

The Journey Goes Ever On: Searching for the lost soul of America

Steve Bonham and The Long Road are three musicians who have gone back to the source to make music born of rediscovery, reinvention and reimagining. The outcome? A year-long mission exploring the moonshine, myth and madness of America through a collection of songs to be progressively released as four EPs.

And now comes the second EP: **Moonshine Elegy**

The four tracks were recorded in an intense eight-day session at Woodworm Studios in Oxfordshire in January. All the songs are written by Steve Bonham, some in partnership with Kev Moore and/or Chris Lydon. All the instruments were played by the band, creating an incredible sense of togetherness and vibe on each song.

Moonshine Running is good ol' piece of country rock in praise of the moonshine drivers of legend. **The Ballad of Duane and Billy Marie** is a change of mood, something the band do well. Enigmatic and mysterious it grew out of a trek on foot Steve made through the Appalachian forests and mountains. The structure shifts and changes with some great guitar from Kev and echoing ghostly piano from Chris. It is at once strange and yet absolutely Americana. This edgy sound is continued on **Canyons in the Desert**. A sense of threat, of being lost, a voice offering salvation but how real is it? The last track: **Silver Moon, Silver Girl** takes a New Orleansy feel with Chris's piano letting you know exactly where it is coming from. A surreal road trip of a song.

"The outlaw songsmith ... employs a renegade-Anglo touch to make Americana great again... but he's less world-weary, more foot down hard with raw whisky energy."

Rock N Roots UK

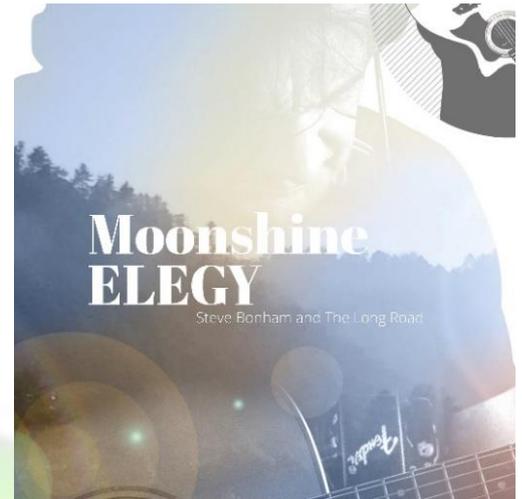


Steve Bonham and The Long Road

Moonshine? Take a few simple ingredients and conjure up some raw spirit... Take Americana, folk, country blues, the spirit of the trail, the hobo and the outlaw. Take three guys with a 100 years of performing all over the world between them and a mad passion to renew this beautiful dirt music.

The Long Road consists of Steve Bonham (vocals, guitar, slide and bouzouki), Chris 'the Bish' Lydon (piano, vocals, hammond) and Kev 'the big man' Moore (bass, guitar, drums, vocals). Three musicians who blend a swampy brew of styles mixed from both sides of the ocean, characterised by sharp lyrics, great melodies and the fab sound of acoustic instruments being played with passion and purpose.

Renegade Americana, country blues, acoustic rock? It's hard to pin down the compelling, distinctive high energy music of Steve Bonham and The Long Road. It's a kind of music that appeals to the renegade and outlaw in us all.



The Journey Goes Ever On

The songs from the project have all been written by Steve Bonham, some in partnership with Kev Moore and/or Chris Lydon. Their starting point is not, first, the songs of others but the deep well of individual experience. They were inspired by the people, the landscape, the stories, and the spirit of the southern states of the USA. They were inspired by the things that moved those who made this great music in the first place.

Steve trekked through the brooding Old Testament forests and mountains of Appalachia in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. He took road trips from Ashville to Nashville and New Orleans and, then, trekking and driving, circumnavigated New Mexico. Kev set off in a classic old sedan to visit the hometowns and heroes of his youth, spending six weeks on the road through Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana.

These songs taste gritty and real, the words rattling across the beat like a typewriter, raging against steel bars, painting images of hope and hurt, the dustbowl, downtown heartaches and impossible dreams... Already there is gathering recognition that something deep and powerful is being created here, one reviewer said:

*“Out of the darkness and into the light of day ... Steve Bonham and The Long Road tell us
‘It’s a long time comin’, this changin’ of times...’
and he isn’t just talking about pop culture as we’ve come to know it.”*

Vents Magazine USA

Four EPs, one album

The first EP, **American Wilderness**, was released in late 2019 and has three tracks. The key song is itself called **American Wilderness**, nominally a ballad based on the sorry tale of Paula Angel, said to be the first woman to be hung in New Mexico – and hung twice. But it is a ballad like no other: echoes of Dylan, the Doors and Steely Dan wrap themselves around some country blues and lyrics that tell the tragic tale. And more than that, the ghosts and legends of old frontier: the drunken judge, the gaoler, the drifter and the drinker look on.

Interstate 25 is written about a visit Steve made to a mysterious ghost town somewhere at the end of the Santa Fe trail as the evening sun went down and a hawk flew over the open road.

Wrapped Up In You is a love song for those who’ve given up on love songs, and was an unplanned hit, with over 31,000 streams on Spotify, voted Americana ‘best song of 2019’ on National Indie Radio and was a December Number 1 on UK Country Radio.

EPs to follow in July and October:

Out of The Darkness and **Looking for Gold**.



Listen to Moonshine Elegy [Spotify](#) [Apple Music](#) [Amazon](#)



Music videos for all four songs released on Fri 24 April 2020 at
thevagabondway.net/moonshine-elegy

Moonshine Running **Ballad of Duane and Billy Marie**

Canyons in the Desert **Silver Moon, Silver Girl**

Reviewers / DJs: please contact info@artisan-creative.com for MP3/WAV/FLAC/CD etc.

