

**down from sacramento** martin-hicks

I came down from sacramento  
left by the side door  
kissed you as you lay there  
you said 'honey let me sleep some more'

it's a short trip but a rough one  
from the heart into the mouth  
the words run down the page  
from north to south

down from sacramento  
i can see it in the rear view mirror  
down from sacramento  
and i'm still there

it's easy going downhill  
with gravity on your side  
st. christopher around your neck  
asking for a ride

and the river asks you if you can swim  
and the highway knows exactly where you've been  
and the san joaquin says the world is flat  
and the mountains tell you you can't count on that

how much can you pack in the back seat  
of a two tone cadillac  
a sunrise in the morning  
and a moon to pull you back

**the last black and white t.v.** martin-hicks

it's the same room but one flight up  
the same hotel in this desert town  
same place but a better view  
did i see you then how i see you now?

test pattern all night long  
indian and a bullseye and a single tone  
i just want the facts and nothing more  
relive the past – is that what the future's for?

the last black and white t.v. in america  
has got something to say to me  
but i can't make it out

out beyond where the buses go  
you buried us by a joshua tree  
expected someone to dig us up  
did you think that someone was me?

is this a theme park with no one here  
sunday morning and not a trace  
deserted streets i'm not sure you're there  
heaven is empty – it's a beautiful place

**miles from here** martin-hicks-cunningham

pack these memories in tight  
you can take them all along  
you tell yourself you travel light  
but you're probably dead wrong

i've got a sister back in Statesville  
and we talk now and then  
i could drop it down into reverse  
and see her once again

miles and miles from here  
miles and miles from here

put a message in my hat  
to remind me who i am  
but it blew out the window  
besides i don't remember him

one hand on the steering wheel  
kill the engine and some time  
there's a house across the street  
from you tonight  
and a stranger on the front porch  
but the house still looks the same  
would she smile at you and call you  
by someone else's name

pack these memories in tight  
you can take them all along  
you tell yourself you travel light  
but you're probably dead wrong

**a bird to take you south** martin-hicks

here's some breath for you to hold  
and some lungs for you to breathe  
a pair of eyes for you to close  
and some sleep for your dreams

here's a poem for you to carry in your mouth  
and a bird to take you south

here's a left hand to tell the right  
and a heart for you to beat  
here's two arms to hold on tight  
and two legs when it's time to leave

here's a sun for you to rise  
and another to go down  
here's some darkness for your eyes  
and a place to land when you hit the ground

**what side of town** martin-hicks

on this side of town they turned the electricity off  
but the sunset climbs the wall and that's enough  
on the other side of town the light's so bright I can't  
even see  
who's standing there right next to me  
they ask me who i am  
and what it is i've done  
they say 'what side of town do you come from'

out my window there's a filling station with no fuel  
they say they got everything you need but i'm no fool  
on the other side of town they promise nothing  
but they'll turn all the lights from red to green  
they don't ask who i am  
or what it is i've done  
they know what side of town i come from

the street's too loud to go down there today  
and if someone asked my name i wouldn't know what  
to say  
there's always some parade that's called on account  
of rain  
and i'm just waiting for the weather to finally change  
so don't ask who i am  
or what it is i've done  
or say 'what side of town do you come from?'

**rivers still rising** martin-hicks-cunningham

you put your hands in your pockets  
by the window  
turned and said 'I love you'  
sometimes i know you don't mean it  
but today i think that you do

and the bridge is washed out  
on the edge of town  
and the damage is already clear  
i'm so glad you got here  
before it went down  
and the river's still rising round here

like the smell of lightning  
when it hits the ground  
you can taste it after it's there  
something you leave  
when you're not around  
these mysteries seem  
to come here in pairs

it's so cold outside  
we can see our breath  
so we'd better watch what we say  
and maybe it goes without saying  
but i'll say it anyway

**a little mercy** martin-hicks

go ahead and say your piece  
and bury what you lose  
it's just an empty doorway  
that the wind blows through  
it's true that it's a pity  
it's a pity that it's true  
just an empty frame that pictures you  
a little dirt scattered on the ground  
a little mercy spread around

coyote down in the canyon  
moonlight in the yard  
sit and stare at your own shadow  
til you don't know who you are  
it's true that it's a pity  
it's a pity that it's true  
but there's a spark somewhere  
inside of you  
a little dirt scattered on the ground  
a little mercy spread around

empty page and a writer's cramp  
an out of tune guitar  
only a fool would use a lamp  
to try to see the dark  
it's true that it's a pity  
it's a pity that it's true  
but there's a love to pay back  
everything that's due  
a little dirt scattered on the ground  
a little mercy spread around

**short on words** martin-hicks

draw a picture of a house  
erase it walk out  
you can't take it with you when you go  
don't come back here changed  
but come back just the same  
i'll keep it for you til you come home

if you want to reach me don't send letters  
we were always short on words  
if you want to reach me don't you call me  
just show up at my door

out on the edge of town  
there's a place to turn around  
halfway between here and not too far  
don't come back here changed  
but come back just the same  
you could find your way in the dark

you scribbled me a note  
one I couldn't read  
but I keep it cause it's something that I need  
don't come back here changed  
but come back just the same  
maybe you can tell me what that means

**halfway there** martin-hicks

I didn't like the way the land seemed to lie tonight  
and the sun went down like it didn't fit the sky exactly  
right  
but it's better than the four walls of some kitchenette  
where the only one you trust is your ex-wife's ex

some people say i love you  
they don't even care  
but I think that I could mean it  
at least i'm halfway there

the sunsets are out there stacked up end on end  
and I've got more behind me than I've got ahead  
supposed to meet in Minneapolis but I just made it to  
st. paul  
maybe I should be grateful that we even met at all

we don't know where we're going  
maybe we don't even care  
at least we're in the same car  
at least we're halfway there

you called me from a parking lot I think it was in l.a.  
i'd like to send you something  
to make you happy for at least one day  
the past isn't gone it isn't even the past  
sometimes it circles back  
but it's different this time than it was last

we were looking in the wrong place  
maybe it wasn't even there  
some questions don't have answers  
when you're halfway there

**i'll take all the blame** martin-hicks

it was as dark  
as darkness ever gets  
you said 'stick around  
we'll make sense out of this'  
and the sun went down  
and it all went up in flames  
you said 'don't worry  
i'll take all the blame

we had some drinks  
but we cleaned up what we spilled  
the lights are still on  
someone must be paying the bill  
and it makes no difference  
who pays and who gets paid  
don't worry  
i'll take all the blame

I'm playing this song like i got here late  
forgive me if I make a few mistakes  
and some nights when the light's just right  
in the mirror you still look the same  
and if you don't don't worry  
i'll take all the blame

i might cheat on myself  
but I'd never cheat on you  
and the lies i've told  
come closer to the truth  
and i could say i'm sorry  
but in the end it's all the same  
don't worry  
i'll take all the blame