A man with glasses, wearing a white shirt and a dark tie, is sitting on a stack of several thick, old books. He is playing an acoustic guitar and looking off to the side. The background is a soft, hazy landscape.

LYRICS

THOMAS ITTY  
**RETRO  
SPECTIVE**

33 songs  
written & performed by  
Thomas Itty

# RETROSPECTIVE

## BY THOMAS ITTY

A master songwriter at the peak of his powers!

Thomas Itty is an indie singer/songwriter and DIY recording artist from Westchester County, New York. He's been writing songs since he was seventeen years old and has a catalog of over 100 songs. Itty has released two albums as an independent artist: *The Dark Edge of The Light* (2000) and *From There to Here* (2015). His new collection, *Retrospective*, includes 35 original songs recorded in 2018 and 2019. Some of the songs have been released as singles with limited distribution, but this is a definitive volume of the artist's work in the past two years.

Thomas Itty's music can be broadly categorized as acoustic-rock. His lyrics are deep and his songs explore the human condition with poetic grace. All the words and music on this collection are Itty's. They reflect an artist that is comfortable in his songwriting abilities and at the top of his game. With catchy tunes, attention-grabbing hooks and memorable lyrics, his songs draw you in and keep you listening... over and over again.

If you're not yet a fan of Thomas Itty, you will be once you hear this collection of songs.

### **MUSICIANS:**

**Thomas Itty**      Lead and background vocals, acoustic & electric guitars, bass, drum programming, shakers, harmonica

**Juan Zaragoza**      Bass guitar, electric & acoustic rhythm and lead guitar

**Brian Albright**      Electric & acoustic rhythm and lead guitar

Produced, recorded and arranged by Thomas Itty

All songs © Thomas Itty 2010-2018

[www.thomasitty.com](http://www.thomasitty.com)

## THOMAS ITTY • RETROSPECTIVE

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# Solomon Grundy

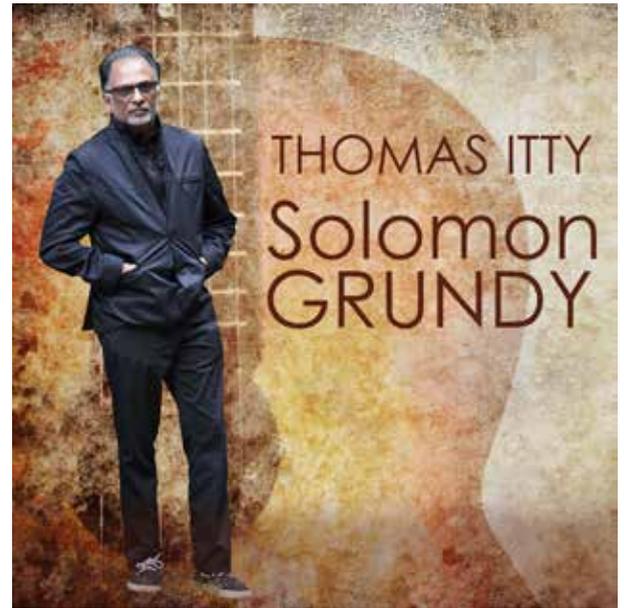
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Monday morning He heard the warning  
Storm clouds coming through  
It rained day and night  
Not a ray of light  
Even the dog was blue  
Solomon Grundy was his name  
The next day was just the same...

Tuesday came early  
Hurley-burley  
He had to pay his dues  
Everything was a crunch Got no time for lunch  
He just stood in queues  
Traffic was bad on the Inter-State  
But he had all the time to wait...

Wednesday got silly  
He hung in Philly  
And got home pretty late  
His wife went off to bed  
He tried to clear his head  
And sat to meditate  
Then a message came on through  
Solomon Grundy who are you...

Thursday was a hump  
His wife found a lump  
So off to the doctor's they went  
They did some tests and things  
He pawned his signet ring  
He had to pay rent  
He spent the evening with his wife  
And lay awake thinking about life...



Friday found cancer  
But God had the answer  
The faithful swore it was true  
He cried and shaved her head  
Prayed just like they said  
He didn't want to be rude  
"Forgive me God for what I do  
I'm just a lost soul passing through"

Saturday and Sunday  
Solomon Grundy  
Woke up to better days  
His wife lived for many years  
They forgot all their fears  
And never changed their ways  
Their story had a happy ending  
But maybe it's a little condescending...

# Idioms & Rhymes

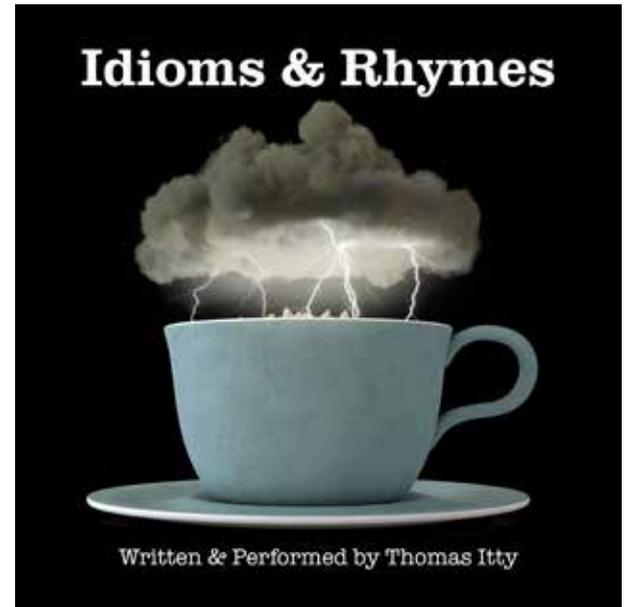
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

I'm a million-miles-away  
Six-ways-from-Sunday  
I'm at-sixes-and-sevens  
Catch-22 about heaven  
Pardon the digression  
But it begs-this-question  
Is it the eleventh-hour  
All along the watchtower

So-far-so-good  
Give-the-devil-his-due  
When I'm six-feet-under  
My two-cents will accrue  
Idioms and rhymes  
Make sense sometimes

He was just a two-bit preacher  
Another wandering creature  
Phony as a three-dollar-bill  
But she loved him still  
He had the seven-year-itch  
The whole-nine-yards seemed rich  
It always takes-two-to-tango  
So they skipped the light fandango

So-far-so-good  
Two wrongs don't make a right  
Five-will-get-you-ten  
Partners on a three-dog-night  
Idioms and rhymes  
Make sense sometimes



They came like moths-to-a-flame  
For their fifteen-minutes-of-fame  
But behind-the-eight-ball  
They found their final-curtain-call  
Possession is nine-tenths-of-the-law  
Said the judge in Arkansas  
And ten-to-one you're insane  
If you're standing in the purple rain

So far so good  
You clever little son-of-a-gun  
You've put two-and-two-together  
And come back-to-square-one  
Idioms and rhymes  
Are true sometimes

# Living Free

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

The sun was shining brightly  
As I set out down the road  
Had all my belongings  
On my shoulders as my load  
Whistled a tune softly  
Don't care which road I choose  
When you ain't got nothing  
You've got nothing to lose

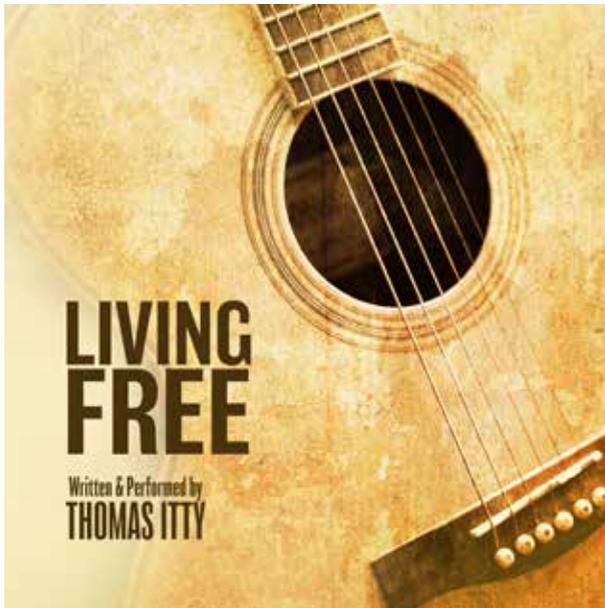
Living free until I die  
Sometimes I'm low sometimes I get high  
In times of trouble I don't hide  
These are the days of my life

Have my friend beside me  
And we get along just fine  
Cos he minds his own business  
And I mind mine  
Don't know where he's from  
Or where he's going to  
But we talk about life sometimes  
And share a drink or two

Living free until I die  
Sometimes I'm low sometimes I get high  
In times of trouble I don't hide  
These are the days of my life

Saw a pair of eagles fly in the sky  
And I thought about you and I  
And I remembered the life I left behind  
For my freedom and my peace of mind

Living free until I die  
Sometimes I'm low sometimes I get high  
In times of trouble I don't hide  
These are the days of my life



