



XE

Written, produced & performed by
Andrew Cosentino *except where otherwise noted.*

ABOUT CWS

Title: I named it Country Western Star as an homage to Taylor Swift, who's album "Fearless" was one of my biggest inspirations.

Overview: I recorded this EP in my apartment over four months in Beijing. It's dedicated to a girl (who's not Taylor Swift).

The Robe: The photo used for the cover was one I took of a sculpture my grandma made, wearing my robe. It's the robe I recorded much of the album in, so it seemed appropriate and kinda funny.



DISC 1

COUNTRY WESTERN STAR EP

Instrumentation: Piano, guitar, synth, qinqin, hulusi, kalimba, assorted percussion, samples (Hong Kong traffic signals, assorted street sounds from Allston to Shanghai, birdsong, a guitar sample from Mahmoud Ahmed and other stuff I forgot about)

1 **MAGPIES** 2:50

This song was inspired by Eurasian Magpies, one of the most common birds native to northeastern China. They don't fly south for winter and you can see their nests very easily in the colder months once the trees lose their leaves. They are also very playful and intelligent, and belong to the Corvus family, along with Crows and Ravens, other birds prized for their cunning. They are graceful and stoic animals, and I tried my best to make something that reflected that. The background bed of sound comes from a very loud recess session from the school next to my apartment building.

2 **LATE GREATS** :56

The spoken word sample comes from a portion of Whitney Houston's funeral, which I found very moving. I've been extremely lucky thus far to not have lost any truly significant people in my life, but I know it's gonna happen, and so I recorded this as a kind of preemptive comfort for when the inevitable happens.

3 **STEPHON MARBURY** 3:31

Named after another New York native and Beijing resident, Stephon Marbury, who is currently a guard for the Beijing Ducks. Here I was just tryna deal with the fact that I wish I could make rap music and can't. So I steal a few choice lines from Gucci Mane

and Jim Jones, and under the proper chord changes, I think it adds a bit of pathos.

4 **WAKE UP EARLY EVERY MORNING** 2:56

This is a song for when your scared somebody's gonna leave your life forever without looking back.

5 **VARIETY SHOW** 3:53

This song was inspired by older forms of entertainment, like Vaudeville. When it wasn't being racist (which unfortunately, was a whole lot of the time) it was a fascinating and super influential form of popular entertainment, whose appeal has all but disappeared today. Same goes for their television cousin, variety shows. Saturday Night Live is in many ways the only relevant one left (and it's relevance is questionable as well).

6 **JEANS GO WITH EVERYTHING** 1:41

This was originally a song called "Country Western Star," with words and a vocal part, but I decided it didn't fit having a regular old song at the end of this so I stripped it down to a simple piano arrangement. The recording is just me playing it twice, and I put the two recordings on top of one another to add some fun.

BONUS

7 I MAY NEVER SELL BLOOD AGAIN 6:43

Originally released: July 28, 2014

Instrumentation: Guitars, banjo, bass, drum kit, assorted percussion, piano, synths, kalimba, bulbul tarang, sampled instruments (Gamelan, Hammered Dulcimer, Waterphone, Saxophone, Harp), samples (sound of skateboards, trees falling, kids arguing, random people of the internet singing into their webcams, “So” by Eric Burdon and War, “Ghosts” by Don Cherry and Albert Ayler, “Say You Love Me Too” By The Isley Brothers and other stuff I forgot about)

Mastered by: Richard Marr at Galaxy Park Studios – galaxypark.com

DISC 2

BEATS FOR SHADOWBALL

Originally released: November 23, 2013

Instrumentation: Guitars, Harmonica, saxophone, kalimba, piano, bells, bass, drum kit, sampler, radio, frog, laptop, etc.

- 1 **CHERRY** 2:36
- 2 **THE BALLAD OF RICKY WILLIAMS** 2:28
- 3 **CAN'T FIND MY ATLAS** 2:46
- 4 **DALLAS CRUSHES EUROPE** 6:06
- 5 **UMM...** 2:59
- 6 **PIANO EXPERIMENTS IN AN ABANDONED STADIUM
(MUTUAL BENEFIT QUIET REMIX)** 3:38
- 7 **VAL VENIS (KING L REMIX)** 2:38
- 8 **CHASING** 2:32
- 9 **KNOCK** 2:29
- 10 **ROADKILL BLUES** 2:12
- 11 **AIR QUOTES** 2:39
- 12 **THE PRICE IS RIGHT
(FEATURING MICHAEL CHRISTMAS)** 2:04

Vocals by Michael Christmas

<https://soundcloud.com/michaelchristmas>

13 **CAN FAIRIES** 2:20

14 **OREGON TRAIL BLUES** 2:33

Dedicated to the music and memory of Vince Guaraldi

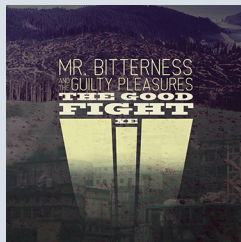
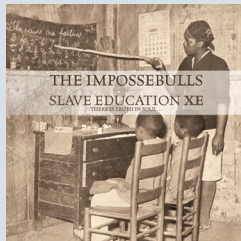
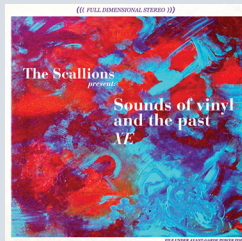
ANDREW COSENTINO ONLINE

<http://blocsonic.com/artist/andrew-cosentino>

<http://soundcloud.com/andrew-cosentino>

ALSO AVAILABLE IN OUR **XTENDED EDITION** SERIES

(click image to visit release page)



**THANKS TO ANDREW FOR HIPPING
ME TO YOUR MUSIC. LET'S CONTINUE TO BUILD.**

- Mike Gregoire, blocSonic

