

**DIETRICH STRAUSE**  
**LITTLE STONES TO BREAK**  
**THE GIANT'S HEART**





Produced *by* **Austin Nevins**  
Recorded & Mixed *by* **Matt Malikowski**  
*at* Dimension Sound Studios, Jamaica Plain, MA

*Additional Recording by:*

**Austin Nevins** *at* Austin's Studio, Somerville, MA  
**Matt Malikowski** *at* Great North Sound Society, Parsonsfield, ME  
**Dan Cardinal** *at* Dimension Sound Studios

Mastered by **Eric Conn & Don Cobb** *at* Independent Mastering, Nashville, TN

Album Art *by* **Peter Nevins**  
Layout & Design *by* **Charlie Wagers**

All Songs written *by* **Dietrich Strause** (BMI)



## **SINCEREST THANK YOU...**

to Austin Nevins, Zachariah Hickman, Matt Malikowski, Billy Beard, Jim Larkin, Laurence Scudder,  
Sam Kassirer, Laura Cortese, Amy Correia, Anais Mitchell, Rose Cousins, Peter Nevins,  
Charlie Wagers, Bradley Robb, Matt Smith, David & Katie Champagne, Ry Cavanaugh & Jennifer Kimball,  
and all the backers, family & friends.



## 1. ANNIE DEAR

The wide and the mighty Mississippi she's a sight. Won't you tell my Annie Dear that she's still on my mind, won't you tell my Annie Dear, my darling she's a sight | Annie she's my shepherd, she once was a love of mine. I followed her all around and she kept me in line | I gave her all my wool in the field and in the fold. I told her in the pasture I'm afraid of growing old | I've wished every morning, I've wished every night, to climb the Alleghenies and coast down the other side | Out West the wolves stay hungry, it keeps me on the run. The sky feels as big as it did when we were young | It's not the silver, not the gold, not the Garden that I seek. Just a land where the wind that blows fans a fire beneath my feet | The wide and the mighty Mississippi she's a sight. Won't you tell my Annie Dear that she's still on my mind, won't you tell my Annie Dear, my darling she's a sight.

**Billy Beard:** Drums, Percussion

**Amy Correia:** Vocals

**Laura Cortese:** Fiddle

**Zachariah Hickman:** Upright Bass

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Organ, Vibraphone

**Austin Nevins:** Nylon String Acoustic, Electric Guitar, Lap Steel

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

## 2. IN THE WELL

Far from the sands and the rising coast, in the Elkhorns and graveyards dogs chase the ghosts of the fires we burned through thunder and showers, a flame for the ages, moments and hours. As the night falls dark my wishes few, all my waiting in the well for you | In the alms we take, in our hands we hold a breath for Clementine in the waters below. But to see you now, I'd give all I own, to fill the emptiness of the icy drifts that grow. As the night falls cold my wishes few, all my waiting in the well for you | May the mountains wake, and the creek run dry. May wolves take the valley, and beetles take the pines. Fill the gardens with stone and the wagons with laurels if everything I said today I wouldn't say tomorrow. There's nothing I said today I wouldn't say tomorrow. In the morning still, my wishes few, all my waiting in the well.

**Billy Beard:** Drums

**Rose Cousins:** Vocals

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Vibraphone, Percussion

**Jim Larkin:** Bass

**Austin Nevins:** Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Lap Steel, Baritone Ukulele

**Laurence Scudder:** Viola

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar



### 3. UNSINKABLE

She spent the winter before wearing just a pinafore, come spring Violet set for sea. Sailing for the sickly, breaking hearts of the healthy I wished she would take care of me. The captain fell asleep, hit a mine in the deep, it shook the beds in the infirmary. We were taking on water and I told her how I loved her she said, "capsized you're too short for me" | She's unsinkable, unbreakable, it's unbearable how unthinkable how unlovable I am to her | On the second ship that sailed I should have brought a pail but I met her with roses at the stern. The pride of the Atlantic wasn't made a romantic, she's a skeptic with heart that burns. So I faked a fever to make violet a believer, she had an iceberg up her sleeve. I asked her to cool me, so overboard she threw me, and I swam after her lifeboat to plead | Wasn't long from leaving dock that the third ship hit a rock and I knew this would be my charm. So I took her to the bow, and I made Violet a vow I said, "my love would never do this much harm." She said of all the first mates that she'd never had a date with a spirit as buoyant as me. So it figures we were sinking when we finally got to kissing. I said, "Darling, it's getting hard to breathe." | She's unsinkable, unbreakable, it's unbearable how unthinkable how unlovable I am to her.

