

# I'll Think of Something

**Greg Nathan** *String Bass and Voice*

**Mike Denny** *Jazz Guitar*



**WARNING!** Failure to read these notes before listening to the contents of this CD may lead to an unexpected response of shock and awe. Proper preparation through the reading and understanding of the following material is highly recommended.

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The song "I'll Think of Something" is from the musical *Where the Heck's The Plot?* written by my father, Charles Nathan, 1921 - 2012. *Where the Heck's The Plot?* is the last of three musicals written by Charles. "Chuck," as we all called my dad, saw all three of his musicals become the subjects of popular, local productions.



Chuck was in his mid-eighties when he finished *Where the Heck's The Plot?* It is different from the other two musicals he wrote because the songs were composed after the story was created. *Where the Heck's The Plot?* includes many words and much music free from standard song form. It seems to go beyond the limits of the genre. *Where the Heck's The Plot?* is a musical comedy masterpiece.

In the musical, "I'll Think of Something" is sung by Sidney, a writer of musicals, who is a victim of writer's block. Sidney needs a hit musical to continue his lifestyle as it has been. He is struggling for a worthy plot and is beginning to feel the pressure. When the lyrics of "I'll Think of Something" refer to "a writer like me...", it is in reference to this predicament. ( Left: Charles Nathan. 1953.)

Among all of the fine songs included in this CD's program, "I'll Think of Something" has the honor of being the title song. It is one of the best songs Chuck ever wrote. "I'll Think of Something" is a classic show song. In an effort to share with you a highlight from *Where the Heck's The Plot?* my rendition of "I'll Think of Something" is performed "straight through" with no jazz improvisation, just as it is presented in the show.

"I'll Think of Something" serves here as a vehicle for me to pay tribute to my dad and express a whole lot more. It has taken on deep personal meaning for me at several different levels.

Charles is my middle name, and I grew up loving my dad's music from as early as I can remember. I recall being a seven-year old walking to school singing and whistling songs Chuck had just written and made into demonstration recordings. I was rooting for them to become hits just like my father's song "Say You're Mine Again," which was recorded by Perry Como a year before I was born. However, in a world turning in favor of

Elvis and rock 'n roll, there would be no other song written by my dad that would become as successful as "Say You're Mine Again." Today, nearly sixty years later, the market Chuck loved to write for still exists and with "I'll Think of Something," Chuck is still contributing.

When Chuck was 90 years old, he heard me perform "I'll Think of Something" live for the first time. At the end of the evening, he told me what a great job I did singing his song. If you knew my dad, you'd know that was high praise indeed, because he was not one to use the description "great" loosely. To Chuck, Art Tatum was a "great" jazz pianist, and if you called Tatum great, it was a lowering of your standards to use that same word to describe other jazz pianists.

Being Chuck's "musical" son (he has two others who aren't as seriously musical), you might expect me to be a bit of a songwriter, too. Well, not to disappoint, my song, "My Own Man," was written in 1976. At that time Chuck was very complimentary regarding the melody, but he didn't care much for the lyrics. I've been working on them ever since, and only very recently did I arrive at lyrics I think he'd like better.

