

In Limahl's own words: The writing/creation of