

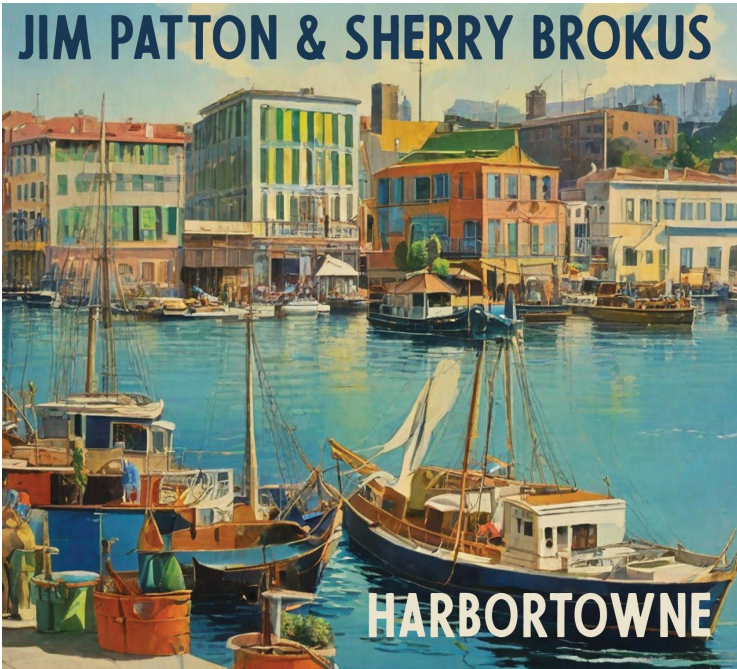
JIM PATTON & SHERRY BROKUS

RADIO ADD DATE September 10, 2024

Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus

Visit

Harbortowne



Jim Patton and his wife and musical collaborator Sherry Brokus make the kind of music that's driven by both passion and purpose. They take sketches of everyday life and transform them into songs that ring and resonate in ways that are both mindful and memorable. Their third album since the Pandemic, *Harbortowne*, represents the folk side of the duo's folk-rock, where 2023's *Big Red Gibson* was a return to the rock side of the equation.

"The working title for the album was *Pattonville*, the result of a joke our friend and fellow musician Jeff Talmadge made," Jim explains. "The characters in these songs are all derived from a world I've created in song. I originally wanted the album to be like Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg Ohio*, or Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* — a series of seemingly disconnected stories about a town where I resided with characters could come and go from song to song. This isn't exactly that, though you can still see some of the remnants of that earlier idea."

As a whole, the album marks a return of another sort — that is, to their sound as a folk duo. "Our first acoustic album was called *Plans Gang Aft Agley*, and that's still what I'm writing about, plans going wrong," Jim notes. "Although I think this album takes a lighter approach to that than I usually do."

Patton's new songs, while not directly addressing the pandemic, explore relevant themes of loneliness and dreams gone bad, and plans gone wrong, and how hard it is for two people to get along even when they love each other and have each other's best interest at heart. *Harbortowne* utilizes the same core band as their previous acoustic albums: Rich Brotherton (Robert Earl Keen), Warren Hood (Lyle Lovett), John Bush (the New Bohemians), BettySoo (James McMurtry) and producer Flynt (20/20). All except BettySoo have recorded with Patton and Brokus since 2007.

Jim and Sherry continue to reside in South Austin, playing a prominent part in a musical community shared any number of spectacular songwriters the two consider friends and collaborators. Since the pandemic, the pair have managed to release at least one album a year. "I think some of my best work has found its way to our last couple of albums" Jim maintains. "I play both live and in the studio with some of the most wonderful musicians in the world, all of which are wonderful people, as well."

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|---|------|
| 1. Harbortowne (Jim Patton) | 2:11 |
| 2. The Juggler (Jim Patton) | 3:41 |
| 3. Never Going Back (Jim Patton-Phil Leonard) | 3:56 |
| 4. When You Win the Lottery (Jim Patton-Scott Evans) | 2:33 |
| 5. Missing You (Jim Patton) | 2:05 |
| 6. A Woman Like You (Jim Patton) | 2:57 |
| 7. Slap In The Face (Jim Patton-Jeff Talmadge-Steve Brooks) | 2:33 |
| 8. Just Doesn't Work Anymore (Jim Patton-Jeff Talmadge) | 2:49 |
| 9. Sally Brown (Jim Patton-Jeff Talmadge) | 3:00 |
| 10. Back In The Storm (Jim Patton-Jeff Talmadge) | 2:37 |
| 11. Until The Fire Is Gone (Jim Patton) | 4:11 |
| 12. Start Again (Jim Patton-Jeff Talmadge) | 3:11 |

All lyrics FCC clean. #7 "Slap in the Face" contains "crap." #8 "Just Doesn't Work Anymore" contains "damn."

