Days.” His songs have been recorded by a Who’s Who of vocalists including Tony Bennett, Bing Crosby, Patsy Cline, Perry Como, Barbara Streisand, Tom Jones, Eddie Holman, and Dean Martin. I gave Earl the music and

within two weeks he had created a concept and lyrics for the entire cycle. I am very grateful to him for having made *Beyond Romance* into something bigger and better.

While *Six Songs* has only a smattering of improvised solos, the songs all came from improvisations of mine that I recorded as I sang, and as part of my compositional process I recorded the bass and piano parts myself. While I originally intended to have other musicians accompany me, by the time I finished composing and recording, the project felt like such a personal expression as well as a reflection of my musicianship that I decided to leave them as is. I then had the wonderful experience of working with my oldest son, Emanuel, a terrific and sensitive percussionist, who played the cajón parts for me. Emanuel and I have shared musical experiences since he was five, and working with him on this has been an incredible joy.

I dedicate this CD to Alison, Emanuel, Leo, and Eli Bierman.

For more information on my musical life, including my work as a professor and scholar, please visit my website, benbierman.com.

Ben Bierman

Beyond Romance (2008, Revised 2012)

Music: Ben Bierman; Lyrics: Earl Shuman

1. We're On Our Own Now (2:51)
2. Nothing Happened (3:09)
3. Share (2:06)
4. 2 rms for 2 in luv (2:10)
5. We're a Family (2:21)
6. Wake Up and Worry (2:17)
7. He's Busy at the Office (3:44)
8. If You Can (2:37)
9. Come Back and Be Forgiven (2:53)
10. We're On Our Own Now (Reprise) (0:43)

Hilary Gardner, Voice
Matthew Scott, Voice
Jeb Patton, Piano

Six Songs (2013)

11. Don't You See? (4:10)
12. Walking With a Lift (5:31)
13. Too Tender Now (3:40)
14. Riverside Waltz (3:36)
15. Once I Thought I Knew You * (3:30)
16. We Don't Really Know Too Much (4:29)

Ben Bierman, Trumpet, Keyboard, Bass
Emanuel Bierman, Cajón
*Lawrence Zoernig, Cello **
*Eric Grossman, Violin and Viola **

All Music Composed by Ben Bierman, © 2013, Reynolds Music (ASCAP)

Beyond Romance Recorded and Mixed by Jim Clouse, Park West Studios, December 17-18, 2012

Six Songs Recorded at home January, 2012-13 and Mixed by Jim Clouse, Park West Studios

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