**Billy Beard:** Suitcase, Percussion

**Laura Cortese:** Fiddle

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Electric Piano, Toy Keyboard

**Austin Nevins:** Low Electric Guitar

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

### 4. OUR LADY PONDEROSA

In the Bluestone on the hill where the madams lay, the jacks of gold and silver fold their hands and pray. But I bet my love's laying at the Mountain Gate. I feel the earth shaking, I hear the tunnels chime for Our Lady Ponderosa, Our Lady of the Mines | I'm sifting through the days, sifting through the dust, chasing golden ribbons up the Missouri to the Sun. Chasing for my love's my last chance at being young. There's a lining in the heavens everywhere she hides, for Our Lady Ponderosa, Our Lady of the Mines | From the tower on the hill, and the horizon to the sea, the Lioness of the Valley guards the creatures and the beasts. I am just a creature out looking for my peace. I'd fight back the fires and the crowning of the pines for Our Lady Ponderosa, Our Lady of the Mines | When the whistle blows and the evening bells will ring, with all the hymns and lullabies the meadowlarks will sing. I spend my nights singing for what the morning brings. For the arms that wrap around us, in the miles and miles we find, for Our Lady Ponderosa, Our Lady of the Mines.

**Billy Beard:** Drums, Percussion

**Rose Cousins:** Vocals

**Zachariah Hickman:** Upright Bass, Pump Organ

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Electric Piano, Organ

**Austin Nevins:** Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Lap Steel, Mandolin, Electric Bell

**Laurence Scudder:** Viola

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Trumpe

## 5. LEMONADE SPRINGS

I have heard the shouts of the running river's mouth, of the bluebird and the lemonade springs. I saw the wagon, slain by the dragon, and the earth was bound to rail and burned for steam. The Yellowstone Child, looking for a wild love, running from the life she was lost in. In the flooding of the plains, I saw her through the rain, I said I'd take her hand for the crossing | She sang of milk and honey, of the wilderness above me, of crystals in the hills and in the fountains. In our boots we sank as we stood along the banks and watched the jungle fires burn in the mountains. That night upon the edge I was holding to her dress, I remember how it poured oh it poured. The colors of her eyes and her honeyed goodbyes were flooded by the raging river's roar | I remember how I dreamt of holding the gem of a wild and promised land. Where together we could sleep, where sweetgrass grows deep, but now all I dream is her slipping through my hands. I watched my girl be pulled into the earth, and I'm haunted by my breath when I sing. At night I hear her shouts in the running river's mouth, in the bluebird and the lemonade springs.

**Rose Cousins:** Vocals

**Zachariah Hickman:** Upright Bass, Pump Organ, Bass Clarinet

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Organ, Pocket Piano, Vibraphone

**Anais Mitchell:** Vocals

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Trumpet

## 6. THE SLEEPING WILDERNESS

**Zachariah Hickman:** Bass Clarinet

**Dietrich Strause:** Trumpets, Euphonium

Arrangement by **Zachariah Hickman** and **Dietrich Strause**

## 7. BOOTLEGGGER

A bootlegger's heart, it doesn't break apart, it just dries up if someone pulls the plug. Juniper and grain, the hypnosis of the drain, that's why your eyes look so green in the bathtub. I was drunk and had my doubts, but the way you moved your mouth when you sang me a song for my aching, if lonely was a drought and patience was a cloud, I'd say the heavens broke, unless you were faking | In our roaring years, even broke behind the ears, and in between the dimes in your eyes. Two quarters for my bread, flipping tails and heads, even poor men strike it rich when the moon shines. I was drunk but I was sure, when you left to see the world, and put all its spinning in your pocket, that I'd be fine waiting, just be a little shaken, a bottle only breaks if you drop it | It's getting a little hazy, I've been sitting here for days, I try to speak easy but I'm struggling. I can't say I've been sinking, I wouldn't say I've been swimming, but drinking like a fish should count for something. I'm drunk but I believe that in life and love and dreams, temperance is a joke, its all or nothing. So cheers to your return, if it sounds a little slurred, it's just I've been waiting so damn long for your homecoming

**Billy Beard:** Drums, Percussion

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano

**Jim Larkin:** Bass

**Austin Nevins:** Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Lap Steel, Baritone Ukulele

**Laurence Scudder:** Viola

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

## 8. TELL ME MARY

Tell me Mary, I've got to know what makes your garden grow. Early to bed, early to rise, tell me I ain't got all night | The sun's going down over fields of wheat. You caught my eye crossing the street after school in town for a piano lesson. You said you had to run home and do your tending | It's Friday night get your hands out of the ground. Through the cemetery we could paint the town. If it gets too late we'll go back to the farm and we can paint the fences. and we'll paint the barn | Tell me Mary, I've got to know what makes your garden grow. Early to bed, early to rise, tell me I ain't got all night.

