

When you decide to record a demo for a song you are working on you are opening up a chapter to a book that has not been written and that may never see the light of day. The process of songwriting is not only the actual writing of the song but the conceptualizing of it sonically, its arrangement and its overall intent. When I played on my first demo with one of my early mentors singer/songwriter Robbie Farrow he said in passing when we went into the studio to record the songs we had demoed in his home studio “okay its time to beat the demo”. And in the years that followed I got to know exactly what he meant. Many times the relaxed nature of the demo process as well as the usually limited amount of tracks to record on made the demos sound clean and focused. Whereas in the studio you would always try to make it perfect and create your version of Rhapsody in Blue.

The demos included here were all recorded in my home studio with the only intent to “get them down on tape”

The personnel on these songs are Darro Sandler on drums on all the tunes except Back to Paradise which has Jon Hussey on drums, and I See You which was done with drum loops. Bass on most of the tunes was Jeremy Indick, with me filling in on a few tunes. The backing vocals are Jeremy and Kevin Declue, with me on lead vocals.

As far as the gear used it was a potpourri of guitars, amps, guitar processors and special effects. Featured guitars were the three of the Joey Leone Signature guitars the RBC, LTD Edition, and the Superfast. I also used my trusty 1963 Fender Telecaster, a MIJ Fender 54 Reissue Stratocaster with Joe Barden Custom made pickups. Honorable mention, Eastwood Phantom 12 string, Airline Tuxedo, and Kingston Baritone guitar strung in standard tuning for slide. For amps, I used a few different PreCBS Deluxe Reverbs, an old Kay solid state TV stand amp, a Marshall 1974x, and used a Rocktron Prophecy and Line 6 modeler.

These demos I feel best represent the “beat the demo” scenario. There are some good tunes here, and I hope you enjoy the “behind the scenes” access.