# Same World But New Reality

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

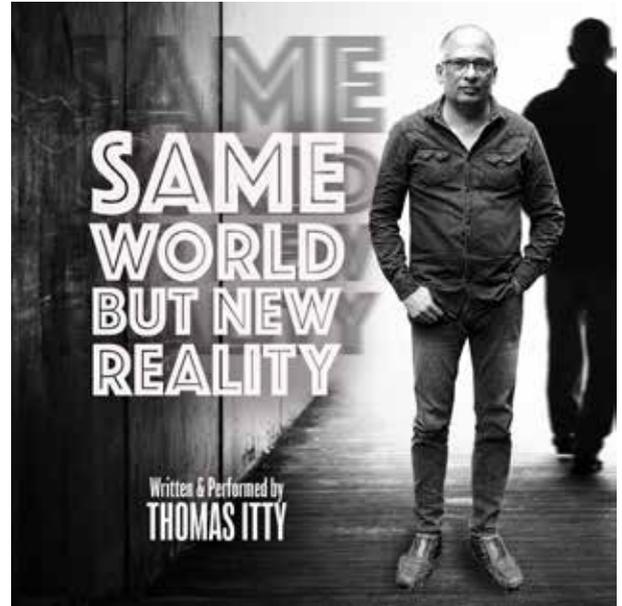
I wake up and I know it's not a dream  
But nothing is the way that it seems  
Same old picture on the wall  
Same old shoe rack in the hall  
Same old mug and brand of tea  
Same world but new reality

I walk through the city in some kind of a daze  
I feel the gaze of strangers upon my face  
Same old sky and morning sun  
Same old people on the run  
Same old face looking back at me  
Same world but new reality

Maybe I'm just a character  
In somebody's story  
If you look for it I'm sure  
There's bound to be an allegory  
Oh glory... glory

So Henry my dog and I we go for a walk  
I tell him my troubles but sometimes I wish he  
could talk  
Same old street and same old town  
Same old fence still falling down  
Same old lock and same old key  
Same world but new reality

It's a new reality  
It's a new reality  
It's a new reality



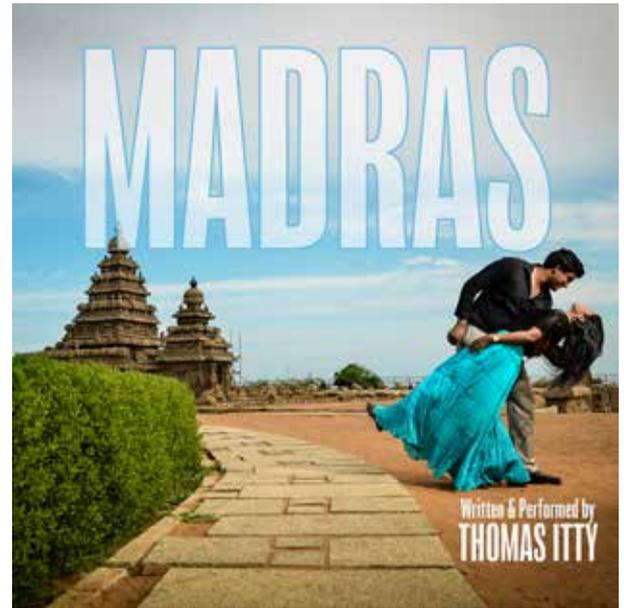
# Madras

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

I grew up in a different time  
Dusty roads and street pantomime  
I was once the victim of a crime  
But everything else was sublime  
They taught me what they could at school  
Read your books and don't be cruel  
Listened to the music of the boys from Liverpool  
And watched Peter O'Toole  
Things changed slow things changed fast  
In this earthly world nothing can last  
There are days I wish I could forget from the past  
But I remember..... Madras

I was young and she was younger  
We both burned with desire and a hunger  
Life was ours with no need to encumber  
Or think of surrender  
We took a train in the middle of the night  
To that city where no one knew us by sight  
We were free as birds and not contrite  
It was our human right  
Things changed slow things changed fast  
In this earthly world nothing can last  
There are days I wish I could forget from the past  
But I remember..... Madras

The old lady was selling roses  
The young girl was striking poses  
The thief he stole under our noses  
While we were eating dosas  
The policeman came in gave us heat  
But that's the way it is on the street  
Do your parents know where you meet  
And is she a child or just petite  
Things changed slow things changed fast



In this earthly world nothing can last  
There are days I wish I could forget from the past  
But I remember..... Madras

We took the train back when my money ran out  
She slept on my shoulder with her face in a pout  
She was no angel and I was no boy scout  
Of that there was no doubt  
It stayed hot and heavy for a few years  
Then came separation and maybe some tears  
Though we didn't reach any new frontiers  
I have some souvenirs  
Things changed slow things changed fast  
In this earthly world nothing can last  
There are days I wish I could forget from the past  
But I remember..... Madras

Yeah I remember Madras  
I remember Madras

# Let Your Light Shine On Me

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

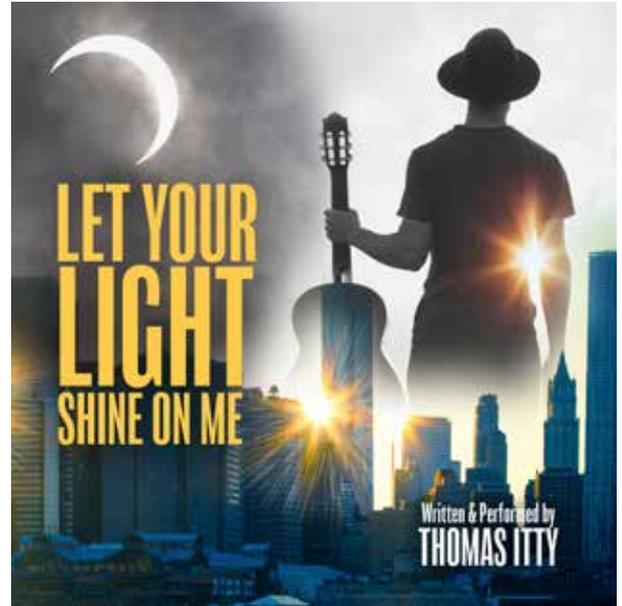
As I sit here in my basement room  
Filled with loneliness and gloom  
Through the tiny window I can see  
The lights of someone's Christmas tree  
Everyone seems happy but I'm alone  
A million miles from who I was  
And ten thousand miles from home

Let your light shine on me  
Let your light shine on me  
Cos I'm lost, lost as can be  
Let your light shine on me

I wandered through paths unknown  
And what I've seen has turned my heart to stone  
So I never let anyone in  
And I've done my share of sin  
But if you're God up in heaven  
That's looking out for me  
24/7

Let your light shine on me  
Let your light shine on me  
Cos I'm lost, lost as can be  
Let your light shine on me  
And let music set me free...

Maybe I'm a sinner who needs salvation  
Or maybe I'm a man  
With no hope for redemption



Let your light shine on me  
Let your light shine on me  
Cos I'm lost, lost as can be  
Let your light shine on me

Let your light shine on me  
Let your light shine on me  
Cos I'm lost, lost as can be  
Let your light shine on me  
If you're there...

# Days Like These

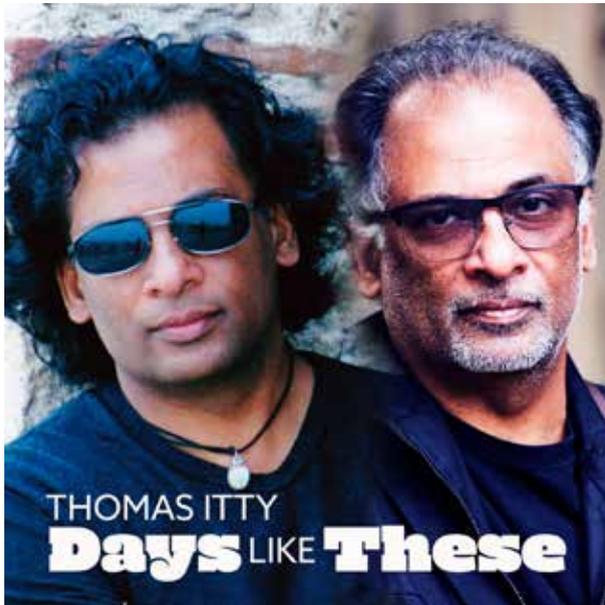
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Shadows are falling  
Time passes by  
The scene is changing  
And I don't know why  
The story is unwritten  
With a new twist in sight  
Do things in the daytime  
I used to do at night  
In my mind I can see  
The man I was at twenty-three  
When everything was within reach  
Never imagined days like these...  
Days like these

I see my mortality  
And I just carry on  
I break with tradition  
From dusk to dawn  
I look to the future  
But I don't forget the past  
I count my blessings  
Even when I'm harassed  
It don't matter what you do  
Life has no certitude  
It could just be a figure of speech  
When you talk about days like these...  
Days like these

I looked for answers  
In philosophy  
In literature I found  
To be or nor to be  
General Sun Tsui  
Taught me about the art of war  
When I found religion  
It was through my guitar  
I don't want to be immortal  
And live forever on a web portal  
Just give me love and give me peace  
And give me days like these...  
Days like these

Days like these...  
Days like these



# True Blue Troubadour

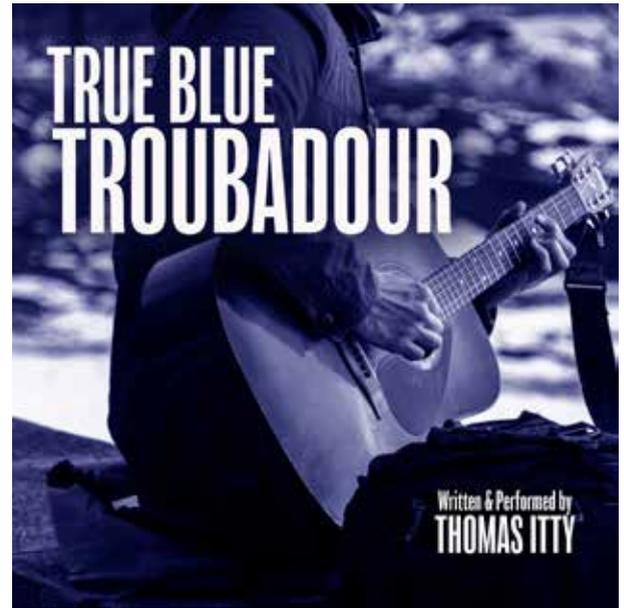
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

