

*Alema*  
FERNANDEZ

HARD TO IMAGINE



# HARD TO IMAGINE

1

BEING YOU

6

SHEER PERFECTION

2

HARD TO IMAGINE

7

HOW MANY WAYS

3

SPARE ME THE DETAILS

8

HEAVEN WROTE A SONG

4

I BELIEVE

9

MY BABY & ME

5

MEANT TO BE

5

MEANT TO BE

## BEING YOU

Have you ever felt like you're in the wrong place?  
Have you looked in the mirror but you don't recognise your  
own face?  
It's that moment when you feel like everything has to  
change  
It's that split second when you know you wanna stop  
feeling so strange  
Take those feelings and don't stop there  
Coz they will see you through  
Through whatever you thought might prevent you  
From being you

I was hoping, hoping for a sign  
Something to help me; help me find my way  
Can't believe ooh I can't believe how clear it became  
Once I heard, once I heard everybody say  
You take those feelings and don't stop there  
Cause they will help you through  
Through anything that's gonna stop you  
From being you

### *Bridge:*

If you can't do the things that make you happy  
Then you'll always be down and out  
Wondering why life had to be  
One big lonely tragedy  
Just throw away the things that make you worry  
Clear distractions that make you doubt  
Once you see how light you feel  
When you focus on what's real  
Then you'll know what freedom's all about

## HARD TO IMAGINE

I'm so happy for my ex now  
Maybe he can find  
Somebody who will feel like she is out of her mind  
With love for him the way I'm out of my mind  
With love for you  
And maybe I'm only saying it coz this kind of love is new  
But on the hand  
My love it's true

*Refrain:*

And it's hard to imagine  
Hard to imagine  
Hard to imagine anybody could love anybody else the way  
I love you

Looking back I feel so silly  
Thinking how I spent all those days and nights just crying  
Coz I was torn apart  
Wish I knew what I was feeling  
Would all be just forgotten  
Coz the sunshine that is you  
Would mend my broken heart  
If I had the chance to do it all again  
I would say "Girl. You're angels coming in"

*Bridge:*

Now that I found you I feel free  
Free just to be myself  
Never really worried what anybody thinks of me  
Now that I'm with you I can say  
For the first time in my life I really don't care  
What anybody throws my way

## SPARE ME THE DETAILS

I know what's coming  
I am not blind  
To the slow moving changes  
I just follow the signs  
The love used to shine  
Like a searchlight in your eyes  
But now it's a candle  
That flickers and dies

I know what's coming  
I've heard it before  
I knew it the minute  
That you walked through the door  
You shrug your shoulders  
When I ask what's wrong  
The roar of your silence  
Is our last love song  
I should have known better  
But I was taken in  
Fooled by a face  
I did it again I did it again

*Chorus:*

Spare me the details  
Of how broken hearts mend  
Of how time heals all wounds  
And we'll still be friends  
Spare me the details  
Of how you love me  
If you've got to do it  
Just do it and be free

This is not the first time  
It's happened before  
You think by this time  
I'd know the score I'd know the score

## I BELIEVE

*feat. Vanessa Fernandez, Michaela Therese  
& Sabina Fernandez*

I believe for every drop of rain that falls  
A flower grows  
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night  
A candle glows.  
I believe for everyone who goes astray  
Someone will come to show the way.  
I believe, I believe.  
I believe above the storm  
The smallest prayer, will still be heard.  
I believe that someone in the great somewhere  
Hears every word  
Every time I hear a newborn baby cry,  
Or touch a leaf  
Or see the sky,  
Then I know why I believe.

