

# The Making Of We Are Not Afraid

## Songwriter's Commentary by Alun Parry

Here's my guide to the audio of the song being written

0:00 As is common for me – notice there is no instrumentation when I first start writing this song. There rarely is. I started writing songs before I could play an instrument. I still usually begin a song the same way. Notice that this snippet has the initial idea, but the tune is way off how it ends up.

1:40 Having done a key change the tune changes too to take account of it.

1:59 The guitar comes out for the first time. A new tune variation. Some experimentation. The idea is there but it's just not hatching properly yet. Some more digging needed.

4:07 No guitar again. This melody is pretty close to the final chorus tune. The line that says “fear makes us predictable” isn't finished yet though.

4:52 Sometimes when I don't have an instrument, I'll air guitar it using my mouth to make funny noises. I do this here, pretending to be the guitar instrumentation. I do this a lot in my writing. Often I pretend to be bass lines and drums, but with this song it was guitar.

5:00 A verse attempt for the first time. Not a very good attempt but that's ok. There's barely even words. Songwriting is an improv. I liken it to a man on a unicycle for the first time. The aim is to keep going as far as you can until you fall off. Words aren't necessary at this stage. It's more important to keep cycling.

5:50 Aha! The first verse for the first time. Just the start of the idea though. Lots of ner ner ners. Again, that's fine. The words will happen eventually.

6:12 Ooo a small choke and a voice wobble. Oh well, I told you this was unedited!

6:29 The guitar is back out. We hear the first verse in full for the very first time. Notice that the ending is still not right. But it's getting closer.

7:21 Chorus/Verse/Chorus. This is the phase where I'm fairly close yet nothing is fully decided. So I try it on for a bit. See how it fits. It's almost right. Still not happy with the ending of the melody.

8:32 The lyrics for the second verse happen for the very first time. It's a bit tentative from me. But the lyrics are there. It still needs an ending though. The melody isn't right.

9:23 That noise in the background? That's the shower running! This is the moment when I find the tune for "fear makes us predictable." I'd been singing in the shower and the right tune happened. This isn't uncommon for me. I often find my tunes and even my lyrics when singing in the shower. What you're hearing here is the moment when I realised I'd found the melody for the final line, so leapt out of the shower to capture it before I forgot it. Sorry to place bad images in your head but at this point it's a fair bet that I'm both dripping wet and, well, naked! Yikes!

10:50 Now that I have the melody for the end of the chorus, I seek out something similar for the melody at the end of each verse. As you can hear, my attempts are not convincing me.

11:15 Found it!!

11:32 Guitar and the full song with the melody re-write in place. You can hear how new it is. It's not bedded in with me yet. I hesitate and slow down a fair bit as I try to remember the new melody, and the chords that go with it.

13:35 And here's the final verse for the very first time.

14:00 I'm getting into it now! The song is embedding itself.

14:55 No more to do. It's written!