I watched the news  
There was nothing good on it  
Emaciated children  
With swollen heads like E.T.  
Parents were crying  
Their child is in a coma  
Then they cut away  
To an ad for Coca Cola

Can't take it no more  
Gonna close the door  
Can't take it no more  
I'm fed-up to the core  
Can't take it no more  
Don't wanna know the score  
Can't take it no more  
I'm just a true blue troubadour

I write about people  
And I write about love  
I write about the weather  
Sometimes while wearing a glove  
But I wrote nothing  
When they went and made him a king  
Now he's a tyrant  
And I'm screaming within

Can't take it no more  
Gonna close the door  
Can't take it no more  
I'm fed-up to the core  
Can't take it no more  
Don't wanna know the score  
Can't take it no more  
I'm just a true blue troubadour



When I was younger  
I really believed  
They'd get rid of countries  
And wars everywhere would cease  
When the Berlin Wall fell  
It all seemed so clear  
But now they want  
To build an even bigger wall here

Can't take it no more  
Gonna close the door  
Can't take it no more  
I'm fed-up to the core  
Can't take it no more  
Don't wanna know the score  
Can't take it no more  
I'm just a true blue troubadour

True blue... true blue troubadour

# Loving Heart

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

I saw you across the room  
You were the prettiest girl in the class  
I tried my best to make swoon  
But it was just an awkward pass

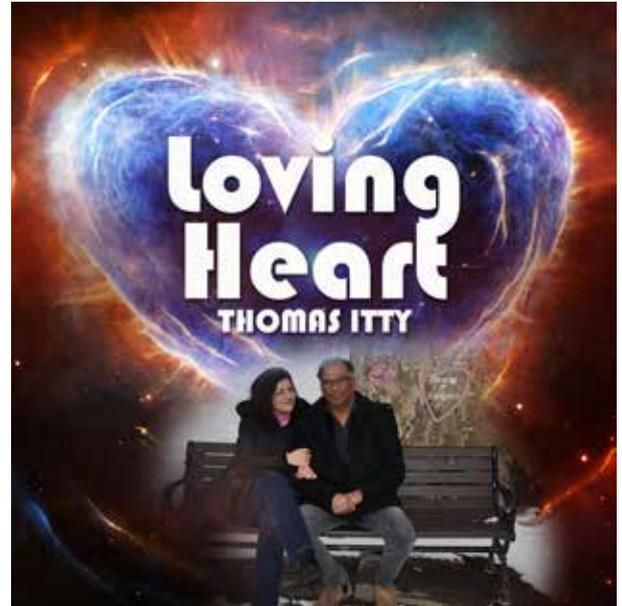
You saved me with your loving heart  
You have a loving heart  
I knew it from the start  
That you have a loving heart

Sometimes I have a bad disposition  
And there's no money in my bank card  
People think I lack ambition  
My mother said that I don't try hard

You saved me with your loving heart  
You have a loving heart  
I knew it from the start  
That you have a loving heart

We've been together over 20 years  
Time has passed but nothing's changed  
You're still beautiful in every way  
And I know that's the way you'll stay

You saved me with your loving heart  
You have a loving heart  
I knew it from the start  
That you have a loving heart  
Loving heart...  
Loving heart...  
Loving heart...



# Looking Down Looking Up

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Looking up... now I'm looking down  
Looking up... looking down  
Looking up... now I'm looking down

I've been through some hard times in my life  
Nothing has ever been easy for me  
I've been caught in situations  
I never knew that I could be free

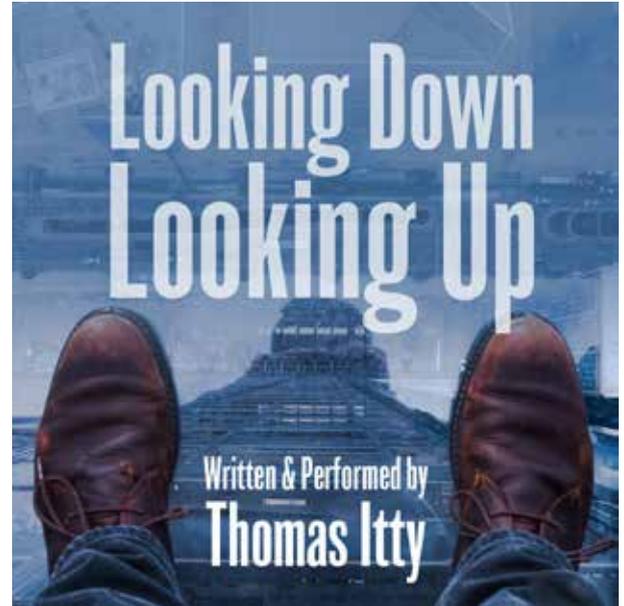
Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Life is hard but I am tough  
Looking down... now I'm looking up

Worked for a living as long as I remember  
Wish I could spend my life whiling away  
Travel the world and discover  
What people everywhere do every day

Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Life is hard but I am tough  
Looking down... now I'm looking up

As I'm older and maybe more wiser  
I look back on a life that's been okay  
I have the love of a good woman  
And children I know who are on their way

Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Life is hard but I am tough  
Looking down... now I'm looking up



The world may appear to be overwhelming  
But I know love is the way  
With a little peace and understanding  
We can all see a brighter day

Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Looking down... now I'm looking up  
Life is hard but I am tough  
Looking down... now I'm looking up

# I Learned Better

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

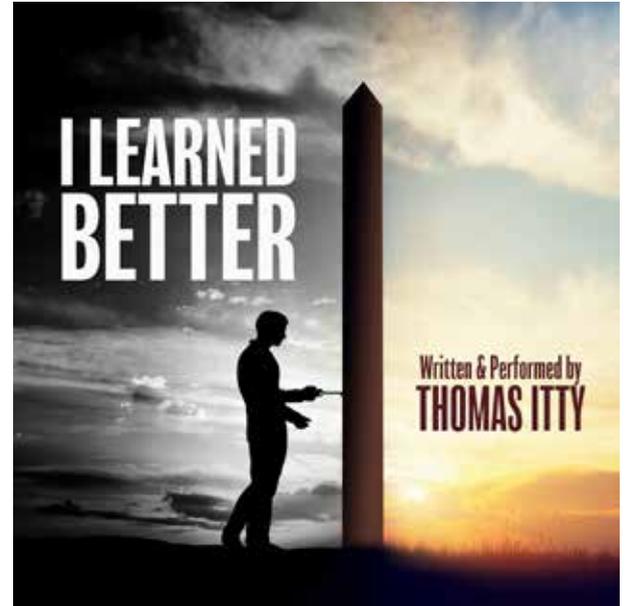
When I was oh so small  
I never knew anything at all  
I had my share of prejudice  
I'm ashamed now  
To even reminisce

Oh how was I so blind  
Until I opened up my mind  
I was just a boy in a sweater  
And then I learned better  
I learned better

And things are not how they used to be  
We're all still here stuck in history  
The good old days were not always better  
To make it these days  
You've got to be so clever

Oh how was I so blind  
Until I opened up my mind  
I tried being an investor  
And then I learned better  
I learned better

So I tried my best to change the world  
But all I really wanted was for her to be my girl  
I read some Marx and it got me thinking  
The Black Scholes model  
Wouldn't help my stocks from sinking



Oh how was I so blind  
Until I opened up my mind  
I tried being a go-getter  
And then I learned better

I learned better  
Ooo I learned better  
I learned better  
I learned better  
And now I know better

# What Your Love Has Done For Me

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

The sun shines its light and it burns so bright  
It brings life to the earth and sea  
It causes things to grow it makes the waters flow  
And keeps the world in harmony

It's what your love has done for me... me  
It's what your love has done for me  
You have saved me and set me free  
That's what your love has done for me

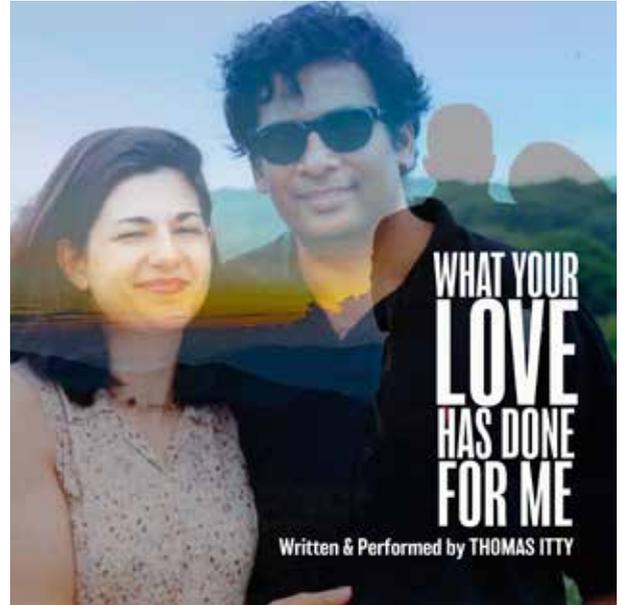
The moon reveals itself only at night  
But it gives comfort with its presence  
So children can dream in their blissful sleep  
And forget about all things unpleasant

