



HOUSE ARREST

The Live Quarantine Sessions

Michael McDermott

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HOUSE ARREST | *The Live Quarantine Sessions*

We are living through history...

2020 was a year to remember, that I'm sure many of us would like to forget. A global pandemic, social injustice and political upheaval were just the proverbial, tip of the iceberg. Standing in the shadow of the tragic and senseless loss of human life was the shuttering of live music and concerts.

At a time when people needed music more than ever, they found a void in their lives. Musicians faced a similar void when they lost the ability to connect with their fans. What that vacuum created was something new and different. Communities were made and friendships were formed. Born out of a spiritual need to heal, belong and connect; music rang out like the bells to Sunday Mass.

The end results were shared moments of gratitude. Where the artist and fan walked away feeling equally drained and exhilarated. This record documents some of those special moments. After all, we're all in this together.

— Jim Cardillo

UNANSWERED PRAYERS | Originally released on *Stories, Lies & Legends* (2020)

My mother told me, when she would
hold me
About the saints and the angels
How they were near
Then we pray for father
When his drinking got heavy
We had no money
And our future was unclear
Then mother started working
Then we never even saw her
My sister and my brothers
Grew to resent her
Everything fell apart
From the weight we were carrying
It didn't occur to me
Until many years later

Oh Father, who art in heaven
Do you even care
What becomes of the fallen?
What becomes of the faithful?
What becomes of our unanswered prayers?

William walked out of County
When his sentence was over
Some state money in his pocket
A one room apartment in town
His options weren't many
His days seemed numbered
What once were pastures of plenty
Was now barren ground
He had a friend up in Providence
He had a cousin in Chicago
He knew if he went there
He knew what would become

Midnight in his one room
He took out a bible
He prayed for the strength
The strength not to run

Oh Father, who art in heaven
Is there anybody even there?
What becomes of the fallen?
What becomes of the faithful?
What becomes of our unanswered prayers?

So tonight, I've been thinking
About saints and sinners
About losers and winners
Which one am I
There are sheep and there are serpents
There are the meek and the madmen
Which one are you
It's up to you to decide
They say that the kingdom of God is at hand
Is it above or below?
Or is it inside
There are martyrs that murder
There are prophets that profit
There are devils and demons
Alive and well tonight

Oh Father, who art in heaven
Do you still even care
Of what becomes of the fallen
What becomes of the faithful?
Of what becomes of our unanswered prayers...

THE WRONG SIDE OF TOWN | Originally released on *Orphans* (2019)

Hey there baby
I must be crazy coming here It seems lately
I ain't thinking very clear I was hoping
That maybe you'd change your mind
I ain't joking
For tonight I think it's ours to find

Come on baby
Will you ride with me downtown Let's get crazy
Drink our troubles down
You always save me
Every time I start to drown I'll be waiting
Tonight on the wrong side of town

Hey there babe
I must be crazy asking you It seems lately

It's all I really wanna do I was hoping
Yeah, that maybe you'd agree
The doors wide open
If you wanna take a ride with me

Come on baby
Will you ride with me downtown Let's get crazy
Drink our troubles down You always save me
Every time I start to drown I'll be waiting
Tonight on the wrong side of town

Feelin' foolish
The way I always seem to All I know is
I just wanna be with you It was my fault
For doing all the things that I did It was your
fault
For loving me through all of it

Let's confront it
Let's stare into the great abyss No more running
In desperate, lonely nights like this If you ain't
coming
I can't say I blame you none I've been wondering
Who it is we really have become

Come on baby
Will you ride with me downtown Let's get crazy
Drink our troubles down You always save me
Every time I start to drown I'll be waiting
Tonight on the wrong side of town

CONTENDER | Originally released on *What in the World...* (2020)

Ever since I was young,
I always thought I'd be the one
To save the world,
Or at least the girl

When I was just a boy of ten,
In my room I'd pretend I was Moses,
With rock star poses

I've been up and I've been down
I've been kicked all over town
The good things always
slip right through my hand
Hey Charlie man, I coulda been a contender
Aw, I coulda been a contender

