

# HANDSHIVE 48

## THE LYRICS OF JIMMY HANDSHIVE

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HANDSHIVE



I didn't think there  
were so few of us



## WILL IT EVER SEEM THE SAME ?

Your name is written on the subway walls  
With a number forty eight  
I didn't think there were so few of us  
But I guess it's growing late  
And there are riders riding through strange skies  
And the earth might even move  
And the only thing that is left to us  
Is a thing you could call love

Will it ever (will it ever seem the same ?) seem  
the same again ? (will it ever seem the same ?)  
Will it ever (will it ever seem the same ?) seem  
the same again ?

(And) you say that everything's the same,  
It's only the people that have made the change  
But over there a man will swear that it's all been rearranged  
For everything has changed he'll say  
But everyone's the same  
And everything has changed he'll say  
But we are still the same

(1st chorus overlaid)  
Will it ever seem the same again  
Will it ever seem the same ?  
Will it ever seem the same again ?  
Will it ever seem the same again?  
Will it ever, will it ever  
Will it ever seem the same ?

Will it ever, will it ever  
Will it ever seem the same again

Well I can take the little changes  
But I can't take losing friends  
I can take a little strangeness  
But I can't take it's the end

(Well) Sometimes it seems that a man can be  
Alone in the world but for his TV  
(And) you know I can't take that  
I've got too many memories  
to want this thing to die  
And that is why I have to ask  
not if things will be the same  
Cos' I know they never can be  
But as long as things just seemed the same  
That would be enough for me

Will it ever, will it ever,  
Will it ever seem the same  
Will it ever, will it ever,  
Will it ever seem the same again ?

O..oh, the same again,  
A..ah, the same again. O..oh, the same again  
Ooh, ooh the same again ...the same again (x3)

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LYRICS: PENANG - Feb 1975 MUSIC: ELKHOUND - Summer 1975. This recording May 2021

An old song about the changes in relationships from school through university to work, the constant challenge to deal with life's changes, the value of friendship and cherishing the memories of the good times. The parallels with life emerging from a pandemic with the challenge to deal with global warming are poignant and the aircraft taking off reminds us of old times as we ask "Will it ever seem the same again?"

## IF YOU GET MY MEANING

Well it seems the singer was telling stories  
In the gaps between the words  
Each note had a tale to tell  
Formed in every chord  
Well it seems a tale will change  
With each and every teller  
But that is the price that's paid  
By the buyer and the seller

### CHORUS:

But does that make the meaning less  
Does it make it meaningless?  
If you get my meaning , get my meaning

There is nothing that is meaningless  
If it has a value of its own  
And nothing's ever worthless  
With a value that is known  
The world is full of meaning  
Though some of it's unknown  
If you get my meaning

But does that make the meaning less  
Does it make it meaningless?  
If you get my meaning , get my meaning

Well the landscape changes with the viewpoint  
There's no vision that is true  
It comes as no surprise to learn  
It simply is another's view

If it matters to me  
It should have some meaning for you  
Its interest and its meaning  
Is surely worth another view

But does that make the meaning less ?  
Does it make it meaningless ?  
If you get my meaning , get my meaning

### REPEAT CHORUS

Well it seems the singer was telling stories  
In the gaps between the words  
Each note had a tale to tell,  
Formed in every chord  
Well it seems a tale will change  
With each and every teller  
But that is the price that's paid,  
By the buyer and the seller

But does that make the meaning less ?  
Does it make it meaningless ?  
If you get my meaning, get my meaning

### REPEAT CHORUS TWICE MORE

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Feb 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Feb 2021

A song about the two way street that is communication. When people communicate, it is like a 'buyer/seller' relationship, with the message often getting lost between points of view. Everyone has a point of view and the song reasons every view is valid, if you get my meaning ?

Lyrics were inspired by an idea by Grett Marcus in writing about the music of The Band.

