

About the SONGS on Terry Kitchen's *Summer to Snowflakes*

1. "Listening to Summer" My Aunt Doris's back porch was *the* place to be in the summertime, with multiple generations of relatives and neighbors mixing over cookouts, card games and quoits (the Belvidere, New Jersey equivalent of horse shoes). The best moment was just after sunset when the first firefly appeared.
2. "Cherokee Run" At high noon on September 16, 1893, 100,000 settlers raced to stake claims on the Cherokee Strip, Oklahoma lands previously given to the Cherokee when they were booted from North Carolina by Andrew Jackson. I think of this every time I see a development on last year's farmland.
3. "Rainbow (in the Middle of the Night)" In 2008 the NEA's Big Read literacy project celebrated Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Boston radio station WUMB put out a call for songs inspired by the book. This scene, in which Scout inadvertently breaks up a lynch mob, is a classic example of non-violent intervention
4. "Build A Bridge From Both Sides" Also in 2008 Boston hosted a gathering of the People's Music Network, devoted to music for social change, and I had the honor of singing at the opening ceremony. The theme was Generations of Change, so I wrote this for the occasion. Reggae producer Chris Wilson helped me find a groove that captured the spirit of the song.
5. "If I Were Your Guitar" There's definitely a physical, almost sensual, relationship between guitarist and guitar. This song is about a different kind of guitar envy. Lance Martin plays the bossa nova flute solo.
6. "Last Straight Boy In Ptown" Provincetown, at the tip of Cape Cod, is an artist colony built atop a fishing village. It's always beautiful, and in winter has a splendid desolation that speaks to my inner melancholia. The horn section evokes a New Orleans funeral dirge.
7. "Ship in a Bottle" My friends Ellen and Ian gave up their apartment, quit their jobs, and got an old wooden sailboat to refurbish and see the world in. Two year later they're still sanding and caulking.... I found my old wooden recorder, circa junior high music class, and added a few notes for nautical atmosphere.
8. "Why Do I Hate My Very Nice Life?" The last song I wrote before the economy collapsed, so be careful what you wish for. But this may also be the chance for some folks to finally follow long-ignored dreams.
9. "Be a Man About It" About breaking the chain of learned behavior. And Little League.
10. "First Kiss Feels Like Home" Some people always assumed they'd end up married. Others, like me, assumed they'd never marry. Then one day when we least expect it...BAM! Brice Buchanan, veteran of my '80s band Loose Ties, sings the duet harmony.
11. "Audience of One" Most songs are written with one person in mind. Many of best, and most important, performances are for a single person. My audience of one is often my cat Yar, who as a kitten used to sit on my shoulder while I practiced.
12. "Love You Too Soon" A sure fire way to mess up a new relationship. Try it sometime. Also my debut on snare drum.
13. "Break the Same Heart Twice" I have been slowly working on a novel about my years as a rock'n'roller on the '80s Boston band scene. It's going so slowly because every time there's a scene with a song in it, I stop and write the song. In this scene Our Hero warns his ex-girlfriend he's still Trouble with a capital T. Horn arrangement courtesy of *Exile on Main Street*.
14. "Snowflakes" I did a concert at my old high school in Ohio and had dinner with a classmate. We worked through our mental yearbook and she reminded me of a girl I hadn't thought about in years, who had been mercilessly picked on for no good reason. Not that there's ever a good reason.