You see I always dreamed, I could fly,
Break through walls, had X-ray eyes
I would be the one,
Loved by everyone

And I still believe, be a way,
And I'll come back to save the day,
Be your hero babe,
And your heart I'll save

Things they didn't quite work out,
I became a slave of doubt
It felt like I was cursed among the damned

Hey Charlie man, I could have been a contender
Not like the pretender that I am

Through the years,
And through the maze,
I tried my best to change my ways,
Tried to become a better man

I screwed things up pretty good,
And anybody that even stood fairly close to me,
Became my enemy
Yeah, I hurt the ones I loved most,
I burned bridges from coast to coast,
I just didn't fit, I was an idiot

I've been weak and I've been strong,
I'll keep fighting all along,
These things I swear I'll never understand
Hey Charlie, man, I could have been a contender
Aw, I could have been a contender
Yeah, I could have been a contender
Not like the pretender that I am

I could have been something
I could have been amazing
I could have been incredible
I could have been legendary
Come on babe take me by the hand
I could have been a contender

I WANNA KNOW WHY | Originally released on *Hey La Hey* (2009)

I wanna know why, why love never ever seems
to last Somebody tell me why, why love never
ever seems to last

Thought I could hold up the sky and let you walk
out of the rain Tonight it's no surprise

I let you down baby just the same
But there you stood as beautiful as I've ever
seen Babe I ain't no good

I never seem to give what you seem to need
I wanna know why, why love never ever seems
to last Somebody tell me why, why love never
ever seems to last

Lord I hate to say goodbye

Maybe I got a fear of abandonment Would you
look me in the eye

and tell me where, where our love went?

So if you start to cry, you should know you're
not the only one

It feels like you're gonna die

But know a new love someday will come

I wanna know why, why love never ever seems
to last Somebody tell me why, why love never
ever seems to last

Over on Sunset and Vine, before my eyes I
watched you disappear

I know we've both been trying, but I think it's
time to hit the highway dear

I wanna know why...

TREMBLING HOUR | Originally released on *620 W. Surf* (1991)

I was dreaming last night as the moonlight shone
so bright
Down into my bed as the dreams did dances in
my head
I saw a shoeless man who smiled in the winter
Saw a masterpiece painting from a man they said
was crazy
Heard the words of my Savior who was nailed to
a cross
And the betrayal of a man whose reasons were
hazy Well I look into the sun, until my eyes start
to melt Felt and dealt the worst hand which I
have witnessed It is now for which I live in the
trembling house

I saw a bush burning brightly on the hillside
Got burned by the heat which had smoldered
from the inside
I was startled by a pale hungry child
I saw days of pouring pain that would never end I
saw a face that wasn't allowed to smile
And a lonely man without a friend
Seen false prophets sitting by the fire in my mind
Turning the flames they saw into a bitter wine
It is now for which I live in the trembling hour
Saw a star in my lover's eye, she looked to the
sky and turned away
I got down on my knees only to realize I didn't
know how to pray
I saw machines digging up a brand new earth
Seen a child die in the struggle of birth
I saw one man who always ended up first and
watched another man
Slowly die of hunger and thirst Desperate words
like fire will burst

And descend upon all of those who are cursed or
coerced
It is now for which I live in the trembling hour I
have been present in the time of a death
I've scorned the sky in a winter's night and felt
the Warmness of your breath
Looked into the eyes of a child holding out his
hand I stared at the castle which controls reign of
this land I saw one man give his life to help a
million others stand
And heard one man say, "I couldn't give a damn"
I saw a dream shatter near the light of the moon

Calling out the end of this dream which came too
soon
Feeling that now is the time for which I live in the
trembling hour

I heard footsteps right behind me, I turned and
no one was there
I heard echoes in the darkness, bitter words filled
with despair
Saw a girl flee from herself to reappear
Running from her problems and running from her
fear I heard one man break free I heard another
cry for love
I saw an endless ocean from the wings of a dove
Felt a cold hand on my shoulder, I turned and it
was gone
Saw a girl scared and frightened, crying in the
alley near dawn
She whispered "Now is the time for which I live in
the trembling hour"

