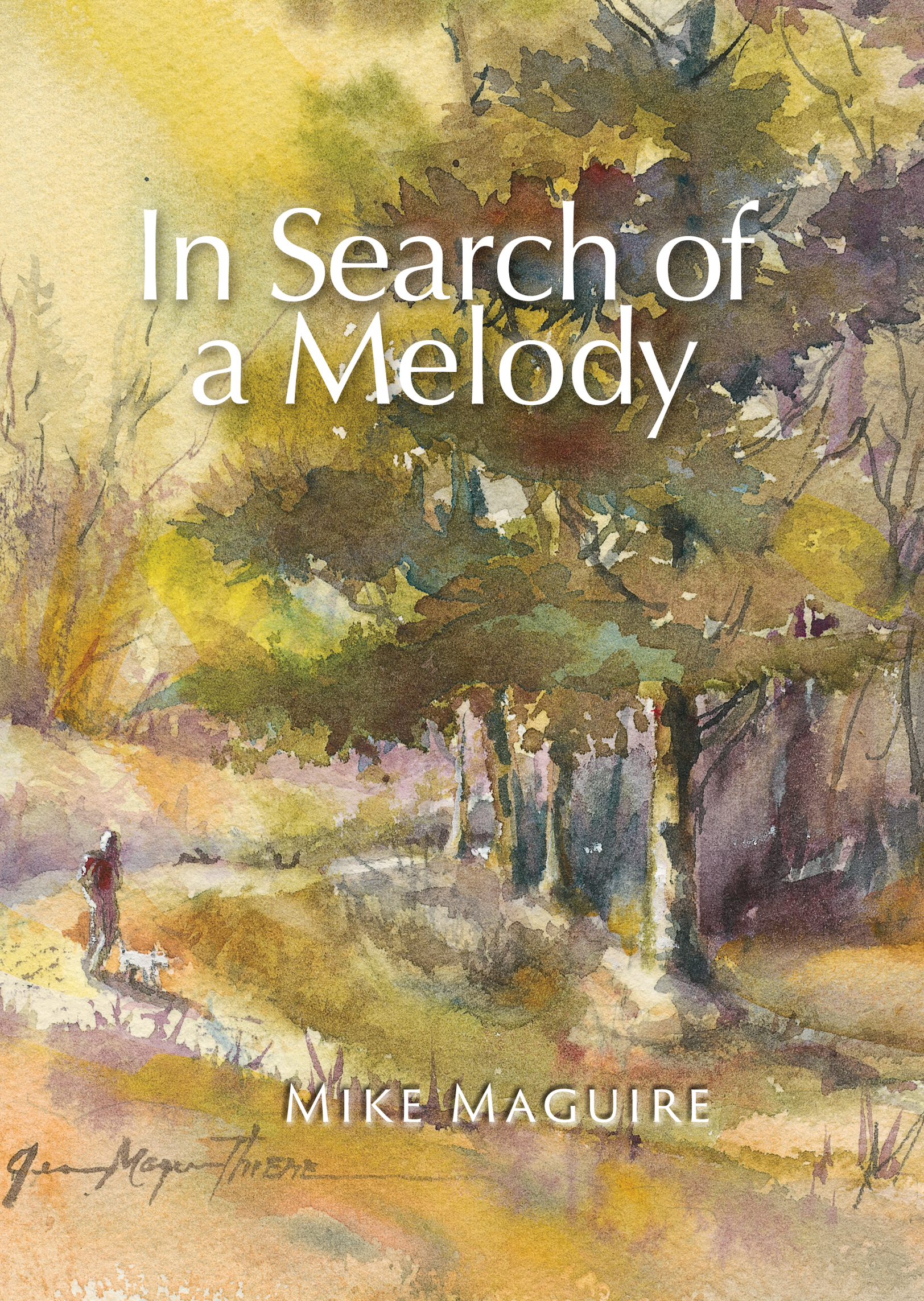

In Search of a Melody
MIKE MAGUIRE

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PREFACE

I struggled with the idea of how to present my lyrics. Should I categorize them? Group them by subject? What would be best for the reader? So, I settled on a compromise. Below are the general categories that I see the lyrics falling into. But, if I am true to the idea that the interpretation of the lyrics really belongs to the reader, then I have no right to make that decision. So, I have not put the lyrics in any order or category. The order in the book is random. However, next to each song is an icon that represents the category I feel it belongs in. Doing so let's me share with you the context in which each was written without holding you to the meaning it had for me. Pretty complicated system for a bunch of words, eh? Welcome to my world!

