## Mp3 Laurence Baer - Across A Bering Straight Bridge



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"Great uplifting songs in the tradition of John Denver, Jackson Browne, Dan Fogelberg" - Washington Times / With: Mike Auldridge (Seldom Scene); Rickie Simpkins (Tony Rice Unit); Orrin Star (Flatpicking Champion) 14 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Americana, FOLK: String Band Details: I listened to Larry Baer's new CD and immediately tried to find a program it would fit. It was a damned good CD and I enjoyed it. Now I have to re-program next month's shows so that I give the audience a chance to hear good songs well sung. Oscar Brand, Host, Folksong Festival, WNYC; Curator of the Songwriters Hall of Fame A new artist with new songs. This is the future of our music. New material that has the feel of today combined with the music and stylings of yesterday. Each song has something to say and Baer, combined with well known musicians, Mike Auldridge, Ricky Simpkins, and Orin Starr, has given the type of performance that has given the songs life and meaning. It is a tribute to Bluegrass that it has the ability to bring talent like his to the music. Red Shipley, Host, Stained Glass Blue Grass, WAMU, Washington, DC A must hear! Great uplifting songs in the tradition of John Denver, Jackson Browne, and Dan Fogelberg. Ted Agres, The Washington Times A collection of ballads mixed up with great footstompers! You can listen to Laurences ballads on many levels: as a contemporary story, a biblical verse, or as a life lesson. His entertaining footstompers are well just that. Infectious. Very enjoyable playing by some musical heavyweights here: Rickie Simpkins on fiddle, Orrin Starr on guitar, mandolin and banjo. Barb Heller, host of String Fever, North Country Public Radio/ FolkAlley.com Something struck me when I heard To Be a Man. Im a father of two boys (and a girl), and halfway through the song the message finally hit me of what an awesome (in the original sense) responsibility it is to be a father. Rise Again reminded me of John McCutcheons Gonna Rise Again, but I liked your version better. The songs are loaded with charm and wisdom. Jeff St.Clair, Announcer / Producer, WKSU.org You've written some cool songs, replete with

intelligent lyrics, nice melodies and interesting arrangements. You've definitely have a gift. I especially enjoyed "Storm Ahead," "Jacob's Song," "Peter, James John" and the fine title track. Dave Higgs, Nashville Public Radio, Bluegrass Breakdown Laurence Baer's songs speak from his soul. They speak from his soul to yours. It is life poetry crafted in song. I'll definitely play some of these tunes on WPSU! Jennifer Carmen, Host, Folk Show, WPSU, National Public Radio, Pennsylvania The joys of an old-time fiddle party shine through the virtuoso playing on this debut showcase by a fine new bluegrass talent. John Harding, Arts Editor, Patuxent Publishing Co., Columbia, MD Accompanied by tight string sounds (and special guests Rickie Simpkins, Mike Auldridge and Orrin Starr) singer/songwriter Laurence Baer tells stories of growing up ("To Be a Man"), pokes fun at married life ("It Don't Mean I Don't Love You"), and mixes traditional country sounds with an Americana influenced vocal presence on his new CD, "Across a Bering Strait Bridge." Elena See, FolkAlley.com I've played and enjoyed music since I was 5 years old. My mother taught piano, which I studied for 7 years before picking up the guitar. After playing other folks' music for 45 years, I began writing seriously in 2000. In 2002 I joined a dedicated monthly songwriting circle, which was affiliated with the Baltimore Songwriters Association. Our circle, which was hosted originally by Joe Spaterella, and later by Richard Walton, has incubated a lot of great music. More recently I became affiliated with the great folks at the Wagonshed in New Freedom, PA, where Art Wachter, Jeff Hostetter Amy Hopkins host a fabulous series of concerts and open mics. Across A Bering Strait Bridge is my first serious effort at presenting my music professionally. The CD is dedicated to my longtime friend, Dr. George Detlefsen, a visionary who was involved in the development of computer timesharing, and then went on to oversee the automation of manufacturing facilities for General Motors, the digitalization of millions of documents for the Hubble Space Telescope, and the computer systems involved in privitizing military bases. He was equally at home designing laser optical scanners and paint ball mortars. He was a great husband and father and friend, and he died too young. He dreamed of a bridge between Alaska and Russia. The songs on this CD are written from the heart. They are meant to inspire and uplift. They come from 50+ years of experience, including 25 years of wonderful marriage raising 5 terrific children. They reflect many deep experiences of God working in my life and in the lives of others, and they reflect my interests in the Old and New Testament. I am terrifically fortunate to have some great musicians who are also great folks collaborating with me on this project. Richard has been my colleague, my mentor, my coach, cheerleader, and great friend on this project. Without him, this CD