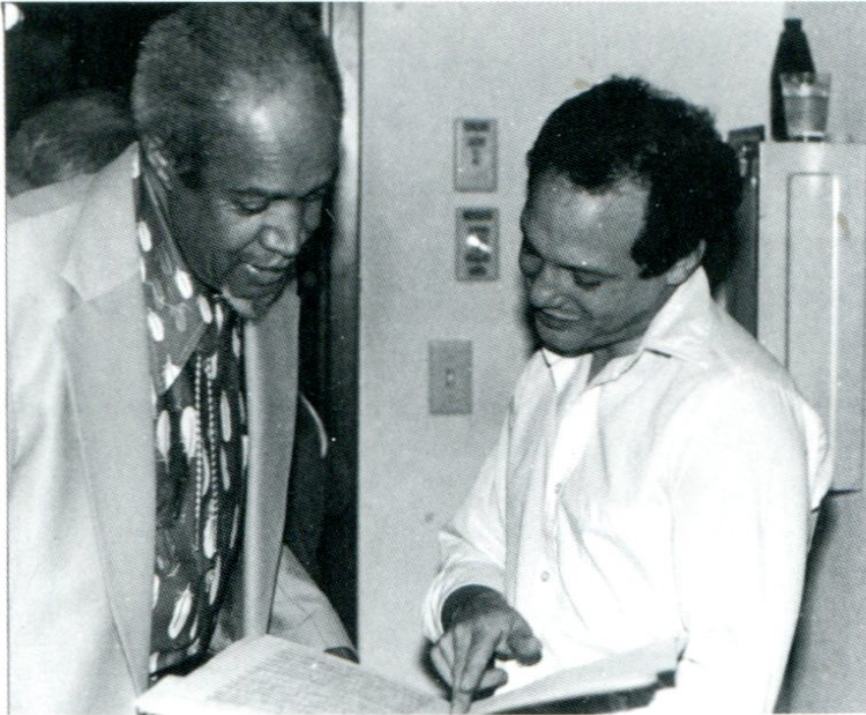
The music created when I sing and play the bass is something I feel compelled to share. I have noticed this music has a special kind of magic. It wouldn't be right if I kept it to myself. Music is something to be shared.

I've never loaded up a program with vocals for a live presentation the way I have for this recorded CD. Chuck and I often discussed and shared our appreciation for the words and music written by notable authors and composers. My choice to sing so many songs on this CD is evidence of a musical torch being passed from father to son.

( Right: Charles Nathan. 2009.  
Photo: Eugene Register Guard.)



"Ghost of a Chance" is dedicated to the memory of jazz bassist Leroy "Slam" Stewart, a tremendous influence on my jazz playing. In 1984 I submitted a solo work for the unaccompanied double bass entitled "Isn't Leroy Cool?" to the Eastman School of Music's composition contest for double bass. It was a tribute to the then living Slam Stewart and it advanced to the semi-finals. Through the composition of that piece, I furthered my ability to sing and play like Slam.



( Above: Leroy "Slam" Stewart and Greg Nathan.  
Photo: Fidel Acuna, Sacramento, CA. 1983. )

I don't have Slam's integrity for singing and playing with the bow on all solos. Slam was unfailing as a jazz soloist in that regard. Because Slam consistently used the bow for soloing he would be given solo space in combos where other fine bassists would be overlooked.

Having some understanding of the repertoire for the solo double bass, my hat goes off to Slam for what he accomplished as a representative and advocate for the bass as a bowed solo instrument. I don't know of any other bassist in the history of jazz who deserves more credit for that than Slam.

I first worked with Mike Denny in the mid-seventies. Mike was then in his late teens, and already an outstanding musician. Today, and throughout his life, Mike has kept himself fully employed with musical labors, so for him to join with me, a part-time musician, in an effort such as this is indeed a philanthropic gesture on his part. It is my special honor that Mike agreed to do this recording with me. As you will hear throughout this CD he is truly a great jazz guitarist! I am grateful to Mike beyond words for helping me bring this CD forward. Bio information on Mike is available at [music.uoregon.edu/people/faculty/mdenny](http://music.uoregon.edu/people/faculty/mdenny).

One final credit needs to be given and that is to acknowledge Don Latarski and his sound engineering contribution. Don has fully exploited the latest technology in an effort to provide the consumer with the best music-listening experience possible. I am very grateful to Don for his expertise.

In closing, be prepared to hear some liberty taken with words, music, form, phrasing, style, tempo, tag endings, interpolations, and more. That's what jazz is all about, right? There's even a song in the program that kids will recognize. I used to perform it for students at Harrisburg Elementary School.

Well, now that you have read these notes, you are prepared for the music being offered here, and will avoid the shock and awe that you might have experienced had you just unknowingly dropped the needle down anywhere.

For best results it is suggested that you first listen to everything in order from the beginning of the CD to the end. I don't want you to miss an opportunity to enjoy the CD at this level. I've always felt that musical programs are artfully intentional, that they can send a message, and are therefore worthy of pondering, contemplating, and considering as a whole.

This was a lot of fun to do, and I do sincerely hope you enjoy it.