That's what your love has done for me... me  
It's what your love has done for me  
You have saved me and set me free  
That's what your love has done for me

There are clouds every now and then  
And the sun disappears from view  
The moon is sometimes just a sliver  
But those days are so few

When I feel that my life is just too hard  
Or when I am sad and blue  
I stop what I'm doing and I turn around  
And find my way home to you

Cos I know what your love will do for me... me  
I know what your love will do for me  
You will save me and set me free  
That's what your love will do for me  
That's what your love will do for me



I know what your love will do for me... me  
I know what your love will do for me  
You will save me and set me free  
That's what your love will do for me  
That's what your love will do for me... mmm

# Best Laid Plans

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

He thought he was so clever  
As he got on the plane  
He'd killed his business partner  
Escaped with ill-gotten gains  
But best laid plans  
Can always go wrong  
You'd better watch out  
For those best laid plans

She thought her perfect looks  
Would take her anywhere  
She moved to Hollywood  
To marry a millionaire  
But best laid plans  
Can always go wrong  
You'd better watch out  
For those best laid plans

Plan A may fail so you need a Plan B  
And if you're smart you'll have Plan C ...and D  
Cos best laid plans  
Can always go wrong  
You'd better watch out  
For those best laid plans

Then there are folks like me  
Who don't have a plan  
We take life as it comes  
And don't give a damn  
Cos best laid plans  
Can always go wrong  
You'd better watch out  
For those best laid plans



You'd better watch out  
For those best laid plans  
You'd better watch out  
For those best laid plans... yeah

# 4 Horses

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

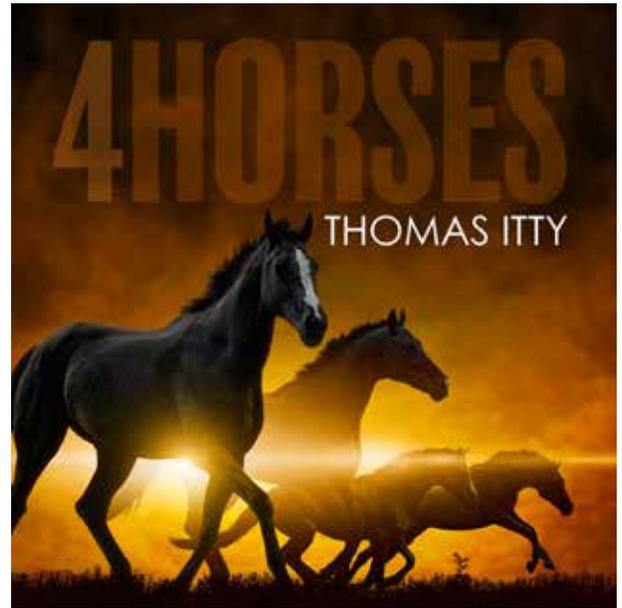
Everything is crazy  
Times are strange  
People are saying  
It's the end of days  
If I look back  
On what I know  
I have to admit  
It all seems apropos

Watch what you're doing  
Careful what you say  
Four horses maybe on their way  
White, red, black and pale  
Your gold won't save you  
On your final day... hey... hey

Tomorrow is unknown  
The world begins anew  
Yesterday is over  
What did you imbue  
It isn't all about  
What you can accrue  
We're all travellers  
Passing through

Watch what you're doing  
Careful what you say  
Four horses maybe on their way  
White, red, black and pale  
Your gold won't save you  
On your final day... hey... hey

*"Through many a thousand years of yore  
The penance and the pain I bore,  
And by fierce torment well sustained*



*The highest grace of Brahmá, gained,  
His plighted word my life assured  
From Gods of heaven and fiends secured"*  
(From The Ramayana)

It don't matter  
What you believe  
One true religion  
Or the Lord Of The Rings  
Saint or sinner  
We all must die  
You can say there's heaven  
Or just kiss your ass goodbye

Watch what you're doing  
Careful what you say  
Four horses maybe on their way  
White, red, black and pale  
Your gold won't save you  
On your final day... hey... hey

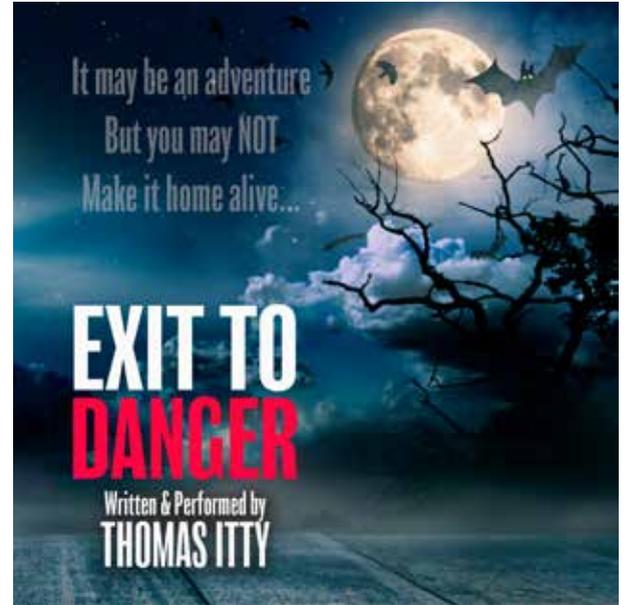
# Exit To Danger

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Black cat sitting by the side of the interstate  
Old woman with no teeth says she knows my fate  
You can see the fires burn down below  
Pretty young thing offers you a blow  
You've only got moments to decide after all  
Exit to danger... see the signs  
Exit to danger... heed these lines  
It may be an adventure  
But you may not make it home alive  
Exit to danger... be advised

Starting that war seemed easy at the start  
Kill the bad guys and win those natives' hearts  
But soon a thousand of our soldiers are dead  
They're capturing journalists  
and cutting off their heads  
It don't seem like such a good idea after all  
Exit to danger... see the signs  
Exit to danger... heed these lines  
It may be an adventure  
But you may not make it home alive  
Exit to danger... be advised

Using fossil fuels used to be the cardinal rule  
Until the earth got hotter and it wasn't so cool  
Some people say that nothing has changed  
Others keep screaming like they're deranged  
The truth is somewhere in the middle after all  
Exit to danger... see the signs  
Exit to danger... heed these lines  
It may be an adventure  
But you may not make it home alive  
Exit to danger... be advised



A little religion may be good for your soul  
But when you go too far you turn into a real asshole  
You want everyone to be how you think  
Someone should tell you that your ideas stink  
And you're closed minded not enlightened after all  
Exit to danger... see the signs  
Exit to danger... heed these lines  
It may be an adventure  
But you may not make it home alive  
Exit to danger... be advised

# Look Inside

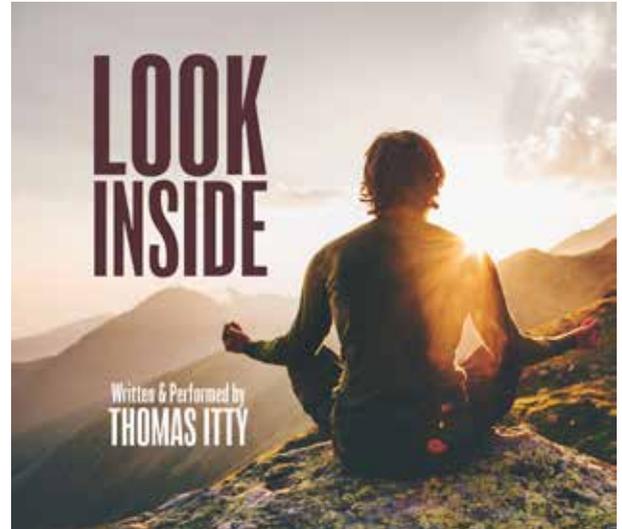
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Look inside the answers are there  
Mmm... look inside  
Open your heart free your mind  
And look inside  
Look inside... don't be afraid  
Mmm... look inside  
Take a chance make a stance  
Look inside

Hope is in every flower that grows  
Peace is in every hand one holds  
Love is in every river that flows  
And God is in everyone who knows

Look inside the questions are there  
Mmm... look inside  
Open your heart free your mind  
Look inside  
Look inside... you'll understand  
Mmm... look inside  
You'll see the sign it'll open your mind  
Look inside

Hope is in every flower that grows  
Peace is in every hand one holds  
Love is in every river that flows  
And God is in everyone who knows



Look inside your essence is there  
Mmm... look inside  
Open your heart and free your mind  
And look inside  
Look inside don't be afraid  
Mmm... look inside  
No need to pretend it's just you in the end  
Look inside

# If You're Human

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

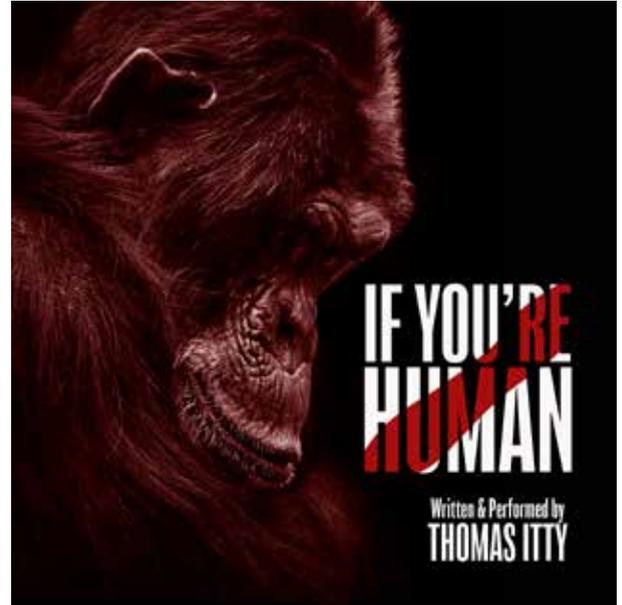
I saw the picture of a hunter  
Holding an elephant's tail  
The dead animal lay at his feet  
His other hand held champagne  
He had a proud look upon his face  
As he smiled for the camera  
The thrill of the kill made his eyes shine bright  
As his friends shouted out "hoorah!"

