

Keepin' Time

words - R. Neal Gracey
music - John Dandrea (c) 1986

Neal had written these words while in the hospital after a serious injury, and the first time I read them I heard the music clearly. I immediately knew it was one of those strong, emotional songs that would make a great theme song for an album. At that time, I was actually working on several other pieces of music, all having to do with the theme of *TIME*. I was still searching for a theme song for the album, and as soon as I saw these words, I knew this one was it.

I had one of those crazy jobs in the army - and the work I was doing at the time was pretty much in the science-fiction area and sometimes it felt as though reality as I had known it was slipping away or "bending" and overlapping.... the theme of this "Keepin' Time" CD was my plan of wrapping these thoughts together and of showing songs that were multi-level - that is, woven together in layers of meaning.

I wonder if my dwelling on the theme of time, was a first sign of age? As we grow older, we tend to look back more into the past and to appreciate more our relationships and the time we have with each of our loved ones.

Neal's love for my sister shines through in this song, and they have now been married for many, many years and raised three daughters to become wonderful, spiritually strong, and responsible adults. I hear Neal's thoughts echo as I appreciate the depth of this song -

*"a touch of manner, a hint of mood. . . .
and my heart is like a rhyme -
with the colors in my head, Keepin' Time."*

- John