Music



As I stated in my introduction, music has played an important role in my life, so I thought it appropriate to have this as a category. I find it hard to actually write about music, as it really speaks for itself, so there are not a lot of songs in this category. Nonetheless, these few songs attempt to describe its special place in my heart and in the world.

Country Leanin'



I have always enjoyed country and blue grass music. I was introduced to it when I spent a summer working in Yellowstone National Park. I learned to love Willy and Whalen, John Denver and the Mission Mountain Wood Band. I also learned how to pull off a pretty good Cowboy Swing. A good country song tells a story. I also feel that a good country song transports you to a special place or a unique state of mind. When I hear a good country song, I often find myself transported to a campfire in the wide open canyons of Yellowstone or maybe a Texas Two Step lesson at the Broken Spoke in Austin. Ride 'em cowboy!

Good Causes and Good People



I have been involved in nonprofit work my entire life. I am constantly inspired by the amazing people I have met who are doing good work in the world. While you may not read about them in the news, they are everywhere. Whether it's Habitat for Humanity, Call to Care Uganda or The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center (my favorites!), these good people are there every day, working tirelessly to support, educate, enrich, feed, house and care for other people…most of whom they have never met. I've also met inspirational people all over the word who are just doing their job and doing it marvelously to my benefit and the benefit of others. Well done good people and thank you!

On the Water



I am an avid boater and have been my entire life. There is something about being on or near the water that is transformational for me. When I head out on my boat, I leave the world as I know it and find another. I've discovered that the water inspires many, many song ideas. It seems that the material is endless. From beautiful surroundings and sunsets, to difficult situations and storms, to magical moments and romantic encounters. I also find that the water brings me back to the times I experienced as a kid. Sailing with my Dad, bonding with my brothers in a unique and lasting way. The songs in this category, if you can call it that, capture these emotions in the best way I could portray them. Enjoy the cruise!

Family and Friends



I am blessed with an amazing extended family and many life-long friends. Probably my most heartfelt and emotional lyrics address the lives and legacy of these incredible people. The songs can come from experiences long ago or the birth of a son or a grandson or a quiet time thinking about loved ones lost. They include the many lessons and laughs I have been fortunate enough to receive. How lucky am I?

Life Lessons



Having been around a few years, I feel I have made more than my fair share of mistakes and hopefully learned a few lessons… some of them hard lessons. I feel if you really are going to learn a life lesson, you have to go through the problem or situation yourself and make the tough calls and the big mistakes… yourself. You can also celebrate the big wins that came as a result of that tough lesson. As one of my favorite artists Griffin House states in one of his songs: "You can never get around what you gotta go through". How true. So, these songs don't try to preach, but maybe relate a lesson you may have learned or one you are about to. Tally Ho!

Places



I have traveled a lot. A lot. I love visiting new places and discovering the history and the interesting people who live there. I also relate to the places that have been a part of my life, more close to home ... Maybe it's up the road, around the block or where I grew up or where I raised a family. Places are somehow this concrete vault where these memories live. So near or far, these are places that are worth celebrating along with the people that have made them special. See you there!

Just Fun



Some songs don't need a strong reason for being, other than to make you want to laugh, dance or just have fun. Quick, clever and even funny with a strong beat, a fun song can turn your emotions around immediately and just make you want to move. At a wedding or in a club, when you hear those first few chords of a great, fun dance song and the crowd moves to the dance floor all at once, you know what I am talking about. It's remarkable. Just a few short chords run right through your heart, mind and body. It is a fair argument as to whether the melody, the beat or the lyrics carry a dance tune, but it doesn't really matter. My fun lyrics mostly come out of nowhere and reflect the simple idea of just letting go and having fun. Care to join me? Let's dance!