would never have happened. Richard is an encyclopedia of music history, and a great engineer, who handled the recording and mixing of the project. He also played bass on all the songs, and rythm guitar on a number of the songs, along with vocal harmonies. And ... he heroically kept everyone on the beat! Yay Rich! (Richard Walton has been involved in the Mid-Atlantic original music scene for almost 20 years. He has produced released 8 CD's of his own music; half of which with his instrumental contemporary jazz group. Richard is also an established singer/songwriter; receiving over 30 songwriting awards. He also performs occasionally with violinist Tecla Heuring percussionist Kevin Doxzen in Straight On Red.) notlaw.com Orrin Star contributed his "Magic" on guitar, mandolin, and banjo to this project. I would bring him the basic songs with rhythm guitar and lead vocal, and my thoughts about what should happen in each song. He invested his heart and creativity and helped transform each song. Some of his counterpoint work between guitar and mandolin is truly inspired. The music fits each song and brings them to life! Thanks Orrin. But next time, we have to get to Mariachi Moxie! (Orrin Star is an award-winning guitarist and mandolin player who combines hot picking, cool singing and good humor. Once described as Arlo Guthrie-meets-Doc Watson, he was the 1976 National Flatpicking Champion, has appeared on A Prairie Home Companion, and boasts a repertoire that ranges from bluegrass standards to little-known folk gems, Celtic fiddle tunes to fingerstyle blues. Orrin performs solo, in a duo with mandolin icon Jimmy Gaudreau and, and with his group, Orrin Star the Sultans of String with whom he also plays banjo). orrinstar.com Rickie Simpkins graciously agreed to lay down some fiddle tracks for me between cities during his national tour with Emmylou Harris. Rickie recorded tracks for six songs: "Songs of Love", "What Would You Have", "When The Fiddles", "To Be A Man", "Rise Again", and "Across A Bering Strait Bridge". He kept me waiting nearly a week, because "Man, I just wanted to listen to them for a few days and make sure they're perfect before I sent them to you". Thanks Rickie, you are a class act!!! His music grabs you by the heart. (Rickie Simpkins grew up in Montgomery County, VA, immersed in the sounds of his family's Appalachian roots. He learned the banjo, guitar, and fiddle as a child, even performing with heroes Flatt Scruggs at the age of nine. Simpkins joined the Virginia Squires one of the most acclaimed bluegrass bands on the festival circuit, and released The Heights of Grass in the early '80s. He then joined the Tony Rice Unit, combining traditional bluegrass and jazz. He released a solo album, Dancing on the Fingerboard, in 1997 which included an all star group of musicians. In the late '90s, Simpkins was splitting time between the Lonesome River Band and the gospel group the Isaacs,

while also doing session work with Mary Chapin Carpenter and Randy Scruggs. His second solo release, Don't Fret It, arrived in 2002.) rickiesimpkins.com Mike Auldridge was also travelling with Emmylou Harris, in between a slew of other gigs across the country. I asked him to play on "God's Got A Place". The chorus goes "Sometimes that Steel Guitar, Sounds Better Than a Harp" - so I HAD to have a steel guitar. He offered me a deal on the dobro, but graciously relented and dragged his entire steel guitar assembly over to Rickie's house to record a track for this CD. Thanks Mike, it rocks! (Mike Auldridge was a founding member of Washington D.C.s legendary bluegrass band, "The Seldom Scene." Before, during, and since his work with the "Scene", Mike has been involved in several hundred recording projects in a variety of musical styles. These include bluegrass, pop, country and swing music. Mike has recorded with such artists as Linda Ronstadt, Emmy Lou Harris, Dolly Parton, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Hank Williams, Jr., Suzy Boggus, Merle Travis, Doc Watson, the Country Gentlemen, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, to name but a few. In addition to his studio work, Mike has nine "solo" recordings available on four different labels. He also has dobro instruction videos and a signature resophonic guitar available through "Mike Auldridge Productions".) mikeauldridge.com Nucleo Vega taught my son Andy, in his first year as a band teacher at Wilde Lake Middle. He transformed that program and blew everyone away. I ran into Nuc again at the Mid Atlantic Songwriters Contest awards dinner where he performed. Nuc is an amazingly versatile percussionist, spanning celtic, jazz, and rock. His artistry raised the entire project many notches. He recorded 12 songs in two sessions. Absolutely world class! (Nucleo Vega received the First Year Secondary School Educator Award for Howard County Maryland 2004, shortly after graduating from the University of Maryland-College Park. He conducts concert bands, directs sr. high youth, and is a professional drummer in the Baltimore-D.C. metro area and Seattle, Washington. Nuc (age 27), began playing cello at the early age of 8 and picked up drums at the age of 10. Nucleo, partnering with Mel Bay, recently published his first book Understanding Groove. Nuc plays jazz and rock drums and also celtic drums in a band Harp46 with his wife April who plays celtic harp and his brother Posido who plays bass.) understandinggroove harp46.com Frank Grow is a good buddy who generously offered to play piano for the project. We've played together a lot and he knows my music as well as anyone. Frank brings 40 years of music performance experience to the project. His piano is tasteful and clean. In "It Don't Mean I Don't Love You" and "God's Got A Place", he cooks. But in "Rise Again" he lends great weight and dignity to the music. Thanks Frank! (Frank Grow was a member of Rat Creek, a highly successful Austin, TX band

