

REEVES

Serendipitous Synthesizer

Studio 3/16/2019

24

- 1 0531 Walk of Life • 3:44
- 2 0532 Key Largo • 3:21
- 3 0533 All Night Long • 6:22
- 4 0534 I'd Really Love to See You Tonight • 2:34
- 5 0535 Come a Little Bit Closer • 2:51
- 6 0536 I Just Called to Say I Love You • 4:12
- 7 0537 I'm Alive • 3:29
- 8 0538 Traces • 3:21
- 9 0539 Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now • 3:51
- 10 0540 Puff the Magic Dragon • 3:16
- 11 0541 Straight On • 4:32
- 12 0542 Two Out of Three Ain't Bad • 5:26
- 13 0543 The Letter • 3:05
- 14 0544 You Are the Sunshine of My Life • 3:14
- 15 0545 Alone • 3:38
- 16 0546 Brandy • 3:09
- 17 0547 We Built This City • 4:44
- 18 0548 Stuck on You • 3:17
- 19 0549 All Over the World • 3:25

"Synthesizer" is a rather loose term and I'm as guilty as anyone of using it without clarification. In one aspect, everything I do is via a synthesizer - that is, every note you hear has been through some kind of digital manipulation on my computers and audio gear.

My stalwart grand piano is a huge file on the "big computer" of digitally recorded sounds from a real concert grand Steinway. When I press a key, rather than setting strings to vibrating on a cast iron sound board, I'm actually sending a digital signal to my arrayed computers to direct a particular snippet of digital audio via a circuitous route to my monitor speakers. In short, via digital recordings, I'm "synthesizing" the sound.

When you hear a string section passage, it may have come from similar digital recordings, or it might be totally created mathematically on the fly. A synthesized instrument sound starts off as a pure tone at an exact frequency. A synthesizer uses a set of rules for each instrument to create overtones, add filtering, shape the attack and decay, even to add distortion until the much modified pure tone mimics the sound of the real instrument.

Some songs do use a "real" synthesizer. The signature sound of Van Halen's *Jump* on my fifth album is from a sawtooth waveform generator.

The reason I bring this up is that almost every song on this album uses some form of "real" synthesizer sounds. It wasn't by intent and I didn't even realize it until I had the album assembled and was previewing it to adjust recording levels. Serendipity strikes again!

Reeves

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