

katy tessman *singer - songwriter*

about the songs on fall

1. wash it away

Sometimes the best way to get through hard times is by putting a magnifying glass on yourself, identifying the problem and pushing through it. Wally Ingram's imaginative layers of percussion add a notable flow and strength to the track-like the moon pushing the ocean. ~ k.t.

2. bright chair

This song was originally a good-bye gift to an important friend in my life. The title refers to his term for the area of the stage illuminated by the spotlight. Mary Gaines' wonderful cello work adds a majestic atmosphere and dimension. ~ k.t.

3. fall

I wrote this with two people in mind, in celebration of a special first anniversary. Remembering how they learned to be comfortable in the dark and, with time, they overcame their fear of saying what they really feel in their hearts. ~ k.t.

4. make you stare

A song for my "beautiful girlfriends" - they are smart, articulate, and fun - especially when we go out dancing. Randy Sabien's festive fiddle work dances with a life all its own. ~ k.t.

5. dip, dip and swing

[This song is dedicated to my dad – a patient teacher, thoughtful role model, and great BWCA companion.]

My first trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was when I was eleven. I absolutely loved it and learned I really feel like myself when I'm in the woods – it heals the soul. Dave Stanoch, Phil Lyons and Pauli Ryan's island rhythms guide the voyage with a beautiful flow, while David Stoler's tranquil organ signals the seamless transition from day into night. ~ k.t.

6. odd timing

Once I had a boyfriend who would make very thoughtful and distinctive statements, but his timing was all wrong - he couldn't keep a beat either. But the great Clyde Stubblefield certainly can and, true to his reputation, makes it funky. ~ k.t.

7. alone

I wrote this right after I hung up the phone on someone. As I sat on the floor in my studio apartment, the words and music came pouring out. Finding inner strength through turmoil can be very liberating. I can still hear my cousin cheering when I first performed this song. ~ k.t.

8. thinking of you

Someone precious found, then lost. The legendary Richard Davis shares his unique voice to spin a web around the fragile emotions of this song. We chose the first take because it captured the mood so beautifully. ~ k.t.

9. figured out

Manic depression is a terrible affliction and is terribly common. This song reflects on the stages and struggles I witnessed of someone dear to me – who I feared was lost in the darkness, but thankfully emerged strong and clear. ~ k.t.

10. caribou

We all have a special place where we enjoy spending time with our family and friends. Coming from a family of educators, we spent my childhood summer breaks in the beautiful northern woods of Minnesota. I've got great memories of romping around in the woods with our dog, Daisy, and putting on musicals with my older sister, younger brother, and our cousins. As an adult, I go back to Caribou as often as I can. Special thanks to my family for the backing vocals on this song and Randy Sabien's wonderful violin and mandolin work adds a gentle layer of nostalgia. ~ k.t.

11. a day is a day

Looking back at my Grandma Tessman's life, I am reminded that it is important to do things that make you smile – each and every day. And this song is simply about celebrating life – always. Jay Moran's guitar and Dave Hanson's piano beautifully captures the homespun sentiment. ~ k.t.