Respectfully, Greg

( Right: Greg Nathan. 1993 )



Greg Nathan began his professional bass-playing career in 1972 at the age of seventeen, performing popular jazz music with pianist Chuck Ruff and vocalist Donna Courtell. He completed his Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree at the University of Oregon in 1977. Greg earned a Master of Arts in Music degree at California State University, Sacramento in 1982. He is in his twenty-ninth season with the Eugene Symphony. His teacher is Larry Epstein, Assistant Principal of the San Francisco Symphony. Greg is an accomplished composer of songs and serious music. He sings, plays, and uses the bow during popular jazz music performances. Greg is the leader of the jazz duo "Aftermath," joined by world-class jazz guitarist Mike Denny. Aftermath performances occur at Eugene's Hilton Hotel. Greg has performed with Nancy King, the late Charles Dowd, Paul Biondi, Tom Shove, Bill Sabol, Vikki Brabham, Gus Russell, Alan Tarpinnian, Jessie Marquez, and others. After retiring from fifteen years of full-time classroom teaching in the public schools, Greg has recently become active in financial services, having earned his license to sell life insurance and securities. He is currently endeavoring to build a financial service business while continuing his musical interests. Greg has hopes of returning to music education should the right opportunity present itself. Greg is also a caring husband, father, and active member of his church.

## Words

### **1. Georgia On My Mind**

Georgia, Georgia  
The whole day through  
Just an old sweet song keeps  
Georgia on my mind

Each Day, Georgia  
A song of you  
Comes as sweet and clear as  
Moonlight through the pines

Other arms reach out to me  
Other eyes smile tenderly  
Still in peaceful dreams I see  
The road leads back to you

Georgia, Georgia  
No peace I find  
Just an old sweet song keeps  
Georgia on my mind

Other arms reach out to me  
Other eyes smile tenderly  
Still in peaceful dreams I see  
The road leads back to you

Georgia, Georgia  
No peace I find  
Just an old sweet song keeps  
Georgia on my mind

'Cause when the melody is gone  
The song still lingers on

And that old sweet song keeps  
Georgia on my mind

### **2. Like Someone In Love**

Lately I find myself  
Out gazing at stars  
Hearing guitars  
Like someone in love

Sometimes  
The things I do astound me  
Mostly  
Whenever you're around me

Lately I seem to walk  
As though I had wings  
I bump into things  
Like someone in love

Each time I look at you  
I'm limp as a glove  
And feeling  
Like someone in love

Lately I seem to walk  
As though I had wings  
I bump into things  
Like someone in love

Each time I look at you  
I'm limp as a glove  
And feeling  
Like someone in love

### **3. I'm Glad There Is You**

In this world  
Of ordinary people  
Extraordinary people  
I'm glad there is you

In this world  
Of over-rated pleasures  
Of under-rated treasures  
I'm glad there is you

I'll live to love  
I'll love to live with you beside me  
This role so new  
I'll muddle through with you to guide me

In this world  
Where many, many play at love  
And hardly any ever stay in love  
I'm glad there is you

More than ever  
I'm glad there is you

I'll live to love  
I'll love to live with you beside me  
This role so new  
I'll muddle through with you to guide me

In this world  
Where many, many play at love  
And hardly any ever stay in love  
I'm glad there is you

More than anything, Darling  
More than you'll ever know, Sweetheart

More than ever  
I'm glad there is you

### **4. Alright, Okay, You Win**

Well alright, okay, you win  
I'm in love with you  
Well alright, okay, you win  
Baby what can I do?  
I'll do anything you say  
And it's just got to be that way

Well alright, okay, you win  
I'm in love with you  
Well alright, okay, you win  
Baby me and you  
Anything you say I'll do  
Just so long as it's me and you

But the first thing in the morning  
You've got to wake me with a kiss  
You've got to make up for all the lovin'  
That you have made me miss

Well alright, okay, you win  
I'm in love with you  
Well alright, okay, you win  
Baby what can I do?  
Anything you do I'll say  
That it's just got to be that way

All I am asking  
All I want from you  
Is just to love me the way that I love you  
And that won't be hard to do