Love and Loss



This is a tough one… maybe a tough one for us all. This group of lyrics is called *Love and Loss* because it is, what it is. None of us know how to deal with these realities. None of us can completely understand the pain or joy we feel or another feels. None of us can truly understand the true love and the true loss. But we all want to. Maybe that's the journey. Maybe it's just finding a way to say, "I understand." Or "I love you." Or "I'm sorry." Maybe it's standing by your loved one's grave and trying to make sense of it all. Maybe it's falling in love. Maybe there are no answers at all. And that's OK too. My lyrics try to put all of these emotions out there and express what you may have felt, as I have. Oh, the ups and the downs!

Every Once In A While

Every once in a while
When I sleep, I see your face

Every once in a while
I drive by our old place

Every once in a while
I remember that night in L.A.

Every once in a while
I wish that you'd stayed

Yes, every once in a while
It happens all the time
Every once in a while
What if you were still mine?

Every once in a while
I wonder where you are
Every once in a while
I wish upon that star

It's funny how the past comes back for a while
Every once in a while, I deny I'm in denial

I'm good now
You see, I've found my way

But every once in a while
I stumble through the day

Yes, every once in a while
It happens all the time
Every once in a while
What if you were still mine?

Every once in a while
I wonder where you are
Every once in a while
I wish upon that star

When you're searching around in your heart in in your mind
It can make you leave reality behind
Memories of the heart can tear you apart
But the searching is the thing that gets you through
The searching reveals what's true to you
Every once in a while, I search for you…

Every once in a while
I run into our friends

Then, every once in a while
The chatter quickly ends

I've moved on
But every once in a while
I keep looking back
I guess I always will

Yes, every once in a while
It happens all the time
Every once in a while
What if you were still mine?

Every once in a while
I wonder where you are
Every once in a while
I wish upon that star
Every once in a while
I wish you weren't that far

Every once in a while
Yeah, every once in a while…



I like using common phrases like the title of this song to reinforce a particular sentiment. It also expresses the irony in reality that is in this case, "Every once in a while" is all the time. But he finds a glimmer of hope up in the sky. Yes, if you wish upon a star…

Sunday Morning Fog

We set out from the river
Had a close call with a log
I sipped my coffee slowly
There was Sunday morning fog

I couldn't see ten feet
So, I squinted into white
It was like my life that day
It was a constant night

Sunday morning fog, why do you smother me?
Sunday morning fog, is this what's meant to be?
Sunday morning fog, what lessons do you hold?
Sunday morning fog, will you blind me til I'm old?

It's a funny thing, the fog
It comes and goes so fast

It's confusing and mysterious
Your mind says it won't last

Sometimes in life it's hard to see
Who to love and who to thank

Sometimes life feels so cold
Like being stuck in a thick fog bank

Sunday morning fog, why do you smother me?
Sunday morning fog, is this what's meant to be?
Sunday morning fog, what lessons do you hold?
Sunday morning fog, will you shroud me til I'm old?

Fog, oh fog, like a drape upon the sea
Fog, oh fog, why must you swallow me?
I'm fighting to see the sun
I'm fighting to be free
Fog, oh fog, will you swallow me?

The radar blips
Green dots appear
It's coming at us!
Starboard steer!

The fog is mystical
The fog is real
It's a murky demon
Based on fear

It leaves as fast as it appeared
I see the light, it's coming through

The fog's lifting from my sight
Now all I see is you
All I see is you

Sunday morning fog, why do you smother me?
Sunday morning fog, is this what's meant to be?
Sunday morning fog, what lessons do you hold?
Sunday morning fog, don't hold me til I'm old

Now all I see is you my Darlin
All I see is you
The fog has finally lifted
I now know what to do
I now know what to do 

This song is a somewhat obvious metaphor for the fog of life. There are times we can't see clearly and we struggle to figure out which way to go. On the water in fog, it's quite similar. You have very little control of the situation and you feel like it's consuming you. You keep searching for a way out and you can't see it. But if you persist, the fog does lift and you do see light and if you are lucky, someone is there waiting for you.