BROKEN FROM BIRTH | Originally released on *Stories, Lies & Legends* (2020)

Hey there Father, if you're able
Would you sit down, at my table and tell me
All the things that you know

Hey there Mother, don't mean to bother
I miss you so...like no other
Would you hold me...telling me you love me so

Whatever it's worth all I seem to feel is hurt
Maybe I, maybe I, was broken from birth

Hey there sister, can you hear me?
I want you close, I want you near me now
Like we were when we were kids

Hey there brother, can you help me?
I'm on the run, they're out to get me now
How has it come to this?

Whatever it's worth all I seem to feel is hurt
Maybe I, maybe I was broken from birth

There's so many pieces here, so many lines
I couldn't put them together if I had all the time
in the world

I've never known, much belonging
I'm so alone, and always longing to be
Something greater than I am

I've had my fair share, my share of problems
It's not like I don't care, I know, everybody's
got them

But it seems sometimes, it gets so hard to
understand

Whatever it's worth all I seem to feel is hurt
Maybe I, maybe I was broken from birth
Maybe I, maybe I was broken from birth
Maybe I, maybe I was broken from birth

DANCE WITH ME | Originally released on *Ashes* (2004)

Tell me, tell me true
Do you speak with the spirits the way I do?
Do you dance their dance, with their hands on
you? Do you sleep at night?

Coming down from above
I heard the trumpet speaking of love
But there's no peace here, any peace to speak of
Will you dance with me?

What difference does it make?
You can walk the line or make a mistake Forgive
me now, I got something to shake Do you see
that monkey here?

So dance with me, take my hand
I've become a person I don't understand
With you I can finally find a place to land If you
dance with me

Fear not, I fear you no more
You can dress in black, or crawl on the floor You
can touch me now, or wait by the door You'll
always have your chance

I'll write the song of my life
I'll cast it in the air, as sharp as a knife I'll
puncture it, and feed it some light We can call it
death

This room, sweats of your name
You know it too, cause we love the pain Blinded
by, the colors of rain
Haunting me

So dance with me just one time
I'll do anything if you can name the crime I'll
accept everything, I'll be fine
If you dance with me

Who cares and what if they do?
It's no one's life, it's yours and it's you Will you
kill me if I asked you to?
Do you know me yet?

Free me, free me from this
It hurts like hell, but they tell me it's bliss I'd sell
my soul, my love for one kiss

Would you offer it to me? Candle burning i
t's still
Up there in your window sill High upon the
loneliest hill Is that light for me?

So dance with me a silent dance
With you to my breast
I could stand a chance
Beyond the perimeters of circumstance Will you
walk with me?

Talk with me
Lend me your smile
I've been twisting and turning awhile Been one
long lonely mile after mile Will you dance with
me?

C'mon dance with me, take my hand I've
become a person I don't understand
With you I can finally find a place to land Will
you dance with me?

C'mon dance with me C'mon dance with me
C'mon dance with me Dance with me

SCARS FROM ANOTHER LIFE | Originally released on *Hit Me Back* (2012)

Hallelujah...the choir they all sang
As I walked by St. Mary's in a misty rain
'Twas so long ago, I think it was yesterday
I was so down, I had completely lost my way
When I hit Broadway I began to realize
That all they are, are scars from another life

Percy drank his coffee then said to me
I've been thinking about where the river meets
the sea
I've been pickin' poison fruit from a troubled
tree
Because sometimes it seems your past won't let
you be
You can kill it with a gun if you do it right
Or run that far from the scars from another life

Singin' Hey La Hey La Hey La Hey
Scars from another life

I'd been blessed with love but threw it away
Now I wait for it to return everyday
And say "You're forgiven boy...you deserve
another chance"

You'll wrap [throw] your arms around me and to
Sinatra we will dance
"One more for the road" in a holy light
Won't you sway with me babe...with the scars
from another life

Singin' Hey La Hey La Hey La Hey
Scars from another life
Singin' Hey La Hey La Hey La Hey
Scars from another life
Don't run away, they're scars from another life
Don't be afraid, they're scars from another life
Won't you sway with me babe...