If you're human  
If that's what you claim  
If you're human  
Then we're not the same

Somewhere in a farm in England  
They found 50 cattle dead  
They'd been left there without any food  
In a small water-logged shed  
The farmer didn't show any remorse  
He did it for the insurance  
When they came for him, he cried out loud  
"For God's sake they're only cows!"

If you're human  
If that's what you claim  
If you're human  
Then we're not the same

Maybe man thinks he has the right  
To kill every living creature  
With his traps and guns and bazookas and such  
He's perfected the procedure  
And ahimsa, ahimsa said the Buddha  
May not scratch your killing itch  
But the universe is watching  
And Karma can be a bitch



If you're human  
If that's what you claim  
If you're human  
Then we're not the same

If you're human  
If that's what you claim  
If you're human  
Then we're not the same  
Man we're not the same

# Long Long Long Way From Home

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

When I was a young man many years ago  
I had a case of wanderlust that wouldn't let go  
So I left my family and set out on my own  
Now I'm a long, long, long way from home  
I took a bus, I took a train  
And then I caught a plane  
I flew across the ocean  
Where it wasn't quite the same  
I saw ancient cities that had turned to stone  
As I wandered a long, long way from home

I'm a long, long, long, way from home  
There's nobody there anymore to call on the phone  
And I think about them when I chant my ohm...  
I'm a long, long, long, long way from home

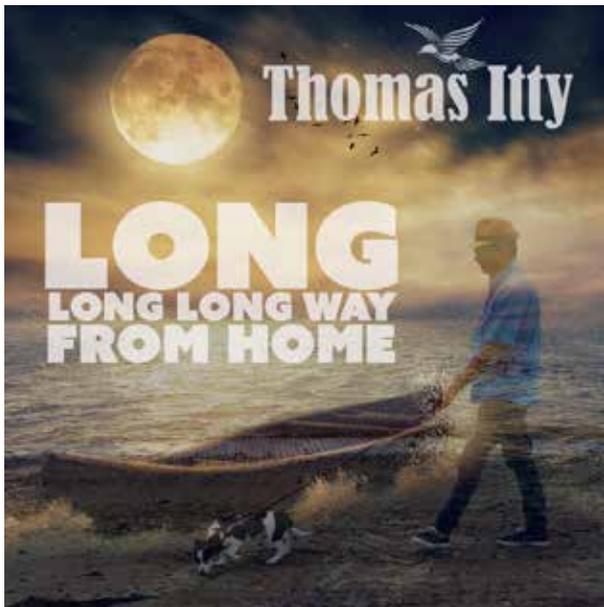
I traveled on the road with my bag on my shoulder  
And everything is new until it gets older  
I watched the sun rise  
And I watched the waters foam  
As I wandered a long, long way from home  
I saw a world where there was good and evil  
And most people are just trying to be peaceful  
People love their children  
And I love that Pope in Rome  
And I'm a long, long, way from home

I'm a long, long, long way from home  
There's nobody there anymore to call on the phone  
And I think about them when I chant my ohm...  
I'm a long, long, way from home

I found my way to New York City  
Met a girl here and oh she was pretty  
Got married had two kids now I'm not alone  
But I'm a long, long, long way from home

I'm a long, long, long way from home  
There's nobody there anymore to call on the phone  
I think about them when I chant my ohm...  
I'm a long, long, long way from home

I'm a long, long, long way from home  
There's nobody there anymore to call on the phone  
I think about them when I chant my ohms  
I'm a long, long, long way from home



# Letter From The Front

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Mama I'm drinking with my friends  
Mama I'm drinking with my friends  
Along with this note all my love I send  
Mama I'm drinking with my friends

Mama I'm not sure why I'm here  
Mama I'm not sure why I'm here  
No one told me why and the reason isn't clear  
Mama I'm not sure why I'm here

Mama my back's against the wall  
Mama my back's against the wall  
At early morning light I'll hear that bugle call  
Mama my back's against the wall

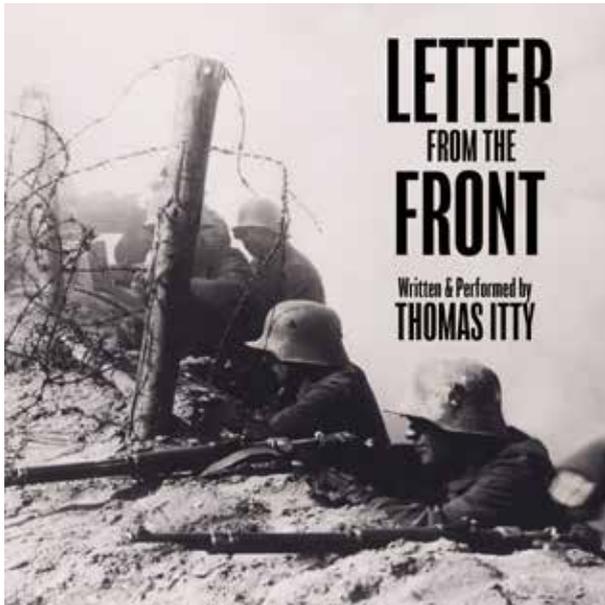
Mama tell everyone goodbye  
Mama tell everyone goodbye  
I'm thinking of you all as I look up at the sky  
Mama tell everyone goodbye

How many of our young men must be killed in vain  
What will it take for man to abstain  
From fighting for country and killing in God's name  
Young people its time you broke this chain

Mama I'm afraid to die  
Mama I'm afraid to die  
My hands are shaking but I'm too ashamed to cry  
Mama I'm afraid to die

Mama I don't want to die  
Mama I don't want to die  
This war is hell and my death is nigh  
But mama I don't want to die

Mama I don't want to die  
Mama I don't want to die



# It's All Right

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

If I wake up in the morning  
And the sun doesn't shine  
If I have you by my side  
It's all right  
If the rivers they stop flowing  
And the mountains crumble down  
If I have you by my side  
It's all right

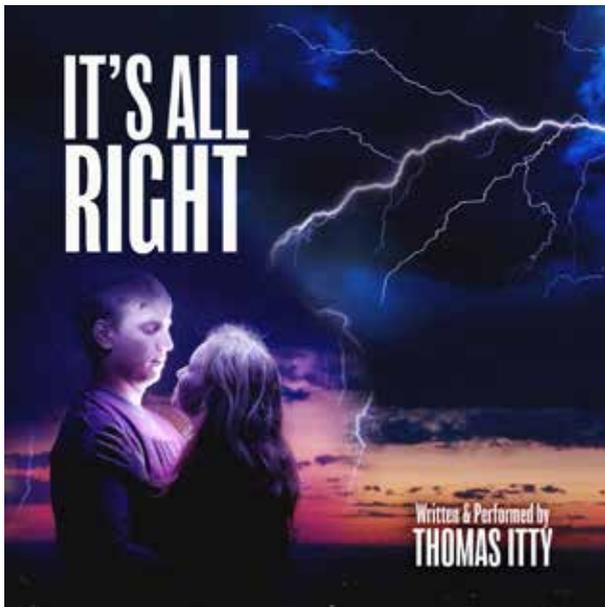
I don't need any of this  
There is nothing  
That I'd miss  
But your kiss

If the earth it stops turning  
And there's panic in the land  
If I have you by my side  
It's all right  
If the prophets they start proclaiming  
That the end is at hand  
If I have you by my side  
It's all right

I don't need any of this  
There is nothing  
That I'd miss  
But your kiss

If I wake up in the morning  
And the sun doesn't shine  
If I have you by my side

It's all right



# I See The Light

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

I see the light shining in the darkness  
I watched the sun rise up again  
I saw the tears in the eyes of my father  
As he smiled at me through his pain

I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the light

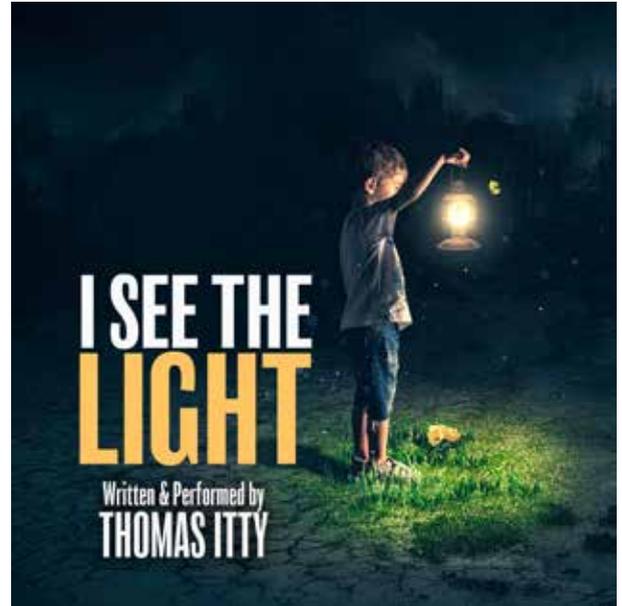
I see the light in the faces of my children  
I know what it means to strive in vain  
I think I'm past hate and deception  
I know the difference a good woman can make