## MEANT TO BE

Feeling heavy feeling low  
Unsure which way I should really go  
Could use a new view, in need of a change  
I know I must leave but where do I go?  
It's like people say "Better the devil you know"  
Wish I could stop feeling this way

*Chorus:*

Gotta get outta here  
Gotta run free gotta start feeling like  
I'm where I'm meant to be  
Gotta see blue skies and rainbows too  
When will I stop feeling so blue

Someone tell me what to do  
Coz I just can't see through this wall of gloom  
Dying inside but still pushing through  
It breaks my heart coz this is my home  
But the longer I stay the more I feel alone  
Time to let go, pretending won't do

*Bridge:*

If only things could stay the way they were  
I wouldn't need to disappear  
If this is how I really feel inside  
Then I guess it must be right  
Time that I give up this fight

## MY BABY & ME

*feat. Richard Jackson*

He doesn't like the 80s  
She doesn't want pets  
He says I'm way too lazy  
She never forgets  
But it's never a problem  
For my baby and me

He wakes up way too early  
She sleeps the whole day  
He always has a problem when I want to pay  
But that'll never come between my baby and me

Oh what do I do when all she wants to do is lay down?  
Oh what can I say when he just likes to talk till I drown?  
Maybe one day she'll wake up to watch the sunrise with me  
Maybe someday I'll decide what we both watch on TV

She's always so bossy  
He ignores my advice  
She does things her own way  
He always thinks twice  
But it'll always just be  
About my baby and me

## I GOT THE FEELIN'

I got the feelin'  
You got the feelin'  
It's the best feelin yet  
I got the feelin'  
You got the feelin'  
Everybody oughta get  
I have a formula  
For happiness if  
You want to invest in a love  
That will be steady and true  
It's all yours un-  
Til my life is through

I got a lot of what you're  
Dreamin' of I  
Got a lot of love I  
Got a lot of laughter too  
I got a river of joy  
And compassion I  
Know is gonna last and I'll  
Share everything with you  
I have a formula for  
Happiness if you want a love that can get  
The whole wide world feeling nice  
And bring everybody  
Back to paradise

You are the coffee to my cream  
You are the man of my dreams  
The music to my song  
With you I can't go wrong  
I just can't believe how good you make me feel

You are the light in my dark  
When things get dim you light the spark  
Say you'll never leave  
Say we'll always be  
Holding hands till all our fears are gone

## SHEER PERFECTION

All wonder all bright-eyed  
All is fun & brand new  
No worries or troubles  
Nothing seems to phase you

How I'd love to see the world  
thru your little eyes  
Where no one can harm you  
Where life is all smiles

*Chorus:*

May you be showered with love  
And always have affection  
May happiness be yours for life  
For you are sheer perfection  
No matter what happens  
There's somebody there  
No need to be fearful  
No need for despair  
So much to look forward to  
And life has got to be so grand  
To know that all you really need  
Is in your tiny hand

## HOW MANY WAYS

How many ways  
Can I say thank you  
And how many times  
Before it sounds insincere  
How many things  
Can a man sacrifice  
How many secrets  
Did I whisper in your ear

How many heart...  
breaks did you take  
And how many times  
Did that heart remake  
How many trials  
Did you go through just for us  
And tell me how  
Did you do it all alone

How many fears  
Did you help me face  
How many dreams  
Did you help me chase

### *Refrain:*

How many ways  
There aren't enough ways

How many times  
Did I not notice  
How hard it was  
To be in your shoes  
How many words  
Did we not get to say  
How many feelings  
Never saw the light of day

How many lessons  
did I learn from you  
How many failures  
Did you help me through

## HEAVEN WROTE A SONG

*feat.* Richard Jackson

Heaven wrote a song  
It was a simple tune  
Until you came along  
And found my heart so true  
Now things are not the same  
I'm losing in this lovers' game  
Heaven came to me  
The day that you were gone  
He said: "Son, now do you see why she was so wrong?"  
Now things are not the same  
I'm losing in this lovers' game  
Since the day we met  
I've been in a foolish state  
Since the day we met  
My life has not been the same  
Maybe I'm thinking too much  
To let you walk away  
My baby, my love

### *Bridge:*

Now I get around  
My heart can't say  
The things it feels since you walked away  
I know you don't  
You don't need me anymore  
Anymore