I smoke these haunted memories every night
While I think about the scars from another life

NIGHTS LIKE THESE | Originally released on *Gethsemane* (1993)

Silence fell like healing, as I turned to shout
“Won’t somebody up there please help
me out?”

There’s a dead end street around every corner
I take and the daylight displays my greatest
mistakes Hallucinations, body and soul
Each night I feel a little more less in control
She spoke of Whitman and the turnin’ of the
leaves Lovers were made for nights like these

I’ve been waiting on the wonder, I dream does
exist They smile as I’m goin’ under and claim I’ll
be missed One step away from paradise one
step away from pain
The seeds of despair bloom into weeds
of shame I’ve seen a fallen rainbow in white
and black
I can feel that restless shadow stickin’ knives
in my back

But there’s penance and passion, patience and
peace Lovers were made for nights like these

Now the cool majestic evening invites me to
burn I’ve been waitin’ for tomorrow but tonight
it’s my turn Intoxicated by the banter that the
bluebird sings

By the visions of forgiveness when those church
bells ring

I’ve seen the face of evil, sometimes it looks like
mine I’ve confronted all my weaknesses, down
on my knees

Lovers were made of nights like these
Dreamin’ was made for nights like these
Salvation was made for nights like these
Forgiveness was made for nights like these
Lovers were made for nights like these

UNEMPLOYED | Originally released on *Last Chance Lounge* (2000)

I know how to turn water into wine I'm filthy
rich but I haven't a dime
I'm luck in love by my girls' got a man Most of
these things I can't understand

I can take tragedy, loss and defeat
Choke your bitterness until your blood
turns sweet

Hallelujah, I'm over joyed
I'm drunk again and I'm unemployed
Say hey mama ain't I still your boy

Drunk again and I'm unemployed
Singing la hey, it's gonna be ok
People always ask me what it is that I do and
very rarely do I ever tell them the truth I'm a
consultant, a pilot, a thief or a cook
Or I'm just about to publish my very first book

Sometimes I'm a hunter, sometimes I'm a clown
Sometimes I'm a matador who just moved
to town

Hallelujah, I'm over joyed
I'm drunk again and I'm unemployed
The things I've wanted I've just destroyed
Drunk again and I'm unemployed

Drunk again and I'm unemployed
Singing la hey, it's gonna be ok

I must admit that most times I get bored Cause
the things I want I still can't afford
People say "Michael you're very easily amused"
Ask if as a child I was somehow abused

Call me a slacker, call me a waste I'm just a
pauper with a prince's taste

Hallelujah, I'm over joyed
I'm drunk again and I'm unemployed
Say hey mama ain't I still your boy
Drunk again and I'm unemployed

Singing la hey, it's gonna be ok

KNOCKED DOWN | Originally released on *Out from Under* (2018)

It's always been like this Nothing's changed
 Since the day I was born
 I always felt a little strange I always did
 I always do
 Sometimes I get a little lonely baby
 How 'bout you?
 I always do I always did
 You better be careful
 When you're messin' with the kid
 It ain't no big thing
 It's all the same to me Sometimes a little leak
 of light Is all you need
 In these hard times You gotta take a few
 I ain't no glass jaw joker Baby that is true
 You can see the stars better from the
 underground I know a thing or two about
 being knocked down

 I lived like a dog Slept in the street
 I had a home in the bushes, With the rats at my
 feet I've been so strung out
 In dirty hotel rooms Had girls on the pipe All
 afternoon
 I've been ridden like a horse

 All night and day
 Been turned out and burned out Led astray
 That's the way it is I'm tellin' you straight
 I gotta pocket full of rocket
 and I'm looking for a hard eight
 I'm a skid row savior, spike for a crown
 I know a thing or two about being knocked
 down I know a thing or two about being
 knocked down

 I got this old guitar, an Irish hat
 Spent 20 years' baby
 With a monkey on my back That was hard time
 Even harder still
 If the left one don't get you
 Then the right one will

