

A photograph of a narrow, paved street in an old school courtyard. The street is flanked by tall brick buildings with multiple windows. A bicycle is parked on the left side of the street. The sky is overcast. The text "DAN FORNERO" is overlaid in the top left corner, and "not so old school" is overlaid at the bottom.

DAN
FORNERO

not so old school

Produced by Wally Minko & Gary Grant

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8. Wish You Were Here [8:01]

Vocals

Lynne Fiddmont, Sean Holt, Kudisan Kai
Lamont Van Hook, Lisa Vaughn

Drums

Gregg Bissonette

Bass

Matt Bissonette, Leland Sklar

Guitars

Kurt Griffey, Al McKay, Ramon Stagnaro,
Andrew Synowiec

Synthesizers/Piano

Wally Minko

Percussion

Kevin Ricard

Trumpets/Flugelhorns

Dan Fornero, Wayne Bergeron, John Fumo
Gary Grant, Larry Hall, Harry Kim

Trombones

Nick Lane, Andy Martin, Bill Reichenbach, Arturo Velasco

Woodwinds

Tom Evans, Larry Klimas, Sal Lozano, Eric Marienthal, Don Markese

Produced by Wally Minko & Gary Grant

not so old school began in a conversation with my great friend Wally Minko, a brilliant musician/composer who shares my musical heart. Wally has a deep understanding of harmony that I felt was necessary to balance the simplicity of what I had written. He was the clear choice to produce my album. This simply could not have been made without him.

After tracking a large part of the record, Wally and I found ourselves stalled amidst demanding work schedules. To realize the potential of this music, we called on the services of Gary Grant.

In addition to laying down spectacular horn tracks for thousands of pop artists, Gary had also established himself as a great producer. His level of experience and attention to detail were exactly what the project needed.

This record is a breakaway from tradition. It's 2013 and the rules have changed. With these great producers behind me, I was able to create music that I like from different genres that have inspired me. Something I could leave behind that says a little about who I was.

Sometimes showcases me, sometimes doesn't. . .but *always* includes horns.

I invite you to approach this cd like you would an old album. I loved the days when we'd sit in silence while a record played from front to back. . .filling our ears with real music played by *real* musicians. I hope you find Joy in reading the liner notes and dissecting the inner workings of this album. I believe there's a home for *not so old school* in the landscape of today's music.

-Dan



DAN FORNERO

not so old school was recorded at:
Fumasonic Sound by John Fumo
Happy Bird Studios by Wally Minko
Hillside Studios by Davis Jones
House of Syn by Andrew Synowiec
Ndahause Music by Carlos Murgia
Raystag Studios by Ramon Stagnaro
Sax Trax Studio by Eric Marienthal
Soundabout Studios by Mauricio Guerrero, Mundo Gomez
Stagg Street Studios by Mauricio Guerrero
Valerio Sound by Gary Grant, Dustin Higgins

All tracks mixed by Gary Grant except [6], [8] mixed by
Gary Grant, Dustin Higgins, [4] by Mauricio Guerrero
Album mastered by "The Funky Redneck" in Studio City, CA

www.danfornero.com

Except where noted, horns arranged by
Wally Minko, Gary Grant, Dan Fornero
Except where noted, vocals arranged by Dan Fornero
Cambridge photography by Dan Fornero
Cover design & layout by Angela Fornero

Dan Fornero plays Yamaha Trumpets/Flugelhorn, GR Mouthpieces
Wayne Bergeron appears courtesy of Concord Records & plays
Yamaha Trumpets/Flugelhorn, GR Mouthpieces
Gregg Bissonette plays Mapex Drums, Zildjian Cymbals,
Vic Firth Sticks, DW Pedals, Remo Heads
Matt Bissonette plays Music Man & Mark Bass Amps
Kurt Griffey plays D'Addario Strings, Seymour Duncan Pickups
Eric Marienthal appears courtesy of Peak Records
Andy Martin plays Yamaha Trombones
Wally Minko plays Baldwin SD-10 Concert Grand Pianos
Andrew Synowiec plays Elixir Strings, Taylor Guitars
Thanks to Royer Microphones, courtesy of Rick Perrotta & John Jennings

not so old school

Gonna Be Fine [4:29]

Written by Dan Fornero, Wally Minko, Gary Grant © 2013
d4nero music (BMI), Weepcotunes (ASCAP), Grant Us This Day Music (BMI)
Lyrics by Dan Fornero

Solo: Andrew Synowiec, Guitar

Vocals: Dan Fornero. . .