*It literally takes a village.....*

.....to put a project like this album together and that phrase is by no means an exaggeration. In realising this, it has been extremely overwhelming and heartwarming for me to have received the outpouring of love and support that I have since I first began this journey 5 years ago. It has felt like an extended birthing period of such precious cargo and it took as long as it did because I was doing a lot of things for the first time. I decided to go all out and do everything I'd never done before. I've always been sceptical about my song-writing ability but once I approached Shawn Letts to help me take on this project, he was not only 1000% committed but also unbelievably patient and encouraging. He was ready and willing to do whatever it took to get things done to the extent of building his own home studio. I mean, it doesn't get more committed than that! So I'm going to start by thanking him first. Shawn - you have been my biggest cheerleader, mentor and advisor. But it is your unparalleled patience and your "not-shy-to-brag-about-me-to-everyone-you-meet-to-the-point-where-I-am-embarrassed" attitude that continues to floor me. You are a ridiculously talented genius and I am way too lucky to be allowed in your presence, let alone work with you so thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are my hero and there is no one I would've rather done this with than you, my dearest friend.

I have the best family in the world because they love me unconditionally and have been my number one fans literally since birth. Thank you for my wonderful musical genes. It is because I got to grow up singing with you every Sunday around the piano at family gatherings that I couldn't imagine doing anything else with my life but be a singer. Fernandez, Ee, D'Cruz, Monteiro, Theseira and Thomas relatives - There are too many of you to list but you know who you are and I love you so much.

I also have the best friends a girl could ask for. They rally behind me no matter what I decide to do, no matter how silly it may seem. And they have been there to pick me up and dust me off whenever I have fallen. I am so blessed to have them in my life. Friends from Church of St Vincent de Paul, CHIJ Toa Payoh, SJC, CJC, Blk 56ers Ngee Ann Mass Comm (teachers included) who have been there from the beginning and never faltered. You guys are the best.

The diverse community of musicians that I get to work with in this little island nation (including my students and colleagues at Lasalle College of The Arts). You are my daily inspiration and I am honoured to be a member of this incredible pool of talent. Thank you for teaching, guiding and grooming me to become the performer that I am. For all the lessons I've learned and will learn from you, you make me better everyday and I am humbled.

There are a total of 25 musicians and singers on this album and they make up the cross-section of talent that has been in and around the Singapore music scene at some point or another. To each and every one of you, I cannot thank you enough for giving so generously of your gift of music and bringing this material to life. You have made this process so special by being part of this project. Thank you thank you thank you. I am forever in your debt.

Justin Hegburg, James Wilkinson, Siva Saravanan, Hassan Lahrech, Michael C. Ross & Joseph Bozzi - Thank you for being so lovely and supportive. And for going out of your way to make this album sound better than I could have ever dreamed. I am eternally grateful.

There is special group of people who donated to The ABAF (Alemay Birthday Album Fund) without whom this album would have probably taken 5 more years to finish. Thank you for believing that I could do this and for making this album possible. Special thanks to Silvio, Jean, Juliette & Tasha. Thank you Sabina for putting ABAF together.

Jeremy Chia & Fajar Kunia - For volunteering your time without hesitation for art direction and layout. For being so patient and efficient. And for introducing me to Eric. You guys are the sweetest souls.

Eric Foenander - your cover artwork is just stunningly beautiful. Thank you for being so incredible and for saying yes to doing this for me. You have mad skills my friend.

Vanessa & Michaela aka Maynestum & Kael - my cousin and honorary faux cousin, you two are not just family, you are my biggest inspirations. Thank you for always being there. I love you more than words can ever express.

My sisters Natasha & Sabina aka Tashles & Beenska B - my pillars of strength and wisdom. Thank you for always having my back. I would be nothing without you both.

And to my Ubblez - Thank you for holding me up and making me whole. You are my heart, my soul, my everything.

I'd like to dedicate this album to:

My parents, Joe & Angela Fernandez, who watch over me from heaven. Daddy - thank you for introducing me to Jazz, the music closest to my heart. Mummy - thank you for giving me your great memory for lyrics. The world has been a little less bright without your sparkling personalities. I miss you both so much.

