



**AMON RA**

we never said good-bye.



## master of strings 05:31

**music:** Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:**

Scott Balaban • Gerry Boiciuc •  
Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner •  
Thomas Wenzel

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, bass, choir

**Dierk Neldner:** keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars

Sometimes I can't help but feel there's a mastermind behind all the evildoings  
going on in the world. The skinny, split-tongue advisor whispering in the young king's ear.  
The cunning conspirator planting the wrong facts  
to be discovered and acted upon in rage.  
The religious fanatic who plays  
on his fellow man's deepest fears  
and beliefs.  
A truly kraken-like force  
bent on wreaking havoc,  
spreading the poison and  
bringing out the worst in everyone.

And sometimes it seems  
like he's winning.  
Stirring up the mob and  
delighting as it turns violent.  
Laughing away in the darkness.



**Thomas** thanks:

First of all, my ladies Christina and  
Katharina for love, tolerance, support  
and patience for their exhausting husband  
and crazy daddy.

My mom for giving me my first guitar and  
my family for encouraging my musical  
activities.

Lothar for his insane idea of actually recording these songs again and his (almost)  
neverending endurance and energy to fulfill this album. Hopefully there'll be  
another one – and in less time than fuckin' seventeen years after the last one...

Scott for sharing musical passion and madness and for being one of those persons that you can just  
talk to, have a laugh with, even after years have passed and it always feels like you just left off yesterday.  
Both of you guys for our loooooong time special connection.

©2015 label production of  
**Nature** *Transfer*  
Sound Design and Music Production  
**Studios** *Emotions*



**Amon Ra, 1999** (from left to right)

**Gerry Boiciuc • Dierk Neldner • Thomas Wenzel • Lothar Hermann • Scott Balaban**

**A huge thank you to:**

**Gisi Hermann** for neverending patience, support and... brilliant Italo-Franconian catering! There is and definitely never will be any one else who has heard these damn songs more often. Hours and hours of listening to the same fifteen seconds, again and again. With one exception. The guy with the droplets of blood slowly trickling out of his ears, her beloved husband, Lothar.

**Special thanks** to our guests and supporting musicians:

**Dierk Neldner** (piano, keys)

**Gerry Boiciuc** (bass)

**Sebastian Gieck** (bass)

**Steff Porzel** (vocals)

**Many Thank** to:

**Stefan Hüther** of Redstuff® Amplification, Bergreinefeld



**Scott** thanks:

My mom for love and for being the personification of willpower and the sheer force that you are. You truly rock!

My lovely wife for her support and love. Music brought us together and will always unite us.

Andi, my brother. Family is a choice, not a birthright. And don't forget, winter is coming...

Lothar & Thomas, you two are both completely mad! Bonkers. One card short of a full deck. Love ya for it!

Spiritual shout-outs to Chad, Kerouac, Jamie Oliver, David Gilmour.

Love is Passion is Everything.



**Lothar** thanks:

My dad, forever in the depth of my heart and at all times present. Thank you for your energy and always believing in me. RIP.

My mom, living example of strength, love and compassion. You always believed in me. You're wonderful.

My brother, big-hearted and faithful to me - forever.

My lovely wife Gisi, for selfless, unconditional love, for sharing my music with me, and for always supporting me. I love you so much!

My friends for loving me and my music. I can be who I am - and never be alone. So precious to me!

My Sister-in-law and my niece. It feels so good to be part of your family and to have a place in your heart.

**Ulli Völk** (saxophone)

**Gisi Hermann** (choir)

**Peter Mattis** (choir)

**Lucy** (special guest appearance at the end of "the long dark road")

To read the song lyrics please visit our website: [www.amonra.de](http://www.amonra.de)

**time will come to your rescue** 09:30

**music:** Dierk Neldner • Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban • Lothar Hermann

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:**

Scott Balaban • Gerry Boiciuc • Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner • Thomas Wenzel

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, bass, choir

**Dierk Neldner:** piano, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars

This almost ten minute song was once cropped down to four minutes. With the help of the drummer of a famous prog band, flown in to help us in distilling the song's essence. The goal was to come up with something suitable for radio, promotable. In retrospect, we were trying to fix something that didn't need fixing. Shorter isn't always better, sometimes you just have to tell the whole story for it to make sense...