Well alright, okay, you win  
What are you waitin' for?  
Well alright, okay, you win  
Baby there's one thing more  
If you want me to be your man  
Then little girl let me take your hand

I'll do anything you say  
Anything you say I'll do  
Anything you do I'll say  
That it's just got to be that way

Pretty baby you win

### **5. If I Didn't Have You**

If I were a rich man  
With a million or two  
I'd live in a penthouse  
In a room with a view

And if I were handsome  
Made smart people feel a fool  
I wouldn't have nothin'  
If I didn't have you

You and me together  
That's how it always must be  
One without the other  
Now that don't mean nothin' to me

I don't have to say it  
We both know that it's true  
I wouldn't have nothin'  
If I didn't have you

You and me together  
That's how it always must be

One without the other  
Now that don't mean nothin' to me

I don't have to say it  
We both know that it's true  
I wouldn't have nothin'  
If I didn't have you

How much?  
Not even one thing  
I wouldn't have nothin'  
If I didn't have you

I wouldn't have nothin'  
If I didn't have you  
Not even one thing  
Would I have without you

I wouldn't have nothin'  
If I didn't have you

### **6. The Second Time Around**

Love is lovelier  
The second time around  
Just as wonderful  
With both feet on the ground

It's that second time  
You hear your love song sung  
Makes you think perhaps  
That love like youth is wasted on the young

Love's more comfortable  
The second time you fall  
Like a friendly home  
The second time you call

Who can say what brought us to this miracle  
we've found?

There are those who'd bet  
Love comes just once  
And yet I'm so very glad  
We met the second time around

Love's more comfortable  
The second time you fall  
Like a friendly home  
The second time you call

Who can say what brought us to this miracle  
we've found?

There are those who'd bet  
Love comes just once  
And yet I'm so very glad  
We met the second time around

There are those who'd bet  
Love comes just once  
And yet I'm so very glad  
We met the second time around

### **7. I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You**

(Scat) I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You

(Scat) I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You

(Scat)

I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You

(Scat)

I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You (Scat)  
I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You (Scat)

### **8. I'll Think of Something**

I'll think of something  
In just a little while  
I'll think of something  
That has class and has style

It won't be something ordinary  
Commonplace or trite  
I know I have the wherewithal  
But where's it all tonight?

I must think of something  
So much on me depends  
I must think of her  
And how our story ends

I'm gonna try  
Gonna give it my best  
Gonna take my best shot  
I won't sleep, I won't rest

'Til I think of something  
That makes her proud of me  
Won't settle for less  
Than the best I can be

Tho' a writer like me  
Makes it once in a blue moon  
I know the game, and I'm in my prime  
And I've got a feeling I'll make it this time

I'm gonna grab the whole world and shake it  
And show 'em that I'm

The guy that can make it  
And by God I'm makin' it soon

### **9. My Own Man**

I call she's not at home  
I know she'll call me when she can  
Since we're together I don't feel alone  
While I'm my own man

I know her thoughts are of me  
I know I'm still part of her plan  
It's like she's here as I go on alone  
As I'm my own man

To some such days  
Might seem a little longer than a lifetime  
But my days fly by  
Towards a just right man and wife time

It's been a long time since I've seen her  
And when I greet her I'll more than shake her hand  
For I've been far too long away  
    from seeing my own girl  
Being my own man

To some such days  
Might seem a little longer than a lifetime  
But my days fly by  
Towards a just right man and wife time

It's been a long time since I've seen her  
And when I greet her I'll more than shake her hand  
For I've been far too long away  
    from seeing my own girl  
Being my own man

Right now I'm my own man

### **10. I'm Getting Sentimental Over You**

(Instrumental)

### **11. There Are Such Things**

A heart that's true  
There are such things  
A dream for two  
There are such things

Someone to whisper Darling  
You're my guiding star  
Not caring what you own  
But just what you are

A peaceful sky  
There are such things  
A rainbow high  
Where heaven sings

So have a little faith  
And trust in what tomorrow brings  
You'll reach a star  
Because there are such things

