Too Much Of Nothing
Bob Dylan 1970

by

Olof Björner

A SUMMARY OF RECORDING & CONCERT ACTIVITIES,
RELEASES, TAPES & BOOKS.

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1 INTRODUCTION
A lot of time spent in studios in Nashville and New York results in the songs released on Self Portrait and New Morning, and later on Columbia Records "revenge album" Dylan. Apart from the songs on New Morning these songs are covers. No live appearances are known from 1970, only the brief appearance in the TV program Earl Scruggs Documentary in December.

2 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

3 CALENDAR
3 – 5 March  Self Portrait sessions in New York City.
1 May  New Morning session in New York City.
17 May  Dylan participates in the TV program Earl Scruggs Documentary.
1 – 5 June  New Morning sessions in New York City.
8 June  Release of Self Portrait.
9 June  Dylan accepts an honorary doctorate in music at Princeton University.
30 June  New Morning session in New York City.
July  Release of Wigwam/Copper Kettle single.
Summer  Dylan visits Israel.
12 August  Last New Morning session in New York City.
18 September  Jimi Hendrix dies.
4 October   Janis Joplin dies.
21 October   Release of New Morning.
November    Tarantula is finally published by MacMillan.

4 RECORDINGS

3 – 5 March    New York City, New York    Self Portrait sessions
11 – 17 March  Nashville, Tennessee     Self Portrait overdub sessions
26 – 27 March  Los Angeles, California  Self Portrait overdub sessions
30 March       Nashville, Tennessee      Self Portrait overdub session
2 – 3 April    Nashville, Tennessee      Self Portrait overdub sessions
1 May          New York City, New York     New Morning session
17 May         Carmel, New York           Earl Scruggs Documentary
1 – 5 June     New York City, New York    New Morning sessions
30 June        New York City, New York    New Morning session
13, 23 July    New York City, New York    New Morning overdub sessions
12 August      New York City, New York    Last New Morning session

For details please refer to the corresponding Still On The Road session pages.

5 SELF PORTRAIT

This album was recorded during three recording sessions during spring 1969 in Nashville, Tennessee and three more a year later in New York City. Session overview:\n
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th># of takes</th>
<th>take released on SP</th>
<th>DY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 April 1969</td>
<td>Living The Blues</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish Is The Loving Tongue</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April 1969*</td>
<td>Take Me As I Am</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Fool Such As I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I Forgot More Than You’ll Ever Know</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Let It Be Me</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 May 1969*</td>
<td>Take A Message To Mary</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* Overdub sessions not shown.
\( ^2 \) Self Portrait
\( ^3 \) Dylan
\( ^4 \) No session sheet available from this session, there was probably several takes of each song.
\( ^5 \) No session sheet available from this session, there was probably several takes of each song.
Blue Moon 1 1
Ring Of Fire 1 1
Folsom Prison Blues 1 1

3 March 1970
Pretty Saro 6
Little Sadie 1 1
Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay 1
Went To See The Gypsy 1
In Search Of Little Sadie 1 1
Belle Isle 1 1
Universal Soldier 1
Copper Kettle 1 1
When A Fellow's Out Of A Job 1
These Hands 1
It Hurts Me Too 1 1
The Boxer 1 1
Spanish Is The Loving Tongue 1
Woogie Boogie 1 1

4 March 1970
Went To See The Gypsy 5
Thirsty Boots 5
Tattle O-Day 1
Railroad Bill 1
House Carpenter 1
This Evening So Soon 1
Days Of '49 1 1
Annie's Going To Sing Her Song 1
Early Morning Rain 1 1
Wigwam 1 1
Time Passes Slowly 1

5 March 1970
Alberta 2
Alberta No. 2 1 1
Little Moses 1
Alberta No. 1 1 1
Come A Little Bit Closer 1
Come All You Fair And Tender Ladies 1
My Previous Life 3
Gotta Travel On 1 1
Went To See The Gypsy 1
Time Passes Slowly 1
Come A Little Bit Closer 2
All The Tired Horses 1 1

For more details about some of these sessions please refer to the corresponding session page in Still On The Road.

Live history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Debut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The other songs on Self Portrait have probably never been played live.