## THE OK SONG

I sit and think about what I know and how I come to know it  
And it don't amount to much, being nothing of a poet  
But one thing (that) I'm learning  
Learning on the way  
Is that: it's OK, to feel this way

it's OK, to feel that it's OK  
It's OK to feel that it's OK  
One thing I'm learning, learning on the way  
Is that it's OK to feel this way

Now life is often a matter of a mix of ups and downs  
Small victories of the positive in the course of just one day  
And it often don't amount to much  
Now I can tell you true  
That it's OK to be you

it's OK, to feel that it's OK  
It's OK to feel that it's OK  
One thing I'm learning, learning on the way  
Is that it's OK to feel this way

Now you must have had that happening  
When you suddenly catch sight..  
You see your own reflection -  
In that instant lose connection  
Becoming a by-stander, an observer on your life

It seems you mark a stranger on a scale of one to ten  
Simply judging by a body you don't look beneath the skin  
Then you snap back to reality, regain your own identity  
Recover your identity and you can sit by me  
(I wanna sit by you) and you can sit by me

And so we sit and think about what we know  
And how we come to know it  
Maybe it don't amount to much  
And there's some that never show it  
But we are always learning, learning on the way  
And it's OK to feel this way

It's OK, to feel that it's OK  
It's OK to feel that it's OK  
One thing I'm learning, learning on the way  
Is that it's OK to feel this way

And it's OK, yeah it's OK. It's OK to look your way  
And it's OK, yeah it's OK. It's OK to be your way  
It's OK that it's OK, yeah it's OK to feel this way  
It's OK and it's OK. It's OK and you can sit by me  
(I wanna sit by you) and you can sit by me  
(I wanna sit by you) and you can sit by me  
(I wanna sit by you) and you can sit by me  
(I wanna sit by you) and you can sit by me

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Nov 2020 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Apr 2021

A song of affirmation that it's OK to be the person you are. A big concern during lockdown was our mental health and we often say we are feeling "great" or "good" when we don't feel that. To say we feel "OK" is more muted and maybe more honest. To say "it's OK to feel this way" is supportive and the song invites us not to judge by outward appearances and urges camaraderie and acceptance in the invitation "you can sit by me".

# OBLIVION

I was born in Oblivion  
A few miles south of here  
And if you steer by the Southern Cross  
You might just make it there  
There isn't much to give it fame  
Nothing outstanding 'cept the name  
The only street that we have got  
Is the one we know as Main

Two roads are around it  
One leads in, the other out  
Guess there's not much going on  
With more of nothing round about  
But if you're set on getting there  
The folks won't treat you ill  
Towards the Southern Cross just steer  
The road to Oblivion -  
It isn't all down-hill

Well sometimes seems no place to go  
but the future  
Having spent all of our lives in the past  
But sometimes it seems so hard to get there  
Never knowing just how long it will last

But I was born in Oblivion  
And they say a place will raise a man  
I've lived all my life in Oblivion  
And in its shadow I still stand  
So I appear a mass of contradiction  
Like all - my life - is a fiction  
Attempts at certainty will always lack conviction  
So I'll just settle for a life, living in Oblivion

I was born in Oblivion  
A few miles south of here (Living in Oblivion)  
And if you steer by the Southern Cross  
You might just make it there  
(Living in Oblivion)  
Yeah, you might just make it there  
(Living in Oblivion)  
Yeah, we all might make it there  
(Living in Oblivion)

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Jan 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Apr 2021

Inspired by Lee Child's love of American small town place names like 'Hope' and 'Despair'. Being born in Oblivion does not sound like a very promising start in life but the suggestion is that it's character forming and living there isn't all bad. There is an air of resignation from the protagonist in the lyrics and the music, but there are touches of optimism with 'we all might make it there' and 'it isn't all downhill'.

# TESTIFY

Wonder why I compromise with every word I speak  
Wonder why I qualify each day in every week  
Wonder why I'm fighting shy and always being so meek  
Wonder why I always seem to turn the other cheek

Ain't it about time I stood my ground  
Ain't it about time I started being proud  
Ain't it about time I stood on rock not sand  
Ain't it about time I made a stand

Wonder why I compromise  
With every word I speak  
Wonder why I qualify  
Each day in every week  
Wonder why I'm fighting shy  
And always being so meek  
Wonder why I always seem  
To turn the other cheek

So I wanna break out and testify  
I wanna break out, no longer deny  
Luther - Like I wanna declare  
"Here I stand ...  
... and I don't care if you're mad about it

So from now on, ain't gonna mince my words  
I've got opinions (and) I wanna be heard  
So from here and now, I'm gonna shout

I've got a message that I don't doubt  
Oh I Love you ...  
How I Love you  
I Love Love Love you  
I Love Love Love you  
I Love Love Love you

No longer will I compromise with every word I speak  
(No longer, no longer, no longer, no)  
No longer will I qualify each day in every week  
(No longer, no longer, no longer, no)  
No longer am I fighting shy and always being so meek  
(No longer, no longer, no longer, no no no no)  
No longer will I always seem to turn the other cheek  
(No longer, no longer, no longer, no)