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***Harbortowne* song notes by Jim Patton**

1. Harbortowne - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP)

Refers specifically to Annapolis, but could be Baltimore, definitely a harbor town, or Severna Park, our hometown, built on beaches and docks along two rivers. Kids from the suburbs or smaller towns go to the big city seeking trouble and fun. Annapolis was the nearest city for us to get in trouble in when we were kids. I never carried a gun, and it's really not my friends I'm referring to, but when we were in high school, my friend Gene had a Marvel Comics ID card that identified him as 21, and there was one package goods store in Annapolis that accepted it.

Then years later, Sherry was the head of the Annapolis Youth Services Bureau and her office was on Clay Street. Clay Street has since been cleaned up, but, at the time, when I would pick her up, I would be offered any kind of drugs I wanted. The cops had let Clay St run wild because it concentrated most of the drug activity in one place and made it easier to police. The clientele wasn't black, though the dealers were. They were suburban kids, driving their daddy's SUVs. So those are the 'kids' I'm picturing going to Harbortowne. The same thing happens in Baltimore nightly, as we didn't learn until our late teens, early 20s, since we weren't allowed to go near Baltimore except to see the Orioles, and then with parents, before that.

2. The Juggler - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP)

About a man struggling to find out where he fits in. There's a path he was supposed to take, that his friends took, that he isn't comfortable with. He feels like an imposter, one step ahead of being exposed. First released to independent radio in 1985 as a rockin' single, it still feels relevant today.

3. Never Going Back - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP and Phil Leonard, no publisher)

I began this song with Phil Leonard at Davidson College in 1969 and finished it this year. It's pretty much the story of breaking up with my first love, thinly disguised by a lie or two, here and there. Severna Park is at the center of the story as the place I leave and am 'nevergoing back' to. We were kind of looking for a Gordon Lightfoot feel on this one.

4. The Lottery - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP and Scott Evans, no publisher)

I began this one with the my late friend Scott Evans in 1988 or 89. When I 'rediscovered' it, none of the lyrics rhymed, line length was 'whatever fits'. But the idea is still the same. It takes winning the lottery figuratively to lead a decent life in America. And it says how simple the guy's requests are, and what he plans to do when he wins. No "I'm going to Disney World" for him. He's going to smile when he pays his bills.

5. Missing You - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP)

A song for a missing friend. Talks about how the world has changed since his friend died. The singer recognizes the

passing of time, while still missing his friend, through the years. I actually started this in '74, one year to the day after my closest friend was killed in a car accident, but left it there as just a scrap until I found it this spring and finished it.

6. A Woman Like You - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP)

A mature musician tries to pick up a woman, probably in a bar, and tells her all the reasons she should leave with him. Or imagines he does. Its first working title was "Girl Like You" and after the title changed, the song finally fell into place.

7. Slap in the Face - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP; Jeff Talmadge, Totzien Music, BMI; Steve Brooks, Casa Del Frog Music, BMI)

The song title is a Zen koan. I started this song to write about some of my mentors who I feel let me down, once I had learned what I needed to learn and had moved on. But as I wrote, I became so grateful for what they had taught me, that I changed the song. The song is based on real characters, but only based on. Some would never have said the words I put in their mouths. The song is about how every time I stalled out in life, somebody came along to give me that nudge to get me started again. A song of gratitude.

8. Just Doesn't Work Anymore - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP; Jeff Talmadge, Totzien Music, BMI)

A song about how everything's broken. Our character loses his car, his house, and his girl.

9. Sally Brown - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP; Jeff Talmadge, Totzien Music, BMI)

Our character dodged a permanent relationship with several women in his life: a positive thing for his life, and probably for theirs.

10. Back Out in the Storm - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP; Jeff Talmadge, Totzien Music, BMI)

Like the guy in "Just Doesn't Work", everything keeps falling apart in this guy's life, with no sign of letup. For many people in this country "you forget about getting ahead; you just try to stay warm" is a truth they live with daily.

11. Until the Fire is Gone - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP)

My annual "State of My Life" address. Our character is sitting around the fire, telling stories, missing friends, and talking philosophically getting older, but hasn't given up that "maybe the best is not here yet".

12. Start Again - (Jim Patton, Independent Alligator Publishing Co., ASCAP; Jeff Talmadge, Totzien Music, BMI)

Sherry's first lead vocal since 2019. Advice to a friend. Telling him to move on from a broken heart.