in the 1970s. Frank toured internationally with the band Sunburst for several years but then put his music aside to focus on business. Frank and Laurence, together with Dan Fefferman and Francis Buckingham formed Rabbit Stew which served as the house band for the Bowie, MD coffeehouse, Year of the Rabbit. Frank and Dan currently perform in Generations which includes Franks daughter Abbey, and several of her friends.) Tecla Heuring is Richard's fiancee and a fabulous violinist. Tecla's lead on "When The Fiddles Start To Play" really catches the Cajun spirit and brings that song to life. But on "The Storm Ahead" she captures the soul of the song - like the Irish Penny Whistle in Titanic's "My Heart Will Go On". Thanks Tecla! (Tecla Heuring's career as a freelance violinist has spanned 15 years and includes performances at the National Cathedral, Kennedy Center, and Chicagos Orchestra Hall. She has performed with many artists including Ray Price, Bobby Vinton, Roy Hargrove, Ray Brown, and Dave Grusin and is comfortable in many genres including blues, jazz, rock, and classical. Tecla wishes to thank Laurence for giving her the opportunity to make music on his project.) I approached Cara Cooke because I felt that Storm Ahead needed another instrument. It's a sea chanty style song, and harmonica fit in nicely. Cara's fiddle style harmonica playing fit the bill! Cara is very humble and engaging - working all day for the City of Austin and evenings and weekends putting out world class music! Thanks Cara! And thanks Flash (flashpointrecording.com) for helping with the track! (Cara Cooke is a fiddle-style harmonica player living in Austin, Texas. She plays a great deal of bluegrass music, but also some jazz, blues, country, Irish, and classical. For Cara, her harmonica is essentially a fiddle with reeds, instead of strings and a bow. She has been playing fiddle-style harmonica for 30 years or so and is interested in sharing information with other players with similar interests. She is one of the songwriters of American Heritage, and currently play for RedEye, Manchaca AllStars, the Blazing Bows, and K. R. Wood.) cyberharp.isonfire.com Mark Poss is the man to go to if you have any question about Jew's Harps. He has every key covered! Mark layed down a great Jew's Harp track for "Songs of Love" that just blends perfectly into the background, like being out in nature. Thanks Mark, great work! (Mark Poss, is a native of Fostoria, Ohio and has been involved in music since his first stage performance at the tender age of five. His background is that of a percussionist with Jazz, Rock, and Blues influences, as well as being a poet, singer and songwriter. Since moving to Idaho's Treasure Valley in 1988, Mark has had an increased awareness of "World" music and odd instruments. His harmonies, percussion and energy add depth to the unique ODDTONE sound. He now lives in Southern California. Currently Mark is webmaster for the

Jew's Harp Guild. With Wayland Harman and Dan Gossi as partners, he helped form Mouth Music Press in May 1998 to promote and sell mouth-resonated instruments and related items. Mark spends his time on the phone playing instruments for customers and packing up their orders.) Kathryn Turyna worked with Richard on harmonies for most of the songs. Shes a great musician and a very kind person! Thanks Katie, great work! (Kathryn Turyna has a masters in Music Composition, and is trained as a recording engineer. A native of Ellicott City, Maryland, she studied guitar for ten years and then switched to music composition. She has written and recorded music in many genres ranging from country music to worship chants. Among the CDs to her credit are: - The Music Box, 1998, a full length musical - Blue Iris, 2001, folk jazz - Into The Mystery, 2007, chants with modern harmonies In addition to her music Kathryn teaches martial arts.) kathrynturyna Susan Savia is a fabulous singer who enthusiastically offered to help with this project. The harmonies are not intuitive and she worked hard to make then sound really good. Susan's love for music comes through in everything she does. Thanks Susan. (Susan Savia played piano and sang from a very early age. She began playing guitar at 12, and would perform at church, at weddings and other events. Susan sang professionally for over 15 years in Maryland, Virginia, DC, and New Jersey with the groups Easy Street and Backseat Drivers. Susan has actively practiced Buddhism and Taoism since 1997. She recently released her first CD, Cosmic Summer Sojourn featuring mostly her own original music.) So I show up at Orrin's and we go over the basic recording for "When The Fiddles Start To Play", which already has Nuc's drum track, and Orrin says "You know what the traditional rythm" instrument is in Cajun music?" "No, Orrin, what is it?" "The triangle. This song needs a triangle, and I know just the triangle player to rock your socks off!" So Jane joined our project, and now "When the Fiddles" is official and authentic! Thanks Jane. (Jane Gorbaty has been playing cajun music for 15 years. She plays triangle, rub board, shaking egg, and accordian. Jane teaches cajun, contra, and Israeli dancing. She has been featured on numerous Cajun cds including projects by: The Buzzard Rock Bayou Boys; Squeeze Bayou; Zydeco Craze; and Eric and Susie Thomson and Jumal.)

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