Cos I Love you  
Yes I Love you  
How I Love you  
I Love Love Love you (Ooooh, aaaaaaaaah)  
I Love Love Love you (Ooooh)  
How I Love you (I Love you)  
I Love Love Love you (Ooooh)  
Yes I Love you (I Love you)  
(Ooooh) Yes I Love you (I Love you)  
I testify

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LYRICS: DERBY Jun 1978 MUSIC: WORTHING 1978. This recording May 2021

The second old song on the album is a love song of affirmation written by Jim for his wife, Frances, the year they were married. The lyrics always struck a chord with Ziggy as the singer grows from acceptance, through questioning, to purpose and defiance. He also saw parallels in the values instilled in his youth and dedicated the updated arrangement to his mother, Joy, on her 96th Birthday.

## MAN ON THE OUTSIDE AND THE BOY WHO IS WITHIN

There's a boy on the inside, looking to get out  
He can't wait to hit the streets  
Hit the playground roundabout  
He wants to play all day, and stay out late  
Can't grow up quick enough  
Knowing life - well it won't wait  
No it won't wait

There's a man on the outside  
Living life on the streets  
He's always on the outer edge, never fitting in  
Sometimes as the blinds are drawn  
You'll catch him looking in  
Catching glimpses of another life  
That he might once have lived  
Remembering another time  
When he was once a kid  
Man on the outside and the boy who is within

Man on the outside and the boy who is within  
Both engaged in the balancing act  
That we all are living in  
Man on the outside and the boy who is within  
Both engaged in the balancing act  
That we all are living in

Life's a changing pattern, you can never pin it down  
There are people climbing up, while you are sliding down  
One minute we see it cosy  
With prospects seeming rosy  
But just two pay-checks later  
It's totally different data  
And your whole life is slipping  
Then it's on the slide  
One minute you are healthy  
There's money in the bank  
The next there's a diagnosis  
And the future's looking blank  
Man on the outside and the boy who is within

Man on the outside and the boy who is within  
Both engaged in the balancing act  
That we all are living in  
Man on the outside and the boy who is within  
Both engaged in the balancing act  
That we all are living in

That we all are living in  
That we all are living in  
That we all are living in  
That we all are living in

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Jan 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Apr 2021

Perhaps the longest Handshive title yet? This song acknowledges how much of a balancing act it is to harmonise inner feelings and outer appearances while dealing with life's challenges. Despite growing older and becoming more worldly-wise, most of us have experienced situations where we feel we need to put up a brave front while feeling quietly vulnerable inside. To feel this is to be human.

## RIVER CROSSING

Rivers run deep in the course of our lives  
We can go with the flow, they can act as a guide  
But there is a time when rivers divide  
And if you cross on over, it can change our lives  
When we get to the river, what shall we do?

In Caesar's case, he went on through  
Marching his men into history  
To make an Empire as his destiny  
As he crossed the river of no return  
In crossing The Rubicon  
He knew he couldn't turn back from the other side, no  
When we get to the river, what shall we do?

Well Moses made it to the Red Sea side  
With Egyptians after him, nowhere to hide  
The walls of water rose up high, rose up high  
The Israelites passed over to the other side  
Crossing to a promised land,  
They knew they couldn't turn back from the other side, no  
When we get to the river, what shall we do?

Rivers run deep in the course of our lives  
We can go with the flow, they can act as a guide  
But there is a time when rivers divide  
And if you cross on over, it can change our lives  
When we get to the river, what shall we do?

Washington was facing The Delaware  
Led his winter raid to end despair  
A boost to morale in America's fight  
He took his chance and he played it right  
Crossing The Delaware  
He knew he couldn't turn back from the other side, no  
When we get to the river, what shall we do?

Rivers run deep in the course of our lives  
We can go with the flow, they can act as a guide  
But there is a time when rivers divide  
And now we're crossing on over to the other side, to the other side

And so we reach the ultimate river  
The Ancients call The Styx  
With Charon, the ferryman's fee  
Already firmly fixed  
You will find this farewell voyage  
Will settle all for you  
Even down to the question left...  
When we get to the river, what shall we do  
We're crossing on over to the other side  
We're crossing on over to the other side  
So I'll see you there, yes I'll see you there  
Oh I'll see you there, yes I'll see you there  
Oh I'll see you there, yes I'll see you on the other side  
On the other side ...