I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the light

No more fear of the darkness  
I am breaking the chain  
It's all just an illusion  
When you realize that life's a game  
And the song it stays the same

I see the light as I look back on my life  
I see a moment that has no gain  
I'm past believing in divine retribution  
Or rewards in heaven if on earth I abstain

I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the la, la, la, la, la, la  
I see the light



# Morning Light

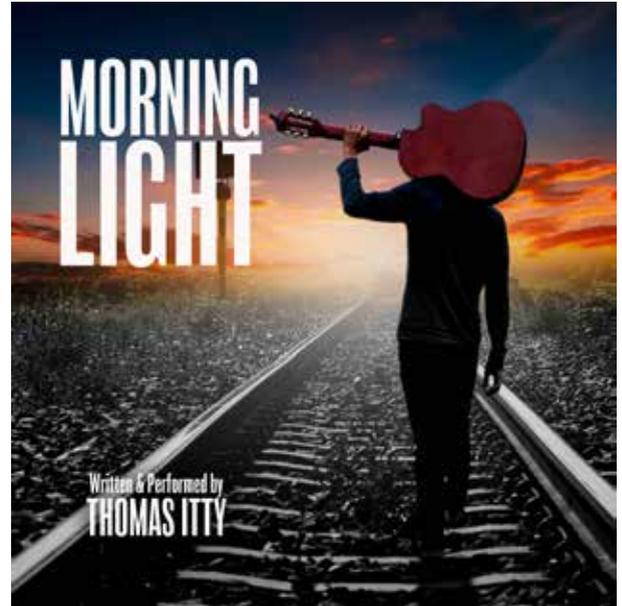
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Morning light  
Wakes me up to another day  
I feel its gentle glow  
Wash all my blues away  
I'm living through  
Changing day by day  
I made it through the night again  
But morning light  
Makes me feel all right

When I was young  
I thought I could make it on my own  
But as I'm getting older  
I find my fears have grown  
I'm living through  
Changing day by day  
I made it through the night again  
But morning light  
Makes me feel all right

As night time comes  
I turn and look for a friend  
But I was born alone  
And that's how it will be in the end... I know that  
I'm living through  
Changing day by day  
I made it through the night again  
But morning light  
Makes me feel all right

And I know I'll be all right  
By morning light  
By morning light  
By morning light



# Innocence Gone

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

There's death and destruction on every floor  
Of a bombed out building on some distant shore  
And there are angry people down below  
And every one wants to even the score

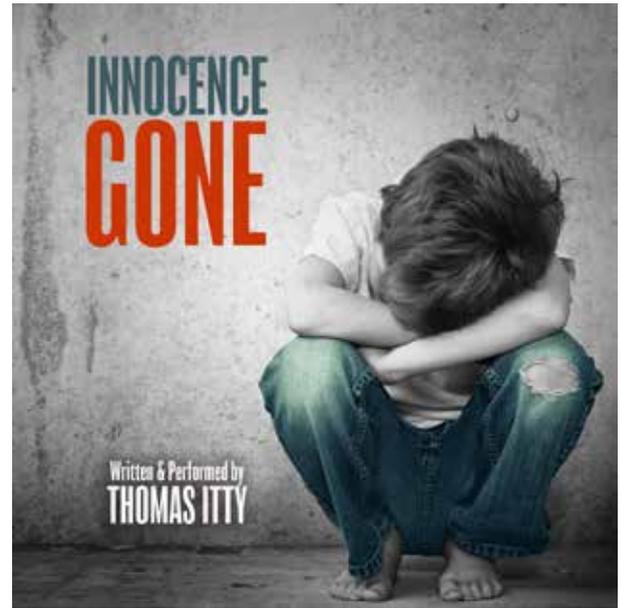
Another victim  
Another crime  
Another wrong  
Another soul with innocence gone  
Innocence gone

The battle is raging but the war's been lost  
Yet they keep on fighting at any cost  
From the streets of Europe to the Middle East  
Some say they're martyrs and some call them beasts

Another victim  
Another crime  
Another wrong  
Another soul with innocence gone  
Innocence gone

When he was young he was free  
He believed in humanity  
Now all he does is carry on  
But all his innocence is gone  
When he was young he was free  
He believed in humanity  
Now all he does is carry on  
But all his innocence is gone  
Innocence gone

It's a sad story and it ain't over yet  
And no one is winning so they're not taking bets  
And it's so hard to understand  
The cruelty of man upon man



Another victim  
Another crime  
Another wrong  
Another soul with innocence gone  
Innocence gone

When she was young she was free  
She believed in humanity  
Now all she does is carry on  
But all her innocence is gone  
When he was young he was free  
He believed in humanity  
Now all he does is carry on  
But all his innocence is gone  
Innocence gone

## THOMAS ITTY • RETROSPECTIVE

# As I

**Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)**

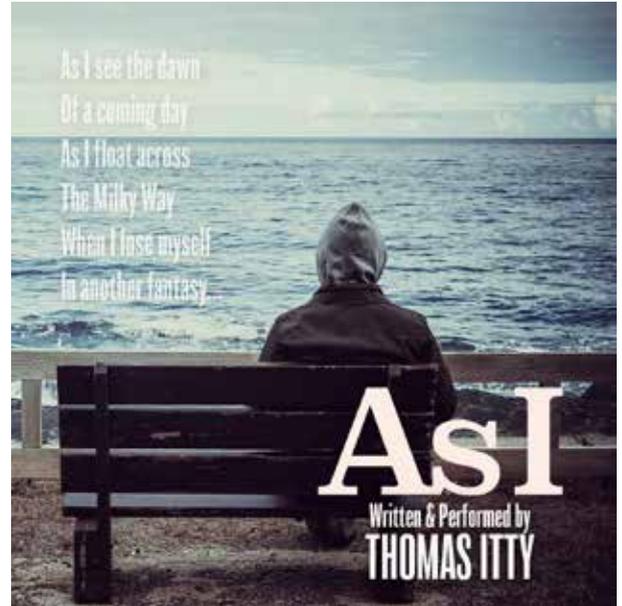
As I'm waiting for the rain to fall on me  
As I'm waiting for the cool to set me free  
When I'm feeling blue and I need a little sympathy...  
As I'm writing words of songs I've never heard  
As I'm walking in the dark through this world  
When I feel like fool my mama said I'll see...

I'd rather be a bird than a bee  
I'd rather be a monkey than a tree  
Sometimes I'd rather be you than me... as I...

As I wander through the wilderness  
As I feel only pain and emptiness  
When I search for peace and a little harmony  
As I fix a smile upon my face  
As I say I'm someone from the human race  
When I see things I never thought I'll see...

I'd rather be a bird than a bee  
I'd rather be a monkey than a tree  
Sometimes I'd rather be you than me... as I...

As I close the book upon the final page  
As I meditate on this restless age  
When I'm finally free of all my misery...  
As I see the dawn of a coming day  
As I float across the Milky Way  
When I lose myself in another fantasy...



I'd rather be a bird than a bee  
I'd rather be a monkey than a tree  
Sometimes I'd rather be you than me.... as I...

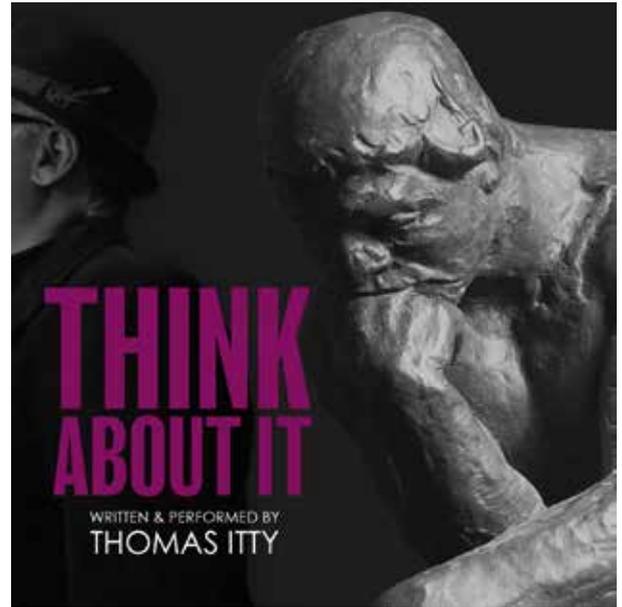
As I'm waiting for the rain to fall on me  
As I'm waiting for the cool to set me free  
When I'm feeling blue and I need a little sympathy...  
Some sympathy

# Think About It

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

You could be looking good feeling fine  
King man ahead of time  
Or roaming free an entity  
Living in a fantasy  
But somewhere down the line  
You're gonna wind up dyin'  
Think about it  
Dreamt of fairies and queens  
In bed last night  
But thought about it  
In the morning light  
That now fairies ain't fairies  
And queens ain't queens  
Think about it  
Take another look  
Do the pieces fit  
Read another book  
And think about... think about it

