

## **The River Band Album Content**

Produced, and Engineered by: Jandré Spangenberg  
Mixed by: Jandré Spangenberg at Totius Hill Studios (Cape Town, WC, RSA)  
Mastered by: Tim Lengfeld at TL Mastering  
All Songs Published by: Totius Hill Media

### Musicians:

Jeanré Leo - Drums, Percussion, Backing Vocals  
JP le Roux - Guitars, Ganjo, Resonator Guitar, Backing Vocals  
CJ Duckitt - Bass Guitar, Resonator Guitar, Backing Vocals  
Lindi Grobler - Backing Vocals  
Carlo de Villiers - Hammond Organ  
Jandré Spangenberg - Vocals, Guitars, Piano, Hammond Organ, Harmonica, Percussion, Mandolin, Harmonium, Synth, Loops  
Morgan King - Alto/Tenor Saxophone  
Hezron Chetty - Violin  
Jo Kunnuji - Trumpet  
Lee-Roy Simpson - Trombone

Brass Arrangements: Jandré Spangenberg, Jaco Griessel

Recorded: June 2018 – January 2019 at Groenheuwel (Augrabies, NC, RSA) and Totius Hill Studios (Cape Town, WC, RSA)

Photography: Jaycee Reynolds, Jandré Spangenberg  
Art Direction and Design: Jurie “Vetman” Neethling

### **ALBUM MESSAGE:**

The River Band have been performing live for quite some time now. This, however, is the first time we *finally* put our heads down, and recorded an album to allow people to listen to us, without having to perform for them every single time... Convenient, isn't it? The songs on this album have been assembled from a large repertoire to construct a “concept-album” of sorts. From the first to last track, it tells a story spanning roughly nine years in chronological order. It celebrates the highs, laments the lows and cruises the in-betweens of the disease of our generation; depression. Happy, sad, angry and raucous. Yep. All of 'em. We hope you will find your own story in our music, and tell it back to us at the top of your lungs at every show.

We'd also like to especially thank André, Marlene and Drian Spangenberg for providing the space and support to be our most creative, Hezron Chetty for going above and beyond with advice, research and support, Philipp Jacobs for transporting all the gear, Luzelle, Warren, Jaco, Leo-Zel and Jean for their song writing skills, Tim Lengfeld for lending us his alien ears, Justin Maree for his expert advice and ears, and Yolandé Strauss for taking everything we can dream up that one step further.

- The River Band -

**LYRICS:**

**Horizon**

*Jandr  Spangenberg*

It's yours for the taking  
It's carved out in stone  
You can set your sails for once  
Without caring where you go  
This trip you'll make alone

This place is not for us  
Yet this is where we are  
A broken compass leads you  
Cause you have to be lost  
To find what you're looking for

**Chorus**

Come on bring me that Horizon  
Come and take me from this place  
It's true freedom that I long for  
I need shelter I need Space  
Come on bring me that horizon  
In this dirt you'll find the key  
When you reach your destination  
Send your peace to carry me home

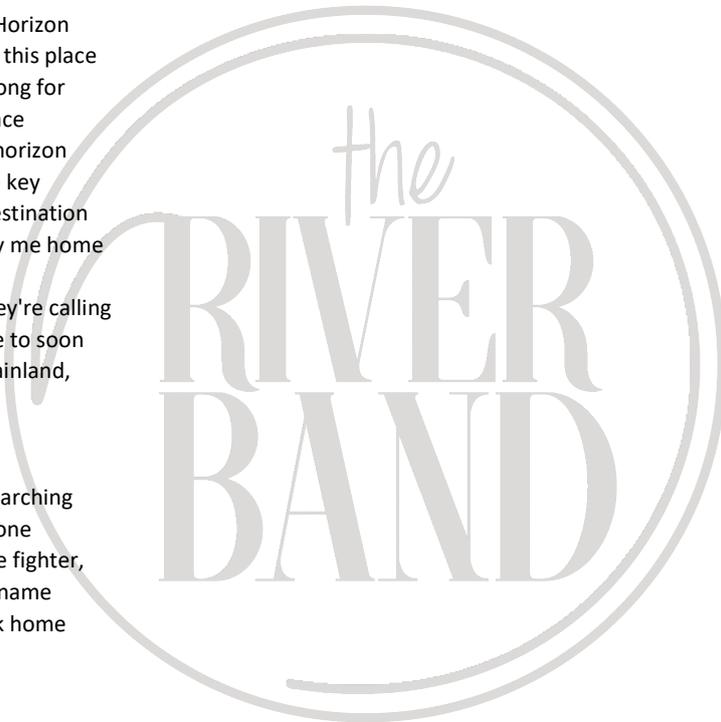
I can hear them now, they're calling  
Though we said goodbye to soon  
You sail to where the mainland,  
Is hidden by the rain  
I'll keep our rendezvous

