

TOM CHAPIN

TOM CHAPIN “Threads” - Track Notes

Track 1. **Build A Dream** by Tom Chapin

Let's start with a song of possibility, because everything we build, including a music album, “takes a leap of faith and some follow through...”

With guitar, piano, bass, drums, organ, accordion, Michael & Jon vocals.

Track 2. **When The Family Sings** by Si Kahn & Tom Chapin

My friend Si Kahn, the activist/folksinger/writer, has always loved the reality, and the metaphor, of my singing family. The verses are pretty much as Si wrote them, and the chorus is what I came up with. But, as in all collaborations, the song would have never happened without us both working on it.

With guitars, piano, bass, and vocals from The Chapin Sisters, Michael & Jon.

Track 3. **Fair Pay Fair Play Blues** by Phil Galdston & Tom Chapin

A tune for struggling songwriters in this age of streaming and scheming. “I used to make a living making music, now there's just no way!” I had the idea and a 1st version for a year or so, but did not finish it until I reached out to my friend Phil Galdston. He brought a fresh clarity to the project and together we forged an opinion piece, fervent complaint, and a fun ragtime song to sing.

With guitar, 6-string banjo, piano, tuba.

Track 4. **Julia Ward Howe (A Mother's Day For Peace)** by Scott Ainslie, Si Kahn & Tom Chapin

Scott brought me this true story of the poet/activist who wrote perhaps America's most iconic war song, *The Battle Hymn Of The Republic*. And who, as she grew older and wiser, strove to end war forever.

With 6 string banjo, piano, and on the ride-out: marching drums, tuba, mandolin, and women's vocals from The Chapin Sisters & Mary Mark.

Track 5. **Money Out Of Misery** by Si Kahn & Tom Chapin

A rumination on the darkness and light in this old world of ours.

With acoustic & electric guitars, bass, drums, piano, organ, percussion.

Track 6. **Home Again (Forster & Dorothy)** by Si Kahn & Tom Chapin

A family story of my great-uncle Forster Batterham, who fathered a child with Dorothy Day. She was the founder of The Catholic Worker, powerful advocate for New York City's poor and homeless, and is now short-listed on the road to Sainthood.

Banjo, guitar, accordion, piano, bass, mandolin.

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TOM CHAPIN “Threads” - Track Notes (continued)

Track 7. **That’s What Grandpas Do** by Si Kahn & Tom Chapin

My daughters were both expecting, and I was anticipating what it meant for this happy granddad.

Guitar and piano.

Track 8. **Song For Elspeth** by Tom Chapin

Written for newborn granddaughter Elspeth, “the newest branch to grace our family tree.”

Guitar, piano, bass.

Track 9. **Talk To Your Baby** by Red Grammer & Tom Chapin

When Red Grammer came to visit, the wonderful singer, songwriter and family performer and I started talking babies and how important language was to every child’s development. “Hey, let’s write that song.” So we did.

Banjo, guitar, piano, bass.

Track 10. **Here Is A Song For You** by Tom Chapin

“Who needs a lullaby? Everyone!” Here’s a new one in $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

With my nylon stringed guitar, piano, accordion, Irish whistle.

Track 11. **Willa Won’t Ya** by Tom Chapin

A song written for my newborn granddaughter Willa: a year later she and her cousin Elspeth bounce and bop to this.

With guitar, piano, standup bass, mandolin.

Track 12. **Any Old Kind Of Day** by Harry Chapin

My late brother Harry Chapin wrote this, inspired and challenged by his first hearing Bob Dylan’s *Mr. Tambourine Man*. I recorded a track of guitar and vocal and sent it off to our brother Steve, who got together with long-time Harry bassist “Big” John Wallace and added the lovely vocals and piano.

Guitar, piano, vocals.

Track 13. **We Will Not Stop** by The Chapin Sisters

Let’s end with a declaration of power and determination, written by my daughters Abigail and Lily for New York City’s Climate March a couple of summers ago. Their voices help carry us home on a song that feels like a new classic.

Piano, autoharp, bass, accordion, Irish whistle, strings, vocals by The Chapin Sisters.