A peaceful sky  
There are such things  
A rainbow high  
Where heaven sings

So have a little faith  
And trust in what tomorrow brings  
You'll reach a star  
Because there are such things

You'll reach a star  
Because there are such things

# I'll Think of Something

1. **Georgia On My Mind.** Words and Music by Hoagy Carmichael. Words by Stuart Gorrell.  
© 1930 Peermusic III, Ltd. (BMI) ..... 3:02
2. **Like Someone in Love.** Words by Johnny Burke. Music by Jimmy Van Heusen. © 1944 Dorsey Brothers Music a division of Music Sales Corp / Bourne Co. (ASCAP) ..... 5:11
3. **I'm Glad There is You.** Words and Music by Paul Madeira & Jimmy Dorsey. © 1941 (Renewed) Morley Music Co. (ASCAP) ..... 4:49
4. **Alright, Okay, You Win.** Words and Music by Sid Wyche and Mayme Watts. © 1955 (Renewed) Cherio Corp./ Melody Lane Publishing Inc. (BMI) ..... 6:43
5. **If I Didn't Have You.** Words and Music by Randy Newman. © 2001 Walt Disney Music Company (ASCAP) / Pixar Talking Pictures (ASCAP) ..... 3:48
6. **The Second Time Around.** Words by Sammy Cahn. Music by Jimmy Van Heusen. © 1960 Kobalt Music Publishing / Music Publishing Company of America. (ASCAP) ..... 6:49
7. **I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance With You.** Words by Ned Washington and Bing Crosby. Music by Victor Young. © 1932 Catherine Hinen Music / Chappell & Co./ EMI Mills Music Inc. (ASCAP) ..... 4:31
8. **I'll Think of Something.** Words and Music by Charles Nathan. © 2009 Nathan and Associates. (ASCAP) ..... 2:11
9. **My Own Man.** Words and Music by Greg Nathan. © 2013 Soaring Music Pub. (ASCAP) ... 4:08
10. **I'm Getting Sentimental Over You.** Words by Ned Washington. Music by George Bassman. © 1933 Catherine Hinen Music / EMI Mills Music Inc. (ASCAP)..... 4:43
11. **There Are Such Things.** Words and Music by Stanley Adams, Abel Baer, George W. Meyer. © 1942 Dorsey Brothers Music, a division of Music Sales Corp / Abel Baer Music Co., Songwriter's Guild of America / Sheppy Music Co, Songwriter's Guild of America (ASCAP) .... 2:43

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Total Time..... 48:38

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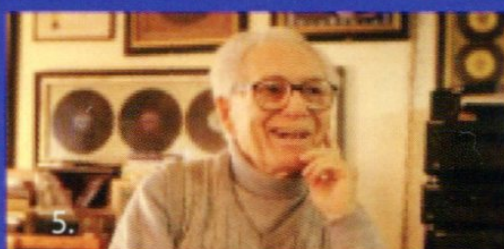
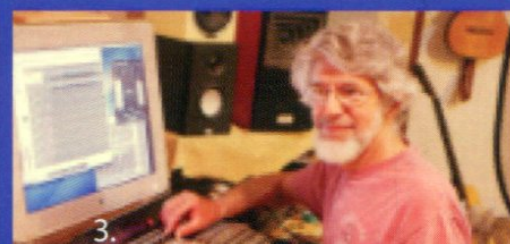
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1. Mike and Greg having fun on Donna's gig at Eugene's Jazz Station. 2013. ( Photo by Roger Rix though Courtell Talent Agency.) 2. Greg in his Symphony Uniform. 1995. 3. Sound Engineer Don Latarski, 2013. 4. Greg at Don's studio. 2013. 5. Charles Nathan at home. 2009. (Photo by Eugene Register Guard Staff) 6. Greg singing at the Hilton of Eugene. 2011. 7. Chuck and Tonie Nathan. 2002. (Tonie is the first woman in the history of the United States to receive an electoral vote for U.S. Vice President while running on the 1972 Libertarian Party ticket.) Chuck and Tonie were married for 70 years. 8. Greg and Edna, ( the "I'm Glad There is You" lady, ) Los Angeles, CA. 2000.