In the valleys they are marching  
To bring you to your throne  
From the weakling to the fighter,  
They're calling out your name  
Their leader's come back home

**Chorus**

Cut loose your fears, don't count your tears  
Let bygones be, oh set them free  
Make room, make space  
We've got mountains to face  
To reach our home  
Protected and sheltered by those who take care of their own

**Chorus**



## Up the River

*Jandr  Spangenberg, Warren Elliot*

Can you feel it  
The awakening is here  
It's time to reveal it  
Time to draw the river near  
Cause you need the water  
Searching for water  
You need deep orange water  
To wash the blues away  
Now it doesn't matter  
I'll give it what I've got  
Don't have much of the latter  
But it still is worth a shot  
Cause I need the water  
You need the water  
I think we all need the water

### Chorus

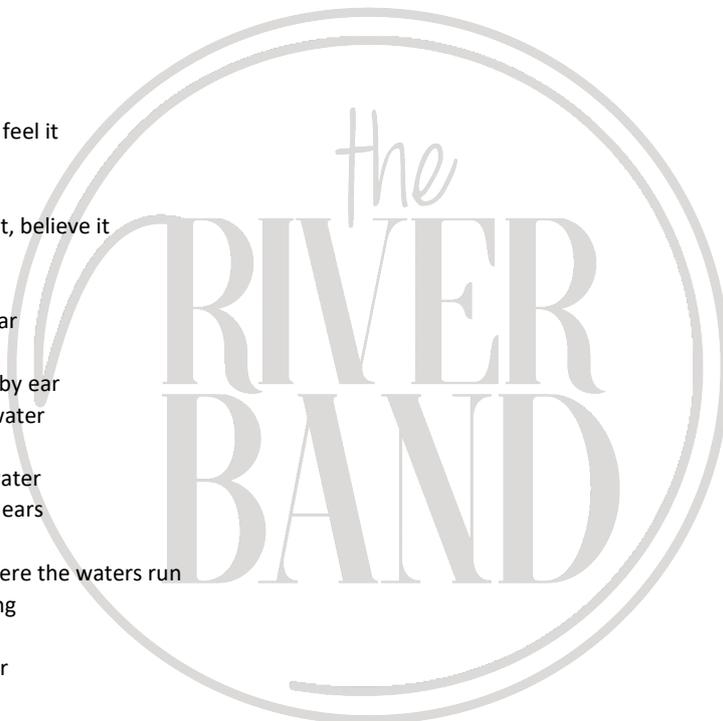
Up the river we go  
Nah nah nah...  
Shout it, sing it, can you feel it  
Up the river we go  
Nah nah nah...  
Can you give it, receive it, believe it

Can you see it  
The horizon's crystal clear  
You gotta free it  
You gotta play the tune by ear  
Play to the beat of the water  
Deep river water  
Hear the sound of the water  
Let the thunder fill your ears  
The river is roaring  
It takes the message where the waters run  
It announces the morning  
Being lit up by the sun  
And you need that water  
Holy big river water  
You know we all need the water

### Chorus

Can you feel it  
The awakening is here  
Can you see it  
The horizon's crystal clear  
Because of the water  
Much needed water  
I think everybody needs it, yeah

### Chorus



## **Greed**

*Jaco Botha, Jandr  Spangenberg*

The blood runs deep  
Under the mountain  
The sickle takes  
The reapers cut  
I have paid  
In the blood of my brothers  
All for a slice  
Of the cradle of man

So come  
Forgive  
Let's live in peace  
And put aside our differences  
Come  
Let's heal this broken land  
And wipe the blood  
Off our children's hands

### **Chorus**

Hey Mama  
Don't look back  
The past is behind you  
Stay on track now  
Hey Mama  
Don't forget  
Keep me reminded  
Look ahead now