## the long dark road 04:52

**music:** Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:** Thomas Wenzel • Lothar Hermann • Scott Balaban

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars, bass

How far can you go to save a relationship before you lose yourself?  
When do you finally stop crawling, raise your head up, feel the warm sun on your face  
and start moving on?  
You fool yourself by thinking that it's the brave thing to do,  
to keep on fighting, when it's not.  
It's plain masochistic.  
So, how far are you willing to go?  
At what point are you sick and tired?

## the great metronome 07:27

**music:** Dierk Neldner • Scott Balaban •

Lothar Hermann • Thomas Wenzel

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:** Scott Balaban • Lothar Hermann •

Dierk Neldner • Thomas Wenzel

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir, voices, narrators

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, bass

**Dierk Neldner:** piano, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars

Standing in the newly painted hall of the huge hi-end studio we had rented, I can hear the guitar recordings going on. Big, mighty chords with the force of armies knocking on a city's wall are being put on tape (or whatever goes for tape nowadays).

And the pressure is rising.

Vocal recordings begin tomorrow.

And the lyrics for the first song, a major opus, just won't come to me.

The working title is "Tick Tock" and deep down it feels right. But it's not working for me. And just as the last power chord roars out, it hits me.

What would happen if my later self would meet me now?

How would it feel about me now?

Will I have fulfilled all I wanted to?

Sometimes it seems like dreams are so hard to live up to. As if time itself was working against you.

And the lyrics just sort of wrote themselves...





## dance of duty 05:42

**music:** Thomas Wenzel

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban based on a poem by Gisi Hermann

**arrangement:** Thomas Wenzel • Lothar Hermann

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, keys

**Dierk Neldner:** piano, keys

**Steff Porzel:** vocals, choir

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars, bass

Where there's a taker there's also always a giver.  
For everyone that uses someone, there's someone who lets it happen, who lets themselves be used.  
Especially in a relationship. Whether it be between lovers or in a family.  
In fact, in families it often becomes so much more difficult with all the baggage that everyone has, the history, the broken promises, the things done as an irresponsible adolescent and the guilt that it can be traded on for later.  
Co-dependence holds people together while actually tearing them further apart.

Steff, it was a pleasure having you sing the „taking“ part.  
Truly vocal chord-bending, coal-grinding, whiskey-gurgling - great.

## where when and why 06:30

**music:** Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner • Scott Balaban • Thomas Wenzel

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:**

Scott Balaban • Gerry Boiciuc • Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner • Thomas Wenzel

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, bass

**Dierk Neldner:** piano, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars

Back in the days, a good friend was stuck in a truly loveless relationship. Problem is, he had a really huge heart. He seemed to fall hopelessly in love with every friendly woman he came across. One sad, tragic situation followed the next. It was just a matter of time till the next one would cross his path. Instead of stopping and changing his life situation he just continued on. Leaving his friends to wait where and when the next crisis would strike. The true question was why. Why it was happening time and time again.

Back in the days, a good friend was stuck in a truly loveless relationship. Problem is, he had a really huge heart. He seemed to fall hopelessly in love with every friendly woman he came across. One sad, tragic situation followed the next. It was just a matter of time till the next one would cross his path. Instead of stopping and changing his life situation he just continued on. Leaving his friends to wait where and when the next crisis would strike. The true question was why. Why it was happening time and time again.



**until the morning comes** 04:35

**music:** Scott Balaban

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:**

Scott Balaban • Lothar Hermann • Thomas Wenzel

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir, keys

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars

**Sebastian Gieck:** bass

I've always felt  
that a broken  
heart weighs twice  
as heavy at night.

Actually somewhere  
between midnight and three am.

In comparison, making it through  
the day is a piece of cake. Work, daily routines,  
things to do. So many distractions.

But at night, when it all calms down, no one's  
calling on the phone, only bulls\*\*t on TV,  
that's when it hits you.  
The full impact of a lost love, the soulmate  
tragically removed.  
It hits you like a truck.

And all you can do is wait for the sun to come up again.  
Wait until the morning comes.