My grandmother, Leah Isabel Monteiro, who is still going strong at 106 years old. You are my superwoman.

My Auntie Jan, better known as Jeannette Ee, who has spent all 80 years of her life being a mother to everyone around her, especially me. I am in awe of your selflessness and I will never forget everything you've done.

*All my love, Alemay xxoo*

## THANK YOU

# MUSIC CREDIT

## 1. BEING YOU

*Written by William Gathright & Alemay Fernandez*  
Isaac Chris Robinson - Rhodes/Nord  
William Gathright - Bass  
Erik Hargrove - Drums  
Munir Alsagoff - Guitar  
Dave Newdick - Flugelhorn  
Marques "Q Sound" Young - Trombone

## 2. HARD TO IMAGINE

*Written by Shawn Letts & Alemay Fernandez*  
Christy Smith - Double Bass

## 3. SPARE ME THE DETAILS

*Written by Shawn Letts & Will Kern*  
Shawn Letts - Piano  
Christy Smith - Double Bass  
Eddie Layman - Drums

## 4. I BELIEVE

*feat. Vanessa Fernandez & Michaela Therese*

*Written by Ervin Drake, Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl and Al Stillman*  
Vocal Arrangement by Michaela Therese  
Kerong Chok - Organ

## 5. MEANT TO BE

*Written by Kerong Chok & Alemay Fernandez*  
Kerong Chok - Piano  
Ben Poh - Double Bass  
Wenming Soh - Drums

## 6. SHEER PERFECTION

*Written by Kerong Chok & Alemay Fernandez*  
Kerong Chok - Piano  
Ben Poh - Bass  
Wenming Soh - Drums

## 7. HOW MANY WAYS

*Written by Shawn Letts & Sabina Fernandez*  
Weixiang Tan - Piano  
Oliver von Essen - Organ  
Casey Subramaniam - Bass  
Rizal Sanip - Drums  
Shawn Letts - Tenor Saxophone

## 8. HEAVEN WROTE A SONG

*feat. Richard Jackson*  
*Written by Sara Wei Ruyi*  
Kerong Chok - Piano

## 9. MY BABY & ME

*feat. Richard Jackson*  
*Written by Shawn Letts & Alemay Fernandez*  
Horn Arrangement by Shawn Letts  
Nick Lim - Piano  
Christy Smith - Double Bass  
Eddie Layman - Drums  
Steve Cannon & Dave Newdick - Trumpets  
Shawn Letts - Saxophones  
Marques "Q Sound" Young - Trombones

## 10. I GOT THE FEELIN'

*Written by Shawn Letts & Alemay Fernandez*  
Horn Arrangement by Shawn Letts & Alemay Fernandez  
Shawn Letts & Oliver von Essen - Piano  
William Gathright - Bass  
Pablo Calzado - Drums  
Navin Kumar Nagpal - Percussion  
Mark Kelly - Trumpet  
Shawn Letts - Tenor Saxophone  
Marques "Q Sound" Young - Trombone

*Album Producers: Shawn Letts & Alemay Fernandez*  
Executive Producer: Alemay Fernandez

*Tracks 1-6, 8 & 9 recorded by John Herbert at Lion Studios Singapore*

*Tracks 7 & 10 recorded by Justin Hegburg & James Wilkinson at Lasalle College of the Arts Studio Singapore*

*Tracks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10 mixed by Michael C. Ross at Michael C. Ross Music L.A.*

*Track 4 mixed by R Siva Sai Saravanan at S Cube Music Singapore*

*Track 8 mixed by Hassan Lahrech at The Sound Cell Singapore/Melbourne*

*All songs mastered by Joseph Bozzi at Bernie Grundman Mastering L.A.*

*Album Cover Layout & Art Direction by Jeremy Chia, Randy Raharja & Fajar Kunia.*

*Album Cover Artwork illustrated by Eric Foenander*