

Mixed Covers VI

I chose not to write Introductions for 6 of the 8 cover albums in the D.L. Stieg Catalog (Mixed Covers I-V, and Covering James Taylor) because it didn't seem to me there was much need of them. I did write an Introduction, however, for the other two cover albums in the D.L. Stieg Catalog (the Noel III double album), because there were many points of interest to cover regarding the making of that album. In the 2014 Catalog, three of the first five albums (Keyboard Songs I, Songs in Open D, and Keyboard Songs II) consist of six cover songs and six original songs, and the Introductions for those albums include numerous references to the cover songs. Again in the 2014 Catalog, the Cowboy Songs album (all covers) also required an Introduction, since there were a number of relevant and interesting points to be made regarding the making of that album as well. Four of the five remaining albums in the 2014 Catalog consist entirely of original songs, so they too required Introductions. That leaves only the Mixed Covers VI album, which requires this Introduction because it is unlike the six cover albums without Introductions in the D.L. Stieg catalog in a few important respects.

To begin with, all but a few of the songs in the six cover albums in the D.L. Stieg Catalog are songs that I had been playing for many years (in most cases since the 1970's). By comparison, there are only two songs on the Mixed Covers VI album that I had been playing for that long ("Nature's Way" and "Love Song"), and only two others that I had been playing for nearly that long ("Angry Blues" for about 20 years or so, and "Young Man" only for about 3 years or so). Six of the eight remaining songs on the Mixed Covers VI album, most of which I had not played regularly since, are songs from the Popular Music Catalog that I created for the chartsandchords.com website in 2010. They are all songs that I greatly admired and believed I could cover in a

creditable and worthwhile fashion, hence their inclusion in this album. I had already played, but only briefly and many years before, one of the two other songs on the Mixed Covers VI album (“My Back Pages”), which I included largely because it has a nostalgic appeal for me personally. The twelfth song is “Christian Island”, which I learned to play at my sister’s request for the sad occasion of a memorial service for my late brother-in-law Richard Norris.

One final note, and it would be remiss of me not to mention it, is the fact that I made some changes to the lyrics for two of the songs on this album. I obviously made no attempt to prevent notice of my having done so, since I changed the songs’ titles as well. I have always been drawn toward the Neil Young song “Old Man”, and I wanted to include it on this album. However, I couldn’t very well sing the words as written, because now I am the old man, so I re-wrote the lyrics as a gift for my son on the occasion of his 24th birthday. I also re-wrote the lyrics for the hauntingly beautiful Sting song “Fields of Gold” as a gift for all five of my children, in commemoration of the many hours we spent together on athletic fields as they were growing up. I hope and trust that the composers of these two songs will not object to the liberties I have taken with their lyrics. At any rate, I would have no objection to someone editing or even completely re-writing the lyrics to one of my songs, provided only that the re-written lyrics not be profane or indecent. I would feel the same way about someone fashioning a whole new melody to go with one of my rhythm arrangements, in effect constructing a whole new song above the foundation of that rhythm arrangement. All I would ask is that the contributions of the co-creators be properly acknowledged, as they have been herein, and should the need arise properly compensated as well, as they most certainly will be in the unlikely event that there are ever royalties to speak of on my cover versions of “Young Man” and “Fields of Green”.