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Jun 2020 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Dec 2020

This song looks at the dilemma of facing a life or even a history changing decision. What do you do for the best, cross the river or not? Sadly, when our time comes, we all have to face a common final crossing, the River Styx of Greek Mythology. We take time to remember all who have made their final river crossing during the reign of the coronavirus and send love to their families and friends. See you on the other side. ❤️



# WONDER ROCK

I've been listening to some zydeco  
A little rock and roll  
With something like a fiddle tune  
And a drop of Northern Soul  
I've sucked up psychedelia, Alt Country and the rest  
But there's a sound that's coming that can stand beside the best

It's the music of your mind  
You never want to stop  
I play it all the time  
Why not call it Wonder Rock?

Wonder Rock will get you humming  
It's the noise within your head  
Wonder Rock is always stunning  
Becomes the sound by which we're led  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock

In the distance you hear drumming  
A back-beat from afar  
You can add an urgent strumming  
Like a riffing super-star  
The vocal is just tumbling, from the words inside your brain  
You find the power enthralled you  
And it leads to one refrain: ...

It's the music of your mind  
You never want to stop  
I play it all the time  
Why not call it Wonder Rock?

Wonder Rock will get you humming  
It's the noise within your head  
Wonder Rock is always stunning  
Becomes the sound by which we're led  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock

Taking time out of the ordinary  
Seems to make it extra time  
As you step towards the extraordinary  
In the music of your mind  
It's a music that keeps on playing  
It's a music that scarcely stops  
It's a music that keeps me playing  
Why not call it Wonder Rock?

Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock  
Wonder Rock, Wonder Rock

REPEAT LAST TWO LINES A FURTHER FIVE TIMES

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Jan 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Feb 2021

The songwriter's inspiration is 'the music of your mind', that musical phrase or riff that just drops into your consciousness. Keith Richards called it 'incoming'; Paul McCartney called them his 'babies'. Wonder Rock? Maybe a little clichéd, but the word 'wonder' suggests, not only some thought but also amazement at the result. That amazement is what makes a songwriter want to share with you and come back for more. ❤️

## TWO FOR THE ROAD

Two for the road ah ha. Sharing the load ah ha

As we travel this road together  
We try to take the rough with the smooth  
We try to support each other  
But you're the one who makes the moves  
So when I'm feeling weary  
And reach the point I can't go on  
It's that moment I think of you  
And get the power to carry on

With you I'd live forever  
You turn the grey skies blue  
You light the road to heaven  
You make the sun shine through

Well the road is never easy  
It's never sunlight all the way  
But you light the road to heaven  
By banishing the grey  
So when I'm feeling weary  
And reach the point I can't go on  
It's that moment I think of you  
And get the power to carry on

Your presence seems to banish grey,  
you apply the gilt to every day  
What seems impossible melts away  
Because it's you who shows the way

When it's two, two for the road  
We can share each other's load  
And when I try to take in slack  
It's good to know you've got my back  
As we travel this road together  
We try to take the rough with smooth  
We try to support each other  
But you're the one who makes the moves

As we travel this road together  
We try to take the rough with the smooth  
We try to support each other  
But you're the one who makes the moves  
So when I'm feeling weary  
And reach the point I can't go on  
It's that moment I think of you  
And get the power to carry on

With you I'd live forever  
You turn the grey skies blue  
You light the road to heaven  
You make the sun shine through

Two for the road ah ha, sharing the load ah ha  
Two for the road ah ha, sharing the load ah ha

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Jan 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Apr 2021

This song is unusual, although not unique, in that it started with a Ketley tune and chorus lyric that came in a dream during lockdown. Jim lyrically worked up the song in the spirit of love and friendship, with the suggestion, perhaps magnified by the pandemic, that life is a journey where two can share the load and watch out for each other. Emphasising positive human values has always been at the centre of our songwriting.

## BREATHING SPACE

As we moved towards the summer, it was hard just to believe  
That we had ever lived before  
As we moved towards the summer, it was hard just to believe  
Let alone that life had breathed  
And that is why we need the spaces, we need spaces to be sad  
Spaces to be mad, spaces to be glad  
And spaces for the times we had  
Mmm Embrace ... breathing space

There is a life to be lived after the hurricane  
A time to catch breath and see what remains  
And we are left looking at spaces  
Looking at the spaces in our lives  
Looking at the space, space to survive  
We need spaces to be sad,  
Spaces to be sad, spaces to be mad,  
Spaces to be glad  
And spaces for the times we had  
Mmm Embrace ... breathing space

The only thing left to talk about  
Is how you live and breathe  
Let's not talk of wasted spaces  
The only thing left to talk about  
Is how you live and breathe  
Rather call them the resting places