There was a man  
I heard he said  
Our God named this land  
As our homestead  
Just go kill all of their people  
But no more shall die for greed  
And men like them

### **Chorus**

They cannot hide their dirty deeds  
Behold the forest for the trees  
Remind them that while on bent knees  
You shall not bite the hand that feeds  
Until this tide of thieves recede  
Scratch that itch until it bleeds  
Watch the stickup artists flee  
Scratch that itch  
Scratch that itch  
Scratch that itch

### **Chorus**

No more young men shall die  
For the greed of our fathers  
If the old men want a war,  
Then off to war they go



## **Personal Prison**

*Jandré Spangenberg, Jaco Botha*

Tell me whose there?  
I can't see you  
It seems like I'm nowhere  
And I got nowhere to run to  
You keep on running  
I keep on crawling  
But it ain't no use it's just my imagination

I'm staring out the window  
Outside the heavens are falling  
So I start running out the back door  
Feels like my legs keep on stalling  
The sky is turning coal black  
Like the bars of a cell block  
That I built around me  
In my imagination

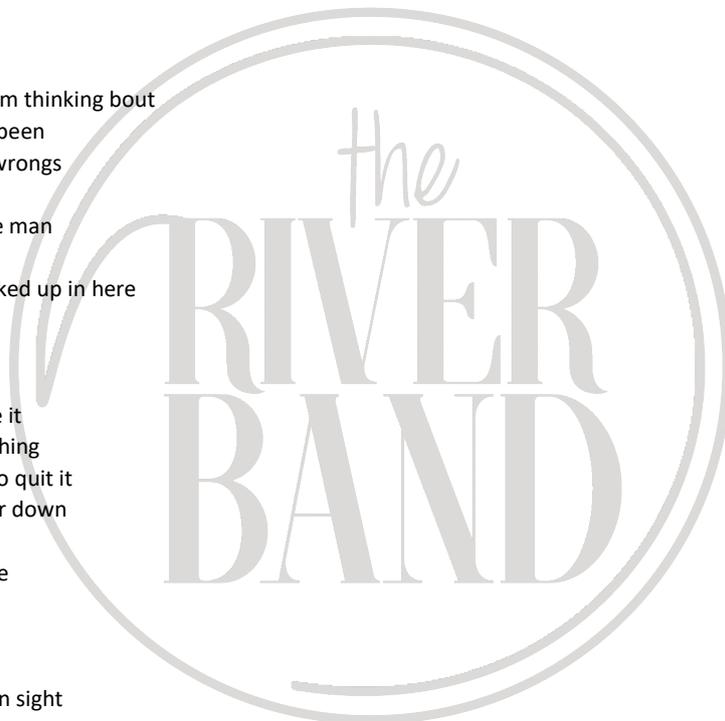
### **Chorus**

These sleepless nights I'm thinking bout  
The way it should have been  
If only I could right my wrongs  
And do it all again  
I would show you all the man  
That I said I would be  
Then I would not be locked up in here  
I'd be free

I never want to go back  
It's bad enough to relive it  
The pictures always flashing  
Please God I need you to quit it  
I need to knock the door down  
I need to get out  
I need to leave this place  
Built in my imagination

### **Chorus**

Fires burn with no end in sight  
In the war inside my head  
It doesn't matter what I do  
It won't change a thing I did  
Too late to show you all  
The man that I said I would be  
Cause I burned that bridge,  
And locked that door  
And threw away the key



**Hmmm...**

*Jandr  Spangenberg, JP le Roux*

She sold me out  
She served it cold  
She took my money  
Then broke my bones  
She took me high  
Then drop me low  
Made me a believer  
Then sold my soul  
She chewed me up  
Then spat me out  
She could tell by the way that I looked  
That her time was running out