The heroes of today  
Are nothing more than poseurs  
We are living in a world  
Of winners and losers  
Where no one respects  
The teachers or the elders  
Think about it  
It's all getting crazier  
Every day  
This and that religion  
Don't know what to say  
The ones who hate the most  
Are the ones who pray  
Think about it  
Take another look  
Do the pieces fit?  
Read another book



And think about... think about it

Someone told me  
About a secret they'd been keeping  
So I passed it along  
And he started weeping  
If everyone is losing  
Then everyone is winning  
Think about it  
There's one thing  
I know for sure  
Hate is evil  
And love is pure  
And you could be the cancer  
Or you could be the cure  
Think about it  
Take another look  
Do the pieces fit?  
Read another book  
And think about... think about it

# New York City

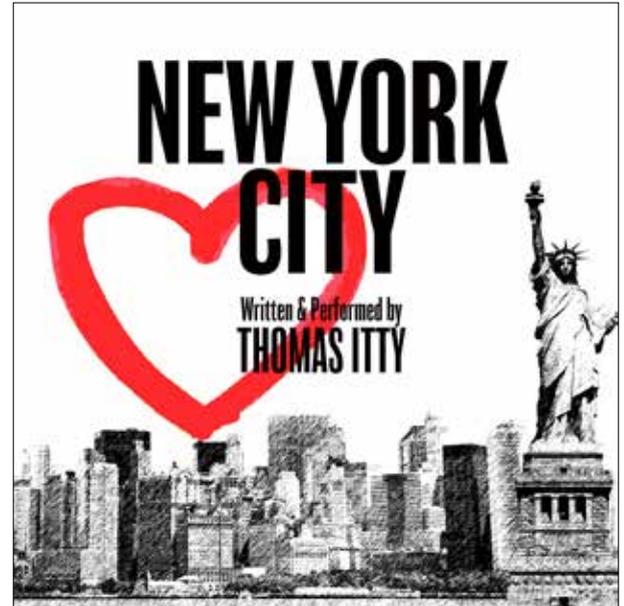
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Standing at a corner  
On 8th Avenue  
Watching the world go by  
Feel a little blue  
There's no one here with me  
But I am not alone  
So many people here  
In this place I call my home  
It's in my chromosomes...

New York City is my kind of town  
New York City is my kind of town  
You could be pretty or wearing a frown  
New York City is my kind of town  
But you can have a nervous breakdown

See the colorful people  
In the village downtown  
You can be who you want to be  
Without feeling like a clown  
It makes no difference who you are  
You've got to pay your dues  
But it's so liberating  
To live the life you choose  
With your favorite muse...

New York City is my kind of town  
New York City is my kind of town  
You could be pretty or wearing a frown  
New York City is my kind of town  
So come on down



I saw the lights go out in New York City  
And I saw the mighty towers fall  
Then I saw it rise from the ashes  
Nothing's gonna make New Yorkers crawl

New York City is my kind of town  
New York City is my kind of town  
You could be pretty or wearing a frown  
New York City is my kind of town  
So come on down

# Friends

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

I was looking through some photographs  
Some were more than 25 years old  
We looked young and so happy  
We didn't know what lay in store

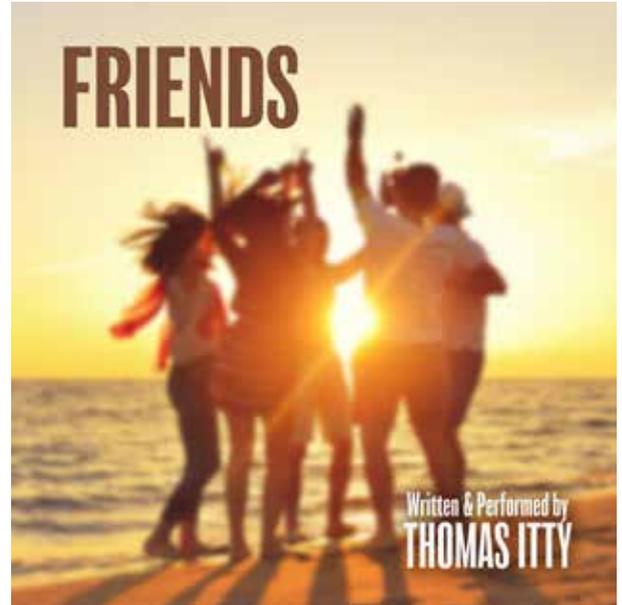
You are my friends  
Broken souls on the mend  
Wasted youth time well spent  
Stick together till the end

Some of us made a lot of money  
Others lost everything we owned  
Some of us tried to find a new life  
Others never came in from the cold

You are my friends  
Broken souls on the mend  
Wasted youth time well spent  
Stick together till the end

We've lost some good friends along the way  
We remember them and those good old days  
Grade school pranks and teenage romances  
We've lived our lives and taken our chances

You are my friends  
Broken souls on the mend  
Wasted youth time well spent  
Stick together till the end



# On My Way

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

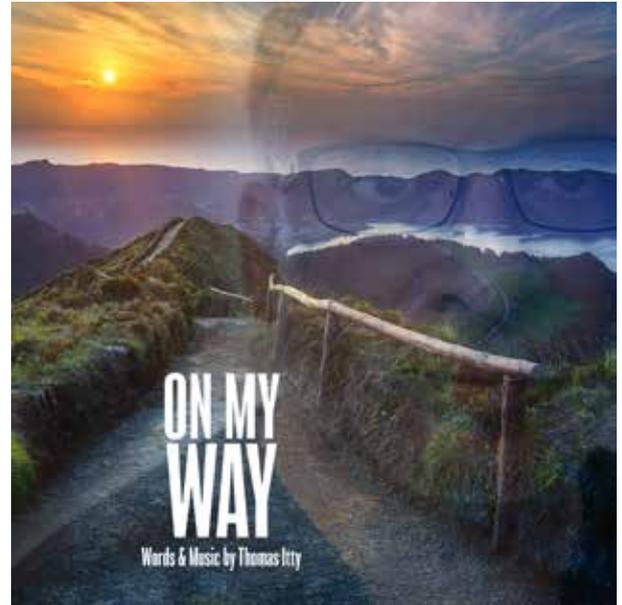
I was walking down the road  
On my mind a heavy load  
Situation getting worse  
And once or twice I think I cursed  
Then it hit me right there  
Like a bullet through the air  
I began to see the light  
I knew I had to do what's right  
Yeah, I gotta do what's right

Cos I'm on my way  
To a new and brighter day  
Left behind my feet of clay  
Cos I'm on my way  
Yeah, I'm on my way

Been a victim of my dreams  
Since I was in my teens  
Folks who think I've done okay  
Don't know the price I've paid  
Never saw a ray of hope  
In booze of dope  
Always hoped to find  
That elusive peace of mind  
Yeah, I'm looking for peace of mind

Cos I'm on my way  
To a new and brighter day  
Left behind my feet of clay  
Cos I'm on my way  
Yeah, I'm on my way

See the sunlight through the clouds  
Hear the silence getting loud  
As the shadows start to fade  
I see mistakes I've made



But love is in my heart  
As I make a brand new start  
Going through the greatest lengths  
Never thought I had the strength  
Yeah, I've got the strength

Cos I'm on my way  
To a new and brighter day  
Left behind my feet of clay  
Cos I'm on my way  
Yeah, I'm on my way

# Pages From My Book Of Memories

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

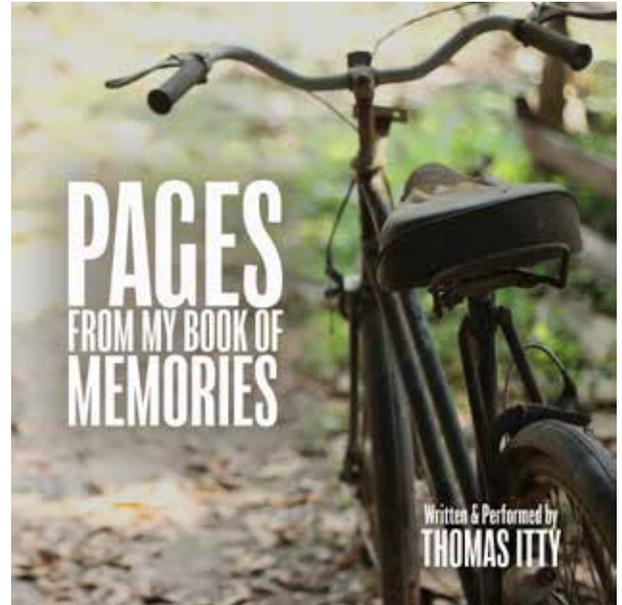
Splashes of color  
On a painting in the hall  
I see my reflection  
In a mirror on the wall  
Somewhere in the distance  
I can hear my mother call  
I'm 10 years old  
And I think I know it all

If I close my eyes  
I can almost see it now  
Those pages from my book of memories  
So I close my eyes  
And I turn another page  
Of my book of memories

I'm 17 years old  
And I'm hanging with my friends  
We try to meet some girls  
But you know how that ends  
Laugh about it later  
When our broken hearts have mend  
And share cigarettes  
Till there's no more left to lend

If I close my eyes  
I can almost see it now  
Those pages from my book of memories  
So I close my eyes  
And I turn another page  
Of my book of memories

I'm working for a living  
And I'm twenty-one  
Have a girl, and back then  
I thought she was the one



Ride my motorcycle in the rain  
Just for fun  
Look at an eclipse  
With my eyes to the sun

If I close my eyes  
I can almost see it now  
Those pages from my book of memories  
So I close my eyes  
And I turn another page  
Of my book of memories

My memories  
My memories...