**Billy Beard:** Drums, Percussion

**Amy Correia:** Vocals

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Organ, Vibraphone

**Jim Larkin:** Bass

**Austin Nevins:** Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar

**Laurence Scudder:** Viola

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

## 9. JEAN LOUISE

Wake up Scout there's something smoking in the trees. The nightingales are fleeing and the mad dog's in the street. Papa's got the answers and your brother thinks he knows. The neighborhood's on fire, the camellias are frosted cold | Jean Louise I tell you your bare feet are still too loud, for sneaking through the garden. You've got bells on your ankles and the belfry's in the ground. Lilacs and violets and a shotgun blast. The mockingbird's in whispers like the sky before the flash | The neighborhood's lit up bright. And all the town's shooting wild. Run along Jean Louise while you're still a child | Teacher's got an apple and trouble put a rose in your hair. Last night you heard people fighting on the courthouse stairs. The jury got their man and the judge had little to say. There's a finch in your hand, Scout you better let it fly away | Lightening in the morning and thunder in the afternoon. Rain in the evening and you'll be a woman soon. There's a sparrow in your pocket it fell from the cedar tree, everyone's got something that's keeping them from being free | The neighborhood's lit up bright. And all the town's shooting wild. Run along Jean Louise while you're still a child.

**Billy Beard:** Drums, Percussion

**Zachariah Hickman:** Upright Bass

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Organ

**Austin Nevins:** Electric Guitar, Acoustic Slide, Nylon String Guitar, Lap Steel, Noises

**Laurence Scudder:** Viola

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Trumpet

## 10. SLING & STONE

I was counting all my pebbles, dreaming of the timber on the south side of the mountain where I've heard the girls are limber. They wear nothing but bluebonnets and laugh under the oaks, if I wore the robe and crown, I'd trade them both for jokes | I was dreaming of a highway, dreaming of a throne on an engine with headlights, the wind and radio. I've sat here in this valley forty days and forty nights, and all my friends that tell me someone's looking for a fight | They say, "Davy oh Davy, come in from the fields, and trade your sling and stone for a brand new pair of wheels." | I was basking in the glory of the breeze between my toes. It was there I saw you bathing, taking off your clothes. You said I'd do my blooming later, that the Giant got a jump. But as I watched you in the brook I think I started catching up | We praised the Lord for our fingers, as strummed along my harp, and sang about the double yellow line in our hearts. When an army took the hillside, chrome glimmered in the sun, the Giant stepped out of his truck and stuck out like a sore thumb | And you sang, "Davy oh Davy, come in from the fields, and trade your sling and stone for a brand new pair of wheels." | With my comrades gathered around me, I swung and took my aim, and with the grace of the Almighty the Kingdom took my name. With a blow between the eyes the Giant fell to his rest with my sword in my hand I put my foot up on his chest. As he laid there on the ground, I looked him in the eyes. I saw the wild beasts of the earth and the birds up in the sky. He begged me for his life and I said I'd take his Chevrolet, so I dropped my sword, picked you up, into the sunset we drove away | Singing "Davy oh Davy, come in from the fields and trade your sling and stone for a brand new pair of wheels."

**Billy Beard:** Suitcase, Percussion

**Zachariah Hickman:** Pump Organ

**Anais Mitchell:** Vocals

**Austin Nevins:** Acoustic Guitar

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar

## 11. SONG FOR ALICE

Oh my darling, I'm on my way across the Badlands where I might stay. Should our hearts turn to bitter roots, I'll think of you darling, think of me too | Oh my darling, of the valley low. A thousand miles since last you wrote. Should you forget me as fallen cottonwoods, then think of the pasture and skies feathered blue.

**Billy Beard:** Drums

**Laura Cortese:** Fiddle

**Zachariah Hickman:** Upright Bass

**Sam Kassirer:** Piano, Organ, Vibraphone

**Austin Nevins:** Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Banjo, Lap Steel, Saw

**Dietrich Strause:** Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar





1. **ANNIE DEAR**
2. **IN THE WELL**
3. **UNSINKABLE**
4. **OUR LADY PONDEROSA**
5. **LEMONADE SPRINGS**
6. **THE SLEEPING WILDERNESS**
7. **BOOTLEGGER**
8. **TELL ME MARY**
9. **JEAN LOUISE**
10. **SLING & STONE**
11. **SONG FOR ALICE**

Produced *by* Austin Nevins



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