To launch our lives after the hurricane  
A time to catch breath and see what remains  
Seeking out the resting places, seeking out familiar faces  
Seeking out the breathing spaces

As we moved towards the summer, it was hard just to believe  
That we had ever lived before  
As we moved towards the summer, it was hard just to believe  
Let alone that life had breathed  
And that is why we need the spaces, we need spaces to be sad  
Spaces to be mad, spaces to be glad  
And spaces for the times we had  
Mmm Embrace ... breathing space

We've been apart for far too long  
Battered down against the storm  
We've been in spaces that confine  
At our release spaces seems a sign  
They seem a sign that we can breathe  
Meet each other face to face  
Meet each other face to face  
Meet each other in the breathing space  
Meet each other face to face, meet each other and  
Embrace ... breathing space

You live and breath, live and breathe, live and breathe  
The only thing left to talk about is how you live and breathe

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Feb 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Mar 2021

Like the OK song, this song openly recognises the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our lives throughout 2020/21. The joyous assertion to embrace 'breathing space' that comes from the heart after over eighteen months of wearing masks will no doubt chime with many of us who have maintained a restrictive discipline for the common good. Kat Ketley-Price's haunting vocals underline our patient longing for freedom.

# ENTRANCED

Every day I'm moving  
Moving in the crowd  
Every day I'm living  
Living in the cloud

Every day I'm dancing  
I just want to move  
Every day I'm living  
Living with the groove

Every day's entrancing  
Built around the beat  
Every day I'm living  
I'm dancing on my feet

Every way I'm moving  
Around the beat and that  
Every day's entrancing  
Never falling flat

Are you moving to the music and the beat?  
Are you feeling the pulsing and the heat?  
Ooh we're dancing, moving in the crowd  
So entrancing, living in the cloud

Yes you've got my number  
You call me all the while  
You wake me when I slumber  
With that entrancing smile  
Mind and body are as one  
As we sway on our feet  
We are always dancing  
Entrancement is complete

Every day I'm moving  
Moving in the crowd  
Every day I'm living  
Living in the cloud

Every day's entrancing  
Built around the beat  
Every day I'm living  
I'm dancing on my feet

Every day's entrancing (Oaaaaaa...)  
Built around the beat  
We are always dancing (Oaaaaa ...)  
Entrancement is complete (Oaa ...om ...)  
Complete, complete, complete, complete  
Complete

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Oct 2020 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Nov 2020

The music was originally composed to different lyrics but the Ibiza trance style vibe led to a complete rethink. The song itself is quite a departure from the sort of music we have written before but we love the opportunity to show our flexibility. One to take on your holidays to warmer climes, just relax and surrender to beauty and

## KEEP MY NAME IN THE 48

Just keep my name in the 48  
Good times will come, we just can't wait  
The 48 can be added too  
It was always a shame that there seemed so few  
We can add to the numbers year-by-year  
Make it real make sure you're there  
Good times will come, we just can't wait  
Just keep my name in the 48

Making the old songs new  
Seemed a dangerous thing to do  
Singing 'Will it Ever Seem the Same' Again  
Forty-five years on, it seems so long yeah  
Like a life-time, but then maybe  
But then maybe it was also a sign  
A sign of the times  
So keep me in the 48

Just keep my name in the 48  
Good times will come, we just can't wait  
The 48 can be added too  
It was always a shame that there seemed so few  
We can add to the numbers year-by-year  
Make it real make sure you're there  
Good times will come, we just can't wait  
Just keep my name in the 48

Some of these songs written in youth  
Have an angst of their own  
But also a truth music always demanded  
A search for good times  
A unity there, enshrined in the lines  
It was also a sign, a sign of the times  
So keep me in the 48

CHORUS: Just keep my name in the 48  
Good times will come, we just can't wait  
The 48 can be added too  
It was always a shame that there seemed so few  
We can add to the numbers year-by-year  
Make it real make sure you're there  
Good times will come, we just can't wait  
Just keep my name in the 48

Repeat CHORUS twice more

Just keep my name

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LYRICS: SPITTALFIELD Mar 2021 MUSIC: ARBORFIELD Mar 2021

Our closing song links directly with the opening track and centres around the album theme, 48. The music deliberately uses the same themes and rhythms to link the past with the future, both in terms of our own songwriting and the times before and after the pandemic. It removes the limitation of a number 48 with the statement 'We can add to the numbers year by year' and looks ahead with hope and positivity.

Keep Me in the

WAN

WAN  
BRUG