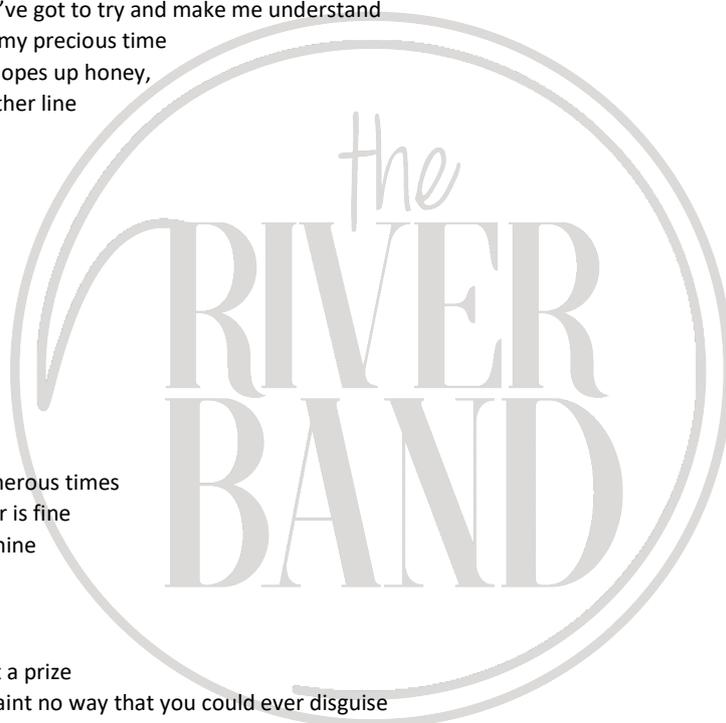
**Chorus**

Now tell me baby, what you got planned  
Now tell my honey, you've got to try and make me understand  
Cause you are wasting, my precious time  
No use in getting your hopes up honey,  
I aint throwing you another line

Those pitch black eyes  
That crooked smile  
The path of ruin  
Stretched on for miles  
She'll take your heart  
Consume it raw  
Make you feel hurt  
You never knew before  
But I drew the line  
I drew it fine  
I thought I told you numerous times  
That though that hooker is fine  
She aint no woman of mine

**Chorus**

You aint a lady, you aint a prize  
I tell you darling, there aint no way that you could ever disguise  
That dreadful centre, that cold dark hole  
The debt you made that is larger than life,  
You can never give back all that you stole



## **Give me hunger**

*Jandré Spangenberg, Jaco Botha*

As a big wave of darkness  
Sweeps across the land  
A voice breaks the silence  
The only friend I had  
I need a light now to guide me  
I want it to be you

I feared the cold of winter  
Might freeze over the fire  
The arm of the clock,  
Whose numbers getting higher  
Who'll find me and save me?  
I want it to be you

No one ever tells you  
Emptiness weigh the most

### **Chorus**

Give me faith  
Give me hunger  
Cause hunger is what drives me  
When fate  
Gets me under  
I need someone to find me  
Come find me  
Come find me

I regret some decisions  
I've made up until now  
Though I am still aware  
That I should allow  
For some mess and destruction  
And to be taken for a fool

### **Chorus**

Be the light  
To my darkness  
That never ending road  
To the place  
Where my heart it is  
That only you will know  
So come find me  
Come find me

Into the woods I go  
To lose my mind and find my soul  
Show me the way to reach the Promised Land

There's a dark cloud fly through it  
Believe me if you don't  
There are others who'll do it  
To get to where you won't  
If you don't start believing  
That you deserve it too...



Help me up  
Or get down  
Don't stave me in my anger  
Don't tell me to stop  
Don't take away this hammer  
Come find me  
Come find me

An escape  
Or disguise  
A pathway out of town  
Some direction  
Advice  
On how to not land face down

Speak it out  
Speak it out  
Shout out those words don't whisper  
Cut loose these restraints  
That starve war cries to whimpers

This depression  
Depression  
This depression is in session  
It tears out your soul  
Like some kind of obsession



## **Giants**

*Jandr  Spangenberg*

From the red sand and stone rose a man that could settle a storm  
Between the green river valley and desert he learned to be strong  
He said son let your hands do the work, and your words will remain  
As strong as the folks who made home here in the gnashing plain

Now the woman by his side have these sapphire eyes, more glorious than the stars  
And the cast-iron smile that she wears like a veil, hides her battle scars  
She wore the valley colours, and raised all their young to be something greater to reach for the sun  
In our hearts they're the thunder, in our eyes their the light, they show us the path in the night

