

The Making Of Freedom Rider

Songwriter's Commentary by Alun Parry

Here is my guide to the audio of the song being written.

0:00 this song took 6 weeks to write. Notice that early on I'm dancing around with no instrumentation whatsoever. Plenty of tunes and lyrics end up on the Cutting Room Floor. Notice too that although I have the wrong tune the initial lyrics and main ideas came pretty quickly. A lot of the initial ideas were there quite fast.

4:00 first sign of guitar. Check out of this process is very improvised. Mumbles are ok in place of lyrics at first.

8:30 the first signs of the original tune, but still being worked out.

10:00 a new chorus tune ultimately discarded.

11:30 a second sign of the final tune. Working on the second part of the verse.

11:45 getting closer to the final song but still working out.

12:30 here we hear the lyrics for what will eventually be the second verse - but being tried as an end piece for verse 1

13:00 the final chorus happens for the first time. This is the first time I have ever sung it so it's a moment worth noting.

15:15 my struggles to loop the end of the verse into the chorus leads to an attempt at an alternative chorus

16:50 yet another chorus idea / attempt discarded

17:20 and another.

17:50 verse first half tune pretty much bedded in. Second half of verse still being played with.

18:45 a brief reappearance for what would be the final chorus before a new idea kicks in

19:30 I think I found the chorus. I haven't. but I sound excited.

20:00 an outside snippet.

20:20 the final verse for the first time is being born! And with it the final part of the verse tune get settled more or less.

21:30 I'm stuck on the wrong chorus still. Doh.

21:45 still with wrong chorus. I quite like it but it felt breathless.

24:20 the right chorus. The shower runs in the background. I'm probably naked here.

24:50 oh dear. A brand new chorus?! And then another one. and another one. Hmmm. Then another.

26:50 the guitar is back out. Sounding like the final song but still being written written. The right chorus is there. some lyrics not there yet. Dum de Dums in their place.

28:30 here's the bridge , or an attempt at it

29:35 the chorus is settled now. yay!

30:20 trying to find a bridge. Struggling.

31:25 ooh! The final Bridge is getting born!! But it's a real struggle struggle. 5 minutes of wrestling here period

33:00 I'm trying to fit in the idea of the police stopping and beating him because he was driving with a white girl alongside him in the car.

36:38 a sigh of desperation from the songwriter.

36:42 out in the street and a fragment of lyric comes to me as the trucks roll past.

37:04 the Outro is born!

38:00 the song is nearly formed now. Squeaky voice time. The Outro is now definitely in.

39:16 second verse now gets all of its lyrics while I'm washing the dishes and tidying in the kitchen. This is the very first time I've ever sung these lyrics.

40:48 the guitar is back out and a bit too close to the phone phone. I run through the final song. This is when the Outro was tried as a post chorus rather than just an Outro.

43:42 The bridge is being finalised, but not quite yet.

46:39 hm, hmmm

46:54 Bridge still needs work.

48:08 sometimes you just have to give it a frustrated whack.

48:26 A pondering sigh. Defeated?

48:33 Yay! The bridge is sorted.

49:35 final verse defiant tune change happens for the very first time as you are listening.

50:45 the chorus leads into what is now the Outro finale.

52:04 **Woohoo!! It's done! The song now exists.**