Backing Vocals: Kudisan Kai, Lamont Van Hook, Lisa Vaughn

Drums: Gregg Bissonette

Guitars: Andrew Synowiec

Synthesizers/Synth Bass: Wally Minko

Trumpets/Flugelhorns: Dan Fornero, Gary Grant, Larry Hall

Gonna Be Fine was originally inspired by a groove I heard from Prince. Needing more than my sequenced verse & chorus, I asked Wally to create a new section, which became the horn interlude in the middle. Gary envisioned this as a vocal tune, sang a simple melody & suggested that *I sing the track*, much to my dismay. It became apparent to me that if I was actually going to sing this, it had to be an autobiography. We added FX on my voice to make it clear this was tongue-in-cheek & soon the Prince-ish idea took a Joe Walsh turn. We brought in a guitar solo in honor of Joe Walsh, one of my absolute heroes. The story line, although intentionally humorous, is ultimately a true account of my life in 4 verses. The last high trumpet lick must be noted as *the* Gary Grant.

*I started marchin' down the road
Always doin' what's told
With my bugle it was gonna be fine*

*Parading down the street
To that Kilt Kadet beat
Taught me early that I must stay in line*

*Left my old school one day
'Cause there's no trumpet to play
At stinkin' Lincoln it was gonna be fine*

*A Catholic tough guy to be
Not in the cards for me
Turned out the ass that got kicked was only mine*

*The road to music was the drum corp way
In this direction he would be ok
Now into trumpet – no more Catholic school
Found out the hard way that he wasn't cool*

*A childhood worthy of boast
However longer than most
Now with a trumpet it was gonna be fine*

*I took the 70's route
A high school burn-out no doubt
Should I really try to live this design?*

*He wouldn't grow up - thought he had it made
No teen-age rock star - couldn't make the grade*

*Down south by Texas way
Westbound for sunny L.A.
A constant party it was gonna be fine*

*Guess what it's just my luck
Found out I had to grow up
The party's over - time to get back in line*

*Outgrew the nest but still the same young man
New course of action was the simple plan*

Cunning & Baffling ^[3:47]

Written by Dan Fornero, Wally Minko, Gary Grant
© 2013 d4nero music (BMI), Weepcotunes (ASCAP),
Grant Us This Day Music (BMI)

Solo: Dan Fornero, Trumpet
Drums: Gregg Bissonette
Bass: Matt Bissonette
Guitars: Ramon Stagnaro
Synthesizers/Clavinet/Synth Bass:
Wally Minko
Percussion: Kevin Ricard
Seashell Purse: Angela Fornero
Trumpets/Flugelhorn: Dan Fornero
Bari Sax: Sal Lozano

Cunning & Baffling evolved from a bass line that I remembered hearing by a funk band in Dallas in the late '70s. Wally & I developed the bridge containing the Harmon mute solo. (Note the masterful use of the Seashell Purse at the start of this section.) Gary suggested a long flowing line to contrast the movement of the bass, which became the flugelhorn melody. The B section was inspired by The Average White Band. This is the only track on the album where I play all the trumpets & flugels. The title can be found in a large book that has had a profound impact on my life. . .

My Only Girl

[4:49]

Music & Lyrics by Dan Fornero
© 2013 d4nero music (BMI)

Solo: Dan Fornero, Trumpet
Horn Arrangement: Harry Kim
Vocal Arrangement: Lynne Fiddmont
Vocals: Sean Holt
Backing Vocals: Lynne Fiddmont, Lamont Van Hook
Drums: Gregg Bissonette Bass: Matt Bissonette
Guitars: Ramon Stagnaro
Synthesizers/Piano: Wally Minko
Percussion: Kevin Ricard
Trumpets/Flugelhorn: Dan Fornero, John Fumo
Trombone: Nick Lane
Tenor Sax: Larry Klimas Bari Sax: Don Markese

My Only Girl practically wrote itself. I had a couple of simple chord changes with a groove & the melody quickly formed. I sent this early version of the track to Phil Collins, as just a verse & a chorus. He felt the chorus was actually a bridge that lead somewhere else. Following his great advice, I added the modulation section. The subject matter of love gone wrong is one I think everyone can relate to. Soulfully sung by Sean Holt, *My Only Girl* is destined for the rolling credits on a chick flick.