Performances during The Never-Ending Tour:

The Boxer 1999
Early Morning Rain 1989 – 1991

6  NEW MORNING

At least 195 takes of 50 songs during 8 recording sessions yielded the 12 songs on New Morning. 1 further song was released as a single and another 7 were later released on Dylan. A couple of the songs were also tried out during the Self Portrait sessions, see previous chapter. Here's a summary of the sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th># of takes</th>
<th>NM</th>
<th>BS</th>
<th>DY</th>
<th>MP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 May 11</td>
<td>Sign On The Window</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If Not For You</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time Passes Slowly</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working On A Guru</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Went To See The Gypsy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Song To Woody</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mama, You Been On My Mind</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don't Think Twice, It's All Right</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yesterday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Met Him On A Sunday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Too Many Mornings</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ghost Riders In The Sky</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cupid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overdub sessions not shown.

New Morning
Bootleg Series
Dylan
Masterpieces
Session with George Harrison.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track List</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All I Have To Do Is Dream</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gates Of Eden</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Threw It All Away</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Don’t Believe You</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matchbox</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your True Love</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Wire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishin’ Blues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey, Just Allow Me One More Chance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainy Day Women # 12 &amp; 35</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It Ain't Me, Babe</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Alligator Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ballad Of Ira Hayes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oh Lonesome Me</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Jane</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>Spanish Is The Loving Tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Bojangles</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Not For You</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Passes Slowly</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>Jamaica Farewell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t Help Falling In Love</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Black Veil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Of The West</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One More Weekend</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>Bring Me Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Angels</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomorrow Is A Long Time</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Yellow Taxi</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Morning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>If Dogs Run Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Went To See The Gypsy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign On The Window</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterlude</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Forgot To Remember To Forget</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Man In Me</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahooah (Owau)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Of Night</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Of The West</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>Blowin’ In The Wind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 Either take 5 or 8.
13 Also released on single.
14 A splice of take 5 and 7.
15 Either take 1 or 2.
12 August  

*If Not For You* 5 5
*Time Passes Slowly* 8 3
*Day Of The Locusts* 7 7

For more details about some of these sessions please refer to the corresponding session page in *Still On The Road.*

### Live history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Debut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>If Dogs Run Free</em></td>
<td>Halle Münsterland, Münster, Germany, 1 October 2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>If Not For You</em></td>
<td>State Theatre, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 14 April 1992.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Man In Me</em></td>
<td>Nippon Budokan Hall, Tokyo, Japan, 20 February 1978.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>New Morning</em></td>
<td>Saenger Theater, New Orleans, Louisiana, 19 April 1991.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Day Of The Locusts, Father Of Night, One More Weekend, Sign On The Windo, Three Angels, Time Passes Slowly, Went To See The Gypsy and Winterlude* have probably never been played live.

There are no officially released live versions of the songs on *New Morning.*

Performances during The Never-Ending Tour:

*If Dogs Run Free*  2000, 2001
*If Not For You*    1992 – 2001
*New Morning*       1991 – 1992

### 7 SONGS 1970

Winter  *All The Tired Horses*
        *Wigwam*

March  *Went To See The Gypsy*
       *Woogie Boogie*

May   *Air To Breathe*[^16]
       *I'd Have You Any Time*[^17]
       *If Not For You*
       *Time Passes Slowly*
       *Working On A Guru*

[^16]: No recording known.
[^17]: Co-written with George Harrison and recorded by him on the album *All Things Must Pass,* which also contains a nice cover of *If Not For You.*
August

Day Of The Locusts
Father Of Night
If Dogs Run Free
The Man In Me
New Morning
One More Weekend
Sign On The Window
Three Angels
Winterlude

8 SOURCES

Tim Dunn I Just Write 'Em As They Come.
Annotated Guide to the Writings of Bob Dylan

Glen Dundas Tangled Up In Tapes — 4th Edition
A Recording History of Bob Dylan

Clinton Heylin A Life In Stolen Moments.

Clinton Heylin Bob Dylan, The Recording Sessions 1960-1994

Popular Culture, Ink. 1991. 500 pages

9 SUGGESTED READINGS

9.1 General background

Michael Gray Song & Dance Man III. The Art Of Bob Dylan
Cassell 1999. Hardback 918 pages (!!)

Clinton Heylin Behind The Shades. A Biography.


9.2 Article compilations


9.3 Selected article

Interview: Harvey Brooks – The Telegraph 47 (Winter 1993)