I've been hustled and muscled Left for dead
 Had my face to the wall, And a gun to my head
 I've been cheated, defeated Played for a fool
 Everything I ever needed Always came from you
 I think it's time we order, another round
 I know a thing or two about being
 knocked down

Two days of riding shotgun in a Yellow Cab
 Started talking to a Priest right outside a Meth
 Lab I did not say, what I was trying to do
 I said "Hell is arbitrary, it's a point of view" I
 think he got it,
 I think he understood I'm pretty sure he knew
 That I was up to no good Then I gave him a hug
 Went right in
 Sometimes you find heaven in a place of sin
 Hallelujah,
 Boy it's never enough
 That which doesn't kill you man It makes
 you tough

Then I'm the toughest thing goin' baby, pound
 for pound I know a thing or two about being
 knocked down

I could hear the voices callin' from the corner
 men tellin' me to stay down, that we had
 reached the end I thought, " Fuck that..."
 Nobody's callin' this fight I'll decide when,
 There's still time to make it right It's your life
 You get only one
 So you'd better beware of what you let it
 become I'm telling you straight, telling you true
 Do you choose your life or do you let it choose
 you? I said, I know a thing or two
 Yeah I know a thing or two about being
 knocked down

STUMBLIN' | Unreleased

He sat at the diner, drinking coffee
He said "It's a thankless job, this one I've got..
If I knew something else, you know I'd do it...
It's like this carousel, just won't stop."

Morning greets me like an angry lover
The night time is like a joke I've heard before
It's a strange, strange feeling, when you discover
You don't wanna play this role anymore...
He looked like death,
I could smell the booze on this breath
He said "Why is it every time...
I try and take a forward step...
I keep on stumblin'"

Down Paradise Lane
She was walking in the rain
She wondered why this happens
Time and time again
She was much too smart
To ever try and complain
"Sadness... she said
Is my true forgiving friend."
She locked the door
She lit her candle
4 months had passed
4 months she'd been clean
Failure was something
Daddy couldn't handle
She liked to lose herself in between
Frustration breeds what desperation needs
Tomorrows promises can leave you blind

Every time, you keep on stumbling
Every time you get so close to be
Every time you get so close to me
You keep on stumblin'
Take my hand
Take my troubled hand

Summer always brings about some changes
No matter how far I go
Confusion comes along I was walking into the
downward steps of danger
Wondering what the hell went wrong
It's a Midwestern night
With a Louisiana moon
It's a strange laughing voodoo wind that blows
I was humming a fallen angels
Broken tune
Searching for faith's dying rose
I wonder why
It seems every time
There's always something
Knocking me from behind
I keep on stumblin'
Every time I get so close to you
Every time you get so close to me
Every time I get back on my feet
Every time I get so close to me
Every time I get so close to him
Every time I get so close to her
I keep on stumblin'

POSTCARD SATURDAYS | Originally released on *Postcard Saturdays* (2011)

the end is near
we're dying every day
your cab's been runnin
half an hour
in the screamin rain
pretend you'll miss me
tell me you'll write
a postcard, saturdays
or that you might
come through on holiday
or even send for me
when you are lonely
in the death of night

one more by the bed
one more on the floor
one more just like that
one more for the road

i drop my words
like oiled glass
they splash like stars
and stab my feet
so i can't stand
to watch your coat
drag from behind
as you look back at me
as if you were still mine

one more 'neath the moon
one more by the lake
one more for my mouth
one more for the road

...good day
good morrow
good day
good-bye...

i hug the door
fog up the pane
i drag my finger
through the droplets
with your name
it's etched in stone
'least in my veins
you drop your bags
and tear on back
for one again

one more to that song
one more for my soul
one more for this rose
one more for...
one more with your life
one more for evermore
one more with eyes close
one more for the road
one more for i don't know
...one more for the road

NEW YORK, TEXAS | Originally released on *What in the World...* (2020)

She said, "Have you ever been
to New York, Texas?
I'm not sure anybody really has
You see Mama always said that God
would bless us,
If you're grateful for what it is we have."

