

Rebecca Parks

Messiah Refugees Music

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Song Summaries ~ Messiah Refugee CD

1. Messiah Refugee: I was raised in the New Age movement. I spent much of my life looking for insight in all the wrong places. In time I discovered that I don't need or want a church or teacher to help me find God. Having only personal beliefs and experiences is lonely but liberating.

2. I Can Talk to You: My husband Gary is my best friend, and I can talk to him about anything, no matter how painful or difficult it may be. He has been steadfast in his support and his love.

3. Sisters and Strangers: In some families, sibling rivalry lasts into adulthood. At a time when my sister and I were both going through emotional turmoil, we had a falling out. Writing this song was my preparation for our reconciliation.

4. Die Laughing: This expression has always struck me as tragicomic. It seems to fit with how, as I've grown older, I remain hopeful for a better world, but I realize that human nature doesn't change all that much.

5. Father: Much has been made of the plight of women in the Middle East, but there was a time when European culture was scarcely any better. There have always been women who perceived how unfair society was to them, and who fought back in any way they could, often quietly.

6. Taking the First: As a kid I loved the Schoolhouse Rock American History series. These songs illustrated by cartoons are as much fun as they are educational. The series has no song about the First Amendment, so I wrote one.

7. Scars: As a child I witnessed domestic violence, and in recent years I have volunteered at a domestic violence agency. I admire the strength and courage of all the survivors, who have gone on to create much better lives for themselves and their children.

8. My Cable TV: A former paramedic who attended one of my shows told me a story about a psychiatric emergency. He arrived at the scene to find a huge TV set in the road. Some people led him to the guy who threw it out of a building. He asked the guy why he did it. The guy's response was quite insane—and an irresistible refrain for a song.

9. Beth Doesn't Know: A friend's daughter has Down Syndrome, has insisted that she is a boy since early childhood, and in adolescence is showing an interest in girls. Writing a song about her was a challenge; usually a song focuses on just one issue or theme, but this one has two that interrelate.

10. Too Much Is Not Enough: This is reportedly what Mick Jagger once said about sex. I think it's an expression for our times. We're addicted to our diminishing resources and to consumption for its own sake.

11. Bad Boss Blues: This is my attempt to set Dilbert to music. When Gary and I perform this song at street fairs, often someone comments, "Funny, we have the same boss." My usual reply is, "Yeah, that guy really gets around."

12. This Town Is Dead: When a company town loses its company, not much is left for the people who live there.

13. I Will Be Remembered: Egypt has inspired many artists and writers, some of whom haven't really understood the culture. When Shelley wrote "Ozymandias," his verses were moving but his Egyptology was uninformed. Gary and I have tried to imagine how an ancient king felt about his monument based on our knowledge of Egyptian history.

14. Messiah Refugee (electric): Some people ask me where the "rock" is in Theatrical Folk-Rock, and this is my answer. I don't often play with a full band, but if you listen carefully, you can hear the intensity even when I play solo piano.