*Was it true – such a feeling I never felt before
Holding you– only once & I knew I wanted more
Of your Love– you & I we were always meant to be
Given Love– for a time it was so plain to see
And I– want to know was it you or was it me
You’re the best I ever had– you’re my only girl*

*But today– does the something between us have a name
Can you say– there’s nobody between us it’s the same
‘Cuz it’s changed– I can see it don’t try to tell me no
Rearranged– can’t believe that you want me to go
And I– want to know was it you or was it me
You’re the best I ever had– you’re my only girl*

[Pre-Chorus]

*When I see you– you know I can’t just turn away
Think I need you yet I know
Yes I know you’ve gone astray
But I Love you no matter that he’s been hangin’ round
You’re the best I ever had– you’re my only girl*

*In my life– I have known but a few to walk away
So then why– was it so hard for you to simply stay
For a while– long enough just to see my point of view
Maybe I– never bothered to listen to you
And I– want to know was it you or was it me
You’re the best I ever had– you’re my only girl*

[Pre-Chorus]

*Whenever you go away I’m longing for you
Whenever you pass my way I know it’s not true
Whenever I see your face your Love still shines through
So baby just come home today
I’ll be there– still there for you
Be my only girl*

Hey Thanks [6:14]

Written by Wally Minko © 2013
Weepcotunes (ASCAP)

Solos: Wally Minko, Rhodes & Synthesizer
Eric Marienthal, Alto Sax
Andrew Synowiec, Guitar

Hey Thanks, an original composition by Wally Minko, is a tribute to Jerry Hey. The impact Jerry Hey has had on the world of commercial music is *extraordinary*. His unparalleled horn arrangements have added a distinct flavor to countless hits for the biggest artists in the world. Purposefully written to stretch the ends of all our abilities, the recording sessions for *Hey Thanks* were something special indeed. We hope this honors you appropriately, Jerry.

And while we're at it. . . Thanks to:

Ken Norman, Al Sabo, Joe Bolyard, Jack Yorton, Don "Jake" Jacoby, Don "Godfather" Fornero, "Uncle" Bob Ludwig, Skip Wagner, John Fumo. To Harry Kim & The Vine Street Horns: thanks for the great times we spent in the trenches together. That was a blast! To Greg, Bob & Jack. . . To all the musicians I've played with over the years; I've learned so much from you. To Mom & Dad, thank you for never questioning my direction to be a musician. Your support never wavered and this album is for you. To Melinda & Angela, unfortunately there are *no* words to fully express my Love. You are both the greatest gifts to my life, the *real* Joy in my life! We've come a long way together and I know I couldn't have gotten this far without your endless love, guidance and patience. . . To Wally, Gary & all who contributed to *not so old school* - thank you for bringing Life to this music.

Drums: Gregg Bissonette
Guitars: Andrew Synowiec
Rhodes/Synthesizers/Synth Bass: Wally Minko
Trumpets/Flugelhorns:
Dan Fornero, Wayne Bergeron
Trombones: Andy Martin
Alto Sax/Tenor Sax: Eric Marienthal
Baritone Sax/Flute: Sal Lozano



These Are The Words [5:06]

Music & Lyrics by Dan Fornero
© 2013 d4nero music (BMI)

Solos: Ramon Stagnaro, Guitar
Dan Fornero, Flugelhorn
Vocals: Lynne Fiddmont, Lamont Van Hook
Drums: Gregg Bissonette Bass: Matt Bissonette
Guitars: Ramon Stagnaro
Rhodes/Synthesizers: Wally Minko
Percussion: Kevin Ricard
Trumpets/Flugelhorns: Dan Fornero, Gary Grant

These Are The Words was inspired by George Duke. The story is about a young couple finding themselves drawn into a relationship almost reluctantly. At the end of the story, they look back & realize it's been a process they're grateful for. Lamont Van Hook & Lynne Fiddmont have been working together for many years & you can hear their vocal chemistry throughout. Ramon Stagnaro's masterful guitar work perfectly suits this tune.