Headed straight into the heart of nowhere,
Coffee City, 20 miles behind
Nine weeks now, And she's already showin'
I'm not sure what it is we hoped to find

But I know...Something's coming,
I can feel it...The engine's runnin'
Come on let's go...It feels so near
I wanna take you away babe,
Anywhere but here

It started on a night up in Ben Wheeler,
I was battered by a bitter breeze
But I can't shake the look of that dealer,
The moment that I brought him to his knees

And she said, "Have you ever been
to New York, Texas?
I want someone to tell me if it's real
You see, Mama always said that God
would bless us,
If we just stay true to what we feel."

And I know...Something's coming,
I can feel it...The engine's runnin'
Come on let's go...Babe do not fear
I wanna take you away babe,
Anywhere but here

She said, "Don't get any bright idea, smart guy."
It's like she was reading my mind
She said, "Don't leave me here alone,
Feels like you're fixin' to go,
Are you fixin' to go?"

I am fortune's fool,
I only wanna be with you
Take me in your wing
Can't you see,
I ruin everything
Can't you see,
I ruin everything

Yeah, yeah

Pulled over, got a hotel off the highway,
In the morning we would get an early start
I said, "Babe, maybe it's time we try
things your way"
She said, "Why you only truthful, in the dark?"

I said, "Have you ever been to New York, Texas?
I think maybe it's time for us to go
Hell, your mama always said that God
would bless us,
And bless the wayward runners of the road."

But I know...Something's coming,
I can feel it...The engine's runnin'
Come on let's go...It all seems so clear
I wanna take you away babe,
Anywhere but here

Something's coming,
I can feel it...The engine's runnin'
Come on let's go...It all seems so clear
I wanna take you away babe,
Anywhere but here

Anywhere but here,
Come on, let's go...

BELLS | Originally released on *Michael McDermott* (1995)

It's been a long time girl, since I slipped inside
 your world
 It's almost like I've never even been there
 Though the battle's just begun I feel the
 damage has been done
 And I know there's nothing left that we
 could repair
 Sermons were sung and seven psalms
 were hung
 On the walls of my dyin' faith
 I'm just waitin' for them bells to ring

There's a statesman in the yard, preachin' like
 some bandit bard
 But me, I move along most unaffected I never
 noticed the decay or when things didn't go my
 way
 Life's everything I ever expected
 With my warrior mask and ignoble task
 Listen to the hunter, whispering He's just waitin'
 for, just waitin' for them bells to ring

Singin' hey hey la, hey la hey, hey hey la,
 hey la hey
 Just waitin' for them bells to ring
 If I gave you my heard, could you heal it
 If I gave you my song, would you sing it
 Let's sing it all night long

Though the lines have been drawn, in the
 breaking of the dawn
 I will cross this bridge prepared to fight
 And though my blood may soon be shed, I feel
 that peace lies up ahead Near the belfry's
 healing light
 And ring if it does, like Picasso's peaceful dove
 I will fly free, far away.
 I'm just waitin' for, waitin' for them bells to ring

Singin' hey hey la, hey la hey,
 hey hey la, hey la hey
 Just waitin' for them bells to ring

Ringin' out from the mountains
 Ringin' out from the valleys
 Ringin' out for my homeland
 And the blood in the alley
 Ringin' out for the drunk ones
 Ringin' out for the sober
 Ringin' out for the lover,
 who knows that its over
 Ringin' out for the hungry
 Ringin' out for the homeless
 Ringin' out for the righteous
 Ringin' out for the hopeless
 Ringin' out in the blackness
 Ringin' out for the soldier
 Ringin' out for the future,
 waitin' over your shoulder
 Ringin' out for the sinner
 Singin' out for the accuser
 Ringin' out for the winner
 Ringin' out for the loser
 Ringin' out for the orphan And the disbeliever
 Ringin' out for the honest And the deceiver
 Ringin' out for me
 Ringin' out for you

And all the things that we've been through
 Hey hey la, hey la hey, hey hey la,
 hey la hey
 Just waitin' for them bells to ring