# Sailing Away

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

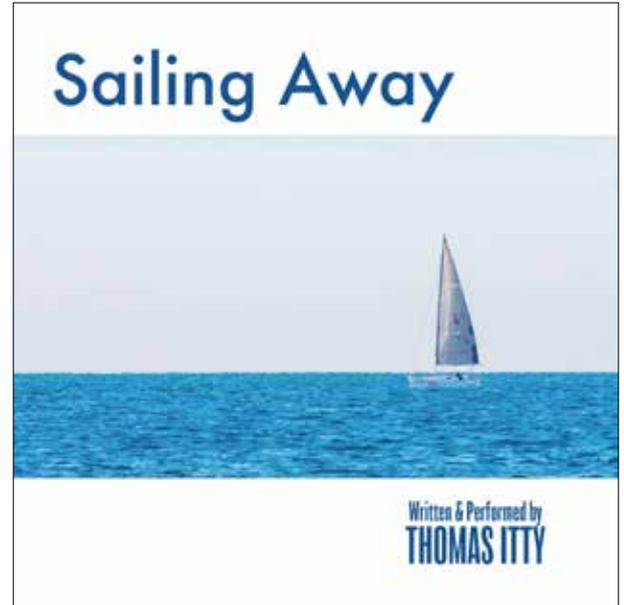
We're sailing away  
Across the ocean  
We're sailing away  
Across the sea  
I have my baby  
Here beside me  
And we feel  
Oh so free

We're sailing away  
We're sailing away  
And we're free

Life has its problems  
And we have our share  
But there's no use worrying  
It gets you nowhere  
Were on a boat  
Out on the ocean  
We have each other's  
Love and devotion

We're sailing away  
We're sailing away  
And we're free

We're sailing away  
To a new tomorrow  
We're going to forget  
All pain and sorrow  
Were on a boat  
Out on the ocean  
We have each other's  
Love and devotion



We're sailing away  
We're sailing away  
And we're free

Oh we're free...  
Oh we're free...

# We Have Love

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

We've been together for so long  
Our love is strong  
It will go on  
Wouldn't want to live without you  
Wouldn't have a clue  
No it just won't do  
Someday baby when we're old and gray  
We'll look back on the past  
And say, "We had love"  
Maybe my songs won't change the world  
And all your dreams may not come true  
But we'll have love... we have love

Now as we move on with our lives  
Isn't it so nice  
To watch our children grow  
While everyone wants a little more  
Our dreams are small  
Nothing much at all  
Someday baby when we're old and gray  
We'll look back on the past  
And say, "We had love"  
Maybe it'll just be you and me  
Holding hands under a tree  
But we'll have love... we have love

Maybe I'll make a lot of money  
And we'll buy that house on the hill  
Or maybe we'll just get by  
But I know you'll love me still



Someday baby when we're old and gray  
We'll look back on the past  
And say, "We had love"  
Maybe it'll just be you and me  
Holding hands under a tree  
We'll have love

# Same Old Story

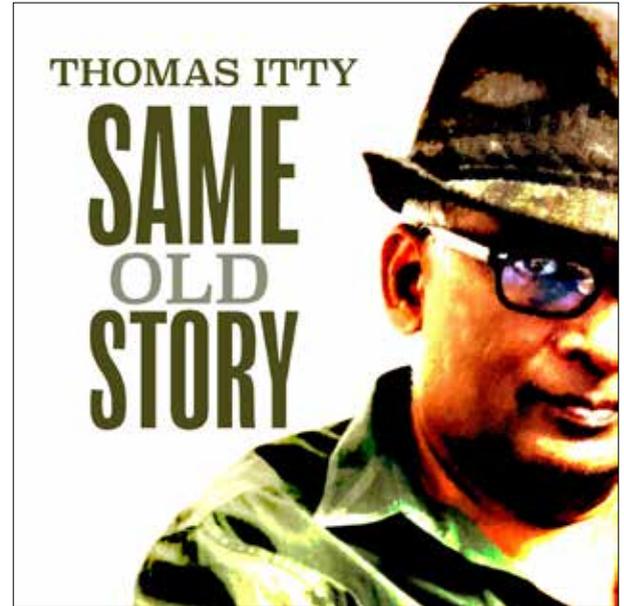
Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

When I was a young man  
I thought I had a plan  
Work hard for my money  
And put it in the bank  
Then I met a woman  
She took all I had  
Left me with nothing  
And feeling sad  
It's the same old... same old story now  
It's the same old... same old story now

I wandered through the East  
A pilgrim with no cash  
Looking for enlightenment  
And some hash  
Somewhere near Calcutta  
The shit hit the fan  
I left there in a hurry  
For Japan  
It's the same old... same old story now  
It's the same old... same old story now

Made my way to Reno  
I fell in with a clan  
They were hiding in the mountains  
From the Man  
Didn't share their paranoia  
Or their point of view  
I escaped before  
My debut

It's the same old... same old story now  
It's the same old... same old story now



Had several more adventures  
Since those younger days  
But now I've settled down  
In one place  
Have a good woman  
Live in perfect bliss  
But every now and then  
I reminisce

It's the same old... same old story now  
It's the same old... same old story now  
It's the same old... same old story now

# Waiting

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Waiting here, waiting for my train  
Wonder if I'll ever pass this way again  
Sun goes down over the city  
Everything looks so postcard pretty  
As I'm waiting for my train  
To take me home to you

Homeless man fishing in a garbage pail  
I give him my sandwich but I can't ease his pain  
Think about a friend I know  
Last I heard he's down in Mexico  
As I'm waiting for my train  
To take me home to you

Wonder if I'll ever write my masterpiece  
Ain't exactly Shakespear but I still gotta  
say my piece  
And get my fifteen minutes of fame  
Everyone will know my name  
As I'm waiting for my train  
To take me home to you

I'm just sitting here waiting  
Thinking, dreaming, contemplating  
As I'm waiting for my train  
To take me home to you  
Back to you



# A New Christmas Song

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

Hark the Herald Santa's coming to town  
I do believe we need a new Christmas song  
Joy to the world Rock Around the Clock  
I do believe its time for a new Christmas song

Children are playing  
On the snow  
Lovers are kissing each other  
Underneath the mistletoe  
There's joy in the air  
And holiday lights  
Carolers are singing  
On winter nights

Hark the Herald Santa's coming to town  
I do believe we need a new Christmas song  
Joy to the world Rock Around the Clock  
I do believe its time for a new Christmas song

The stores are full  
On Fifth Avenue  
The holiday shoppers  
Are standing in long queues  
Outside a soup kitchen  
On 42nd Street  
The homeless wait anxiously  
And shuffle their feet

Hark the Herald Santa's coming to town  
I do believe we need a new Christmas song  
Joy to the world Rock Around the Clock  
I do believe its time for a new Christmas song



Somewhere in a building  
A little boy sits alone  
He knows about Santa  
But he knows he's not coming home  
There's no holiday music  
Or Christmas lights  
Unless you count the police cars  
With their loud sirens and lights

Hark the Herald Santa's coming to town  
I do believe we need a new Christmas song  
Joy to the world Rock Around the Clock  
I do believe its time for a new Christmas song

I hope you like this New Christmas song

# It's Christmas Time

Words & Music by Thomas Itty (ASCAP)

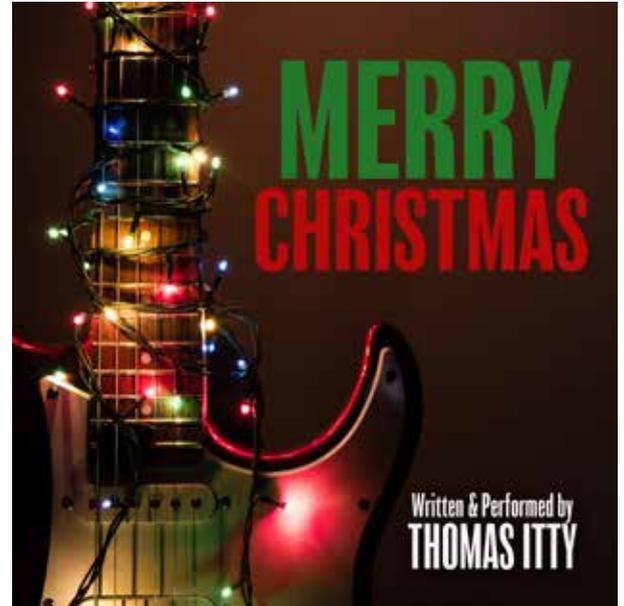
It's Christmas time it's Christmas time  
Mistletoe and sweet red wine  
Oooh oooh it's Christmas time  
The sounds of carols every night  
Decorate the tree with tinsels and lights  
Oooh oooh it's Christmas time

Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas to you  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas to you

It's Christmas time it's Christmas time  
The time of year to get it right  
Oooh oooh it's Christmas time  
Let's put on some music and watch the Yule log  
Bake some cookies and drink eggnog  
Oooh oooh it's Christmas time

Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas to you  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas to you

It's Christmas time it's Christmas time  
Wrap the gifts for the ones you love  
Oooh oooh it's Christmas time  
Santa's coming on his reindeer sledge  
Leave milk and cookies on the window ledge  
Oooh oooh it's Christmas time



Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas to you  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas to you