### **Chorus**

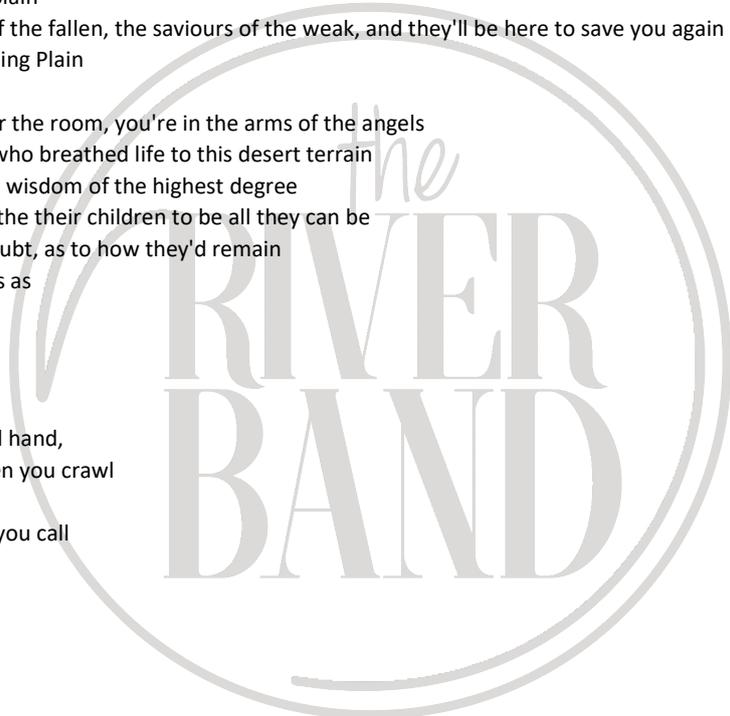
Giants of the Gnashing plain  
Giants of the gnashing plain  
Bring new life, feed this vein in the valley like the November Rain  
Giants of the gnashing plain  
Giants of the gnashing plain  
They're the guardians of the fallen, the saviours of the weak, and they'll be here to save you again  
The Giants of the Gnashing Plain

You can tell as you enter the room, you're in the arms of the angels  
Witnessed by the Lord who breathed life to this desert terrain  
They were raised by the wisdom of the highest degree  
And in turn brought up the their children to be all they can be  
There was never any doubt, as to how they'd remain  
Remembered for always as

### **Chorus**

Bridge  
They will take your tired hand,  
They will cover you when you crawl  
They will blaze the trail  
They will answer when you call

### **Chorus**



## **New Destination**

*Jaen Britz, Leo-Zel v.d. Merwe, Jandré Spangenberg*

Now that it's time to leave this place  
And start a long, but not so lonesome road  
Nothing's gonna be the same  
And I am still not afraid  
It's like I'm a spaceship  
Running through a brand-new constellation  
Moving at the speed of light  
In the sky-lit night  
Where I will find my new destination

Flashy smile upon my face  
Following my fate, that takes me away  
I'm too excited to explain  
I am young, and maybe far too brave  
Seems like I'm finding  
My safe-house in an unknown location  
I will make my way  
Come what may  
I know I will find my New Destination

Now I know where I am going to find my home

### **Bridge**

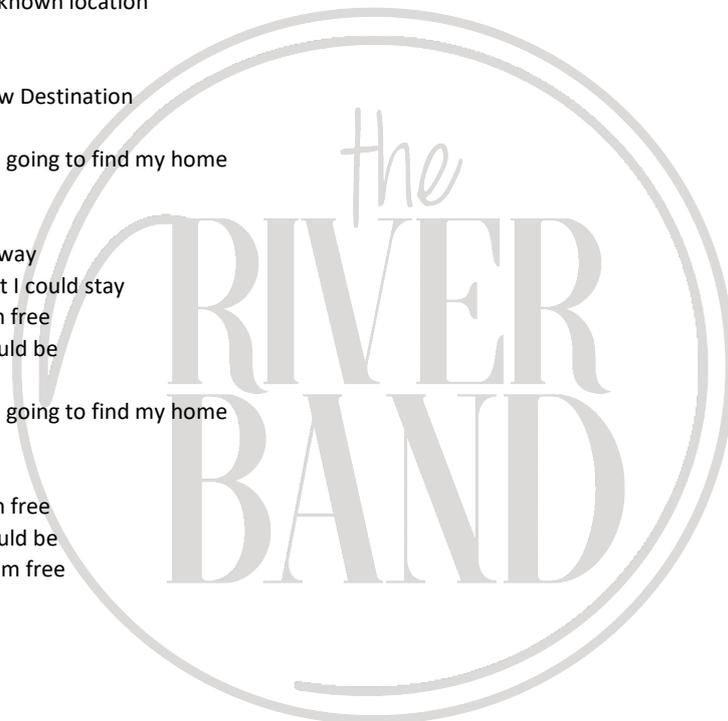
I have finally found my way  
I've found the place that I could stay  
And I am loved and I am free  
This is the happiest I could be