**should have known better** 04:40

**music:** Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:** Thomas Wenzel • Lothar Hermann

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Gerry Boiciuc:** bass

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, percussion

**Ulli Völk:** saxophone

**Thomas Wenzel:**

guitars, clicking fingers, triangle, mini guiro, claves, whistling

It was 4 o'clock in the morning, I was startled awake.  
She was pacing the floor, up and down, up and down,  
and accusing me of telling her parents  
something about her sister.

What?  
I had never even met her parents before.  
Or even spoken to them.

It was then, as I wiped the sleep from my  
bloodshot eyes that I knew I had done it again.  
I had managed to pick the craziest girl from the  
whole party.

Yep.

A bad habit I just couldn't seem to break.  
And I could picture exactly how it would be  
to tell my friends what had happened.  
Again.

Gentlemen, let's drink. To all the crazy ones!





## tango mortale 07:02

**music:** Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:** Scott Balaban • Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner • Thomas Wenzel

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir, storyteller

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, bass, keys

**Dierk Neldner:** piano, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars

**Silvia Balaban:** kidnapped village daughter

Life is strange. You think you're going to write a straight rock song and then Dierk comes up with an accordion riff on the keys.

What? You mad? We're a rock band. Nobody rocks with the accordion!

But just then Thomas sets in with a heavy riff. Gerry and Lothar don't ask twice, merging in a thundering groove. After the initial shock, you see everyone is grinning like mad. There's no turning back. It's like strawberries and pepper. Crazy. But it works. You don't know why, but who cares.

But what do you sing about over something like this? Well, you gotta fight fire with fire. Meet madness with madness. How about a story with twist after twist, set in the middle of the Mexican desert. A story full of banditos, kidnapped ladies and unlikely heroes. And to top it off, a tango dancer challenging our heroes to a dance to the death.

Uno, dos, tres, Cuatro!



## rocket man 03:28

**music:** Scott Balaban • Lothar Hermann

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:** Scott Balaban • Lothar Hermann

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir

**Lothar Hermann:** guitar

**Dierk Neldner:** piano



Big dreams can come in the most unlikely shapes and sizes.

Little girls who dream of becoming trailblazing scientists.

Timid little boys that want to grow up and fly to the stars.

To boldly go where no man has gone before.

What right do we have to laugh at them?

For all we know they'll be the next Marie Curie or Neal Armstrong.

But it's so much easier to point a finger and join the crowd in jeering than to stick up for them.

I can still remember Dierk playing the piano melody in rehearsal, with us four guys standing around, practicing the backing vocals for the first time.

A memory I'll always cherish...

## slipping away 06:13

**music:** Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban

**lyrics:** Scott Balaban

**arrangement:** Thomas Wenzel • Scott Balaban

**Scott Balaban:** vocals, choir, keys

**Lothar Hermann:** drums

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars, bass

Most relationships come to that certain point.  
At some time or other.  
The point where after being together for a long time, daily routine replaces passion.  
And after a while, that warm feeling that used to give everything  
a sense of belonging unnoticeably turns into  
a numb distance.

Something that had given  
everything a deeper meaning  
gets taken for granted,  
becoming meaningless  
and hollow.

You try to grasp it  
but it's like the wind just  
keeps it right beyond your reach.  
How do pull that special person back,  
re-establish that connection?  
How can you even be sure  
you want to?

Is there a certain distance that once  
reached, cannot be bridged anymore?  
Or can love truly conquer all?



## karma machine 05:47

**music:** Thomas Wenzel • Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner • Gerry Boiciuc

**arrangement:** Thomas Wenzel • Lothar Hermann • Dierk Neldner • Gerry Boiciuc

**Lothar Hermann:** drums, bass

**Dierk Neldner:** piano, keys

**Thomas Wenzel:** guitars



Why waste words  
when the melodic spiel  
of the piano can say  
it better?

Why waste the energy  
in screaming when the  
howl of the electric guitar  
can make you feel it?

Why waste your  
breath in setting  
the scene when the  
sheer force of the bass  
and drums says more  
than enough?

Life comes and goes and  
we're all just the soundtrack.