

20) Warrior Dance

Written & Produced by Adam Rapa

Engineered by Adam Rapa & Brandon Epperson

Drumset recorded by Albert Cohen @ Rough Magic Studios in NYC

Guitar recorded by Matt Stanford in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Adam Rapa - vocals, trumpet, african percussion, tibetan singing bowls, synth programming

John Elrod - trombone

Mike Welch - bass trombone

Kristian Alexandrov - piano

Ralf Buschmeyer - guitar

Tim Carey - bass

Louis Cato - drumset

This song is my soundtrack to Mike's emotional journey, as I imagine it, from just before his accident and into the distant future. Creating it was a vehicle for me to send him healing energy, which maintained a constant flow throughout the many long days it took to complete.

Making this song without spending a dollar was only possible thanks to a lot of people donating their time and energy. I am indescribably grateful for the musicians and engineers who helped make it happen. These are all very busy people who usually don't come cheap, none of whom owed me any favors. With the obvious exception of John Elrod, none of them even know Mike! What a beautiful display of humanity. Now I owe THEM, big time!

To record this song in six different cities at once, I had to start by creating a 1st draft with all synthesized facsimiles of the real instruments, on top of which I recorded my vocals and trumpets. Then I sent that track to all of the other musicians, with and without their part in the mix. They recorded their parts and sent everything back to me either via internet or a DVD in the mail. As their tracks arrived gradually, I replaced the synthesized parts with the real parts and continued adding more of my own layers as well.

In total, there are almost a hundred tracks making up this song, including 18 vocal tracks, 10 brass, 4 hands of piano, 6 guitar tracks, an entire simulated village of African percussionists, 4 tracks of synth pads, a handful of singing bowls, etc. All the while I was working within a computer program that only allows me to hear 32 tracks at a time... To get around this, I had to mix each instrument group down to stereo tracks and... well, you probably don't care to know the grueling details. Let's just say it wasn't easy.

Instead of getting stressed out at any point, I just kept Mike in the forefront of my thoughts, which made it so much easier than ever before to keep things in perspective and exist in a constant state of Love and gratitude.

Thank you, Mike, for inspiring me to pour so much heart into my work. I'll carry that kind of focus with me forever. Much Love.