*Here we are – in a place in time
That look, your eyes – I really don't get it
Because I just don't know how I feel
Can't find the words just to say I love you*

*Sleepless nights – with a need to dream
My heart's on fire – I just don't get it
Because I just don't know how I feel
Can't find the words just to say I love you*

*When will we find the time
In the distance I hear you calling
So afraid you won't be mine
Into love I think I'm falling*

*No guarantees – will you hold my hand
With mine in yours – I still don't get it
Because I just don't know how I feel
Can't find the words just to say I love you*

*Now should I stay – give this life a chance
My heart will grow if I'll just let it
Because I just don't know how I feel
Can't find the words just to say I love you*

*There's no turning back now
What have we gotten ourselves into
Into love I hope and pray
One that grows stronger with each passing day*

*And now you're here - And I'm in your arms
So warm, so close - I don't regret it
And now I do know just how I feel
These are the words that all say I love you*

*So many years have gone by - and I
Recall the times and ways we've said it
Because I do know just how I feel
These are the words that all say I love you*

DataBass [4:02]

Written by Dan Fornero, Wally Minko © 2013
d4nero music (BMI), Weepcotunes (ASCAP)

Solos: Dan Fornero, Trumpet
Wally Minko, Synthesizer
Drums: Gregg Bissonette
Bass: Matt Bissonette
Guitars: Al McKay, Ramon Stagnaro
Synthesizers/Synth Bass: Wally Minko
Percussion: Kevin Ricard
Trumpets: Dan Fornero, Gary Grant
Trombones: Andy Martin, Bill Reichenbach

Like *Cunning & Baffling*, *DataBass* began with another quirky, funky bass line & a groove. Wally came up with the melody & horn interlude section. The great Al McKay joined us on guitar & can be heard panned to the right. From this point on in the album, I suggest you crank the volume. . .

Don't You Know [4:27]

Music & Lyrics by Dan Fornero © 2013 d4nero music (BMI)

Solo: Kurt Griffey, Guitar
Horn Arrangement: Harry Kim
Vocals: Sean Holt Backing Vocals: Lynne Fiddmont, Lamont Van Hook
Drums: Gregg Bissonette Bass: Matt Bissonette Guitars: Ramon Stagnaro
Synthesizers: Wally Minko Organ: Dan Fornero Percussion: Kevin Ricard
Trumpets: Dan Fornero, Harry Kim Trombone: Arturo Velasco
Tenor Sax: Tom Evans Bari Sax: Sal Lozano

Originally titled 12/8 Toto, *Don't You Know*, like *My Only Girl*, seemed to write itself. Some might notice a nod to my Wisconsin roots in the title? Once again utilizing the vocal skills of Sean Holt, the song features a Pink Floyd-esque interlude & a gnarly guitar solo by Kurt Griffey. Would love to see *Don't You Know* climbing the charts with a bullet.

*There was a time in my life
I thought I knew you well
No time for division & strife
In love with you – could you tell
Then one day you just walked away
And I always knew you would
So now I just live for today
Without you – I must say*

*[Chorus] Don't you know that you love me baby
Don't you know it's true [2x]*

*My life & my dreams were complete
I thought what we had was good
Your lovin' & kisses so sweet
And stayin' together we should*

*But something was missing for you
And I never knew your pain
Commitment you couldn't go through
Without you – I must say*

[Chorus]

*Don't you wonder what's happened to me
Did you care after all
Don't you wonder why you couldn't see
That our love was the right call
My life has gone on in a beautiful way
You can keep all the rest
My baby's so fine & she's happy to stay
Without you – I must say*

[Double Chorus]

Wish You Were Here

[8:01]

Written by Roger Waters, David Gilmour
© 1975 Pink Floyd Music Publishing, Inc.

Solos: Dan Fornero, Flugelhorn Andrew Synowiec, Guitar
Vocals: Kudisan Kai, Lamont Van Hook, Lisa Vaughn
Drums: Gregg Bissonette Bass: Leland Sklar
Guitars: Ramon Stagnaro, Andrew Synowiec Organ: Wally Minko
Trumpets/Flugelhorns: Dan Fornero, John Fumo, Gary Grant

*We're just two lost souls
swimming in a fish bowl
Year after year
Running over the
same old ground
What have we found
The same old fears
Wish you were here*

I'm a huge fan of Pink Floyd. Their tunes have always inspired & moved me, but none more so than *Wish You Were Here*. It was important to me that the song be recorded with reverence to honor & respect the original. I chose to play the melody myself. No frills. Straight from my heart. Leland Sklar really poured himself into his performance & was the perfect choice for this track. I decided to record the flugelhorns at Fumosonic Sound with John Fumo, my dear friend from that era. As further tribute to David Gilmour, I created a platform for Andrew Synowiec to take us home in classic Floyd tradition. . .