Now I know where I am going to find my home

### **Bridge**

And I am loved and I am free  
This is the happiest I could be  
Yeah, I am loved and I am free

I am home...



## **Hometown Visit**

*Jandr  Spangenberg, Luzelle Cable*

Lonely nights, turn into  
Lonely mornings  
Take a sip of my caffeine  
And I dream of better things,  
To come  
And you know that I need some space  
You need relief, a sort of saving grace  
So I, take out my map and I point to a place  
So far removed and isolated from this ceaseless race

And you know that I'm a busy man  
And I hope you know I'm doing the best I can  
But it's the only way I know to feel alive  
And now, it's time

### **Chorus**

I'm on my home town visit  
I'm going hometown home

Desert sunrise,  
Casting shadows  
Shine some light on my  
Worn and withered soul  
And I  
Take the chance to fill in some blanks  
The trigger is hot, and the bullet she dances  
So I take the shot at this old-school romance  
I can't believe how this place, was not in my plans

I'm alright the moment I catch sight of red sand  
Or I feel the orange waters over my hands  
It's the only way I know how to feel alive  
And now, it's time

### **Chorus**

#### **Refrain**

Now the road back home, has always been known  
To bring peace to those who don't travel at all  
Now my Lucy she is waiting, the sunlight is fading  
And I cannot wait anymore, for my baby to answer the door

### **Chorus**

Hometown visit, that's where I'm going  
Back where I belong  
I'm gonna go where the desert waters flow  
My brothers and sisters all in one place  
Time is not what matters, you pick your own pace  
Where the desert sun lights up the smile on your face  
In my hometown, home

### **Refrain**



**Lindi Grobler**

*Band members like these, can only be considered a blessing from above. It has been a helluva lot of fun recording this album, and performing these songs with these guys has taught me a lot more about music, and my own capabilities. To The Band; thanks for inspiring me, and for the honour of sharing the stage with all of you. Here's to many more years of inside jokes, ridiculous stories, and making music together!*

**JP le Roux**

*I have had an amazing time recording this album! We've poured our heart and soul into this music and we hope it translates in a way that you can relate to! I'm humbled by the integrity, honesty and skills of my bandmates. You guys are awesome! I hope, to whoever's reading this, that you will hear the stories, not only in the lyrics, but in the music too, and that it'll be as fun for you to jam out to as it is for us!*

**Jandr  Spangenberg**

*Damn, where do I begin? I have waited pretty much my entire life to make an album like this, with people like these. I would like to thank everyone involved (no matter how big or small) with the project, including those not credited on the album- my wonderful parents (The Giants of the gnashing plain), Andr  and Marlene, my brother - Drian Spangenberg, Graeme Hayward (Custom Guitars), Philipp Jacobs (Transport), and Yoland  Strauss (Amazing Advice, Web-development). Without you, I can't imagine anything getting this far.*

**CJ Duckitt**

*The opportunity to make an album with some of the most talented, creative, and funny individuals I know has been nothing short of a privilege, so to my bandmates; thank you! And then to the rest of my family and friends who have supported me on my musical journey thus far, without your support, I'd be nowhere... thank you.*

**Jay Leo**

*My beautiful wife Leani and my son's Jayden and Landen for being a huge blessing and inspiration in my life. My parents Charles, Anne and Philna for your love and support. My brothers, my friends and most of all you the listener! I love you all more than words can express!*

**Carlo de Villiers**

*It was a privilege to work on this project with these awesome people! To my fellow band members- I have learned so much more from you than I could have ever imagined. My friends, for all your support during the project. My family, for all the willingness to help, advice and love. And last, but not least- Jandr , for bringing everyone and everything together in order to create this piece of art! You are appreciated...*