

# The Long Road to Reconcile



MIKE FLORIO  
**RECONCILE**

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1 SEEDS OF THE EARTH 6:49  
2 RECONCILE 7:41  
3 LETTER FROM BABYLON 4:40  
4 THE WISE MAN 4:49  
5 I PROMISE 5:54  
6 ONLY ONE WAY 5:23  
7 HOW WILL YOU KNOW? 7:39  
8 SEEDS OF THE EARTH II 6:21



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Not long after my first album, *Arisen*, was out the door in January 2006, my musical outlook started to change. Response to the album was very positive and encouraging; and suddenly I was making a lot of new connections. It seemed that new creative opportunities were certain to come my way, and this was certainly an exciting prospect which I had hoped for. I believe my fellow studio mates Bill Thomas, Dave Bailey and Steve Golden were also enjoying the situation, as they were all willing to continue recording more songs. So, even though making my first album had been a long and trying journey, I gauged – rather optimistically - that I might actually have enough fuel left in the tank for one more trip. And so, the *Reconcile* project began.

The recording process got off to a nice head start, as three songs - 'Letter from Babylon', 'Only One Way', and 'How Will You Know?' - were mostly written and in the early production stages from being candidates for *Arisen*. So I started on finishing those off first. However, by 2007 I became involved in what I anticipated would be a promising collaboration with another artist, so I put the album on the back burner for a while. Other interruptions came and went, but over the next couple of years I did find enough time to write 'The Wise Man', followed by 'I Promise', as well as the two 'Seeds of the Earth' songs. That left me with one more slot I wanted to fill. I considered a few of my older songs but nothing really fit. I realized I would need to get to work and write something new, and eventually the title track, 'Reconcile', was completed in 2009.

Feeling rather proud of myself at this point, I suppose; I basically did absolutely nothing on the album for the better part of two more years, once again turning my attention toward other projects. Then, one fateful day I let my good friend Eddie Jerlin hear some of the languishing work in progress. His enthusiastic reaction inspired me to pick up where I left off, which meant beginning the final - and most dreaded - phase of transforming my rough sketches into finished pieces of music.

Anyway, to condense a long story, three more busy years went by during which I actually released a compilation album (Artifacts Volume 1), finished half of another (what will be Volume 2, I presume), and dabbled in yet some more extra-curricular musical activities; all the while working on Reconcile in between. When I finally completed it in 2014, over eight years had gone by. And this time the tank was definitely empty.

As fate would have it, by the time Reconcile was finished I was a completely different person from when I started. Most of my 40's had gone by and I started seeing my musical pursuits in a very different light somewhere along the way. For a variety of reasons, the desire to promote the album simply wasn't there. I mostly just sent copies to people I thought might appreciate it, then put it up for sale and was done with it.

One reason for not promoting was I became convinced that the way Reconcile (and Arisen before it) was produced is definitely not the optimal way to make a rock record. While I believe the writing is very strong, I can't shake the feeling that there's an element of authenticity that is lacking; that my *modus operandi* was somehow illegitimate, and therefore so are the results (enjoyable as they may be). In light of that, it's simply impossible for me to promote a product I'm uncomfortable with, or unwilling to stand behind 100%.

Another reason was that I simply became tired of the whole independent music scene – and that of progressive rock in particular. Tired of playing the game; of being lost in a sea of heads. There's certainly no money to be made, so what's the point of dedicating precious time to self-promotion? How many hours blitzing the internet are required to sell just one more cd? No thanks. Better to just toss it on the pile and move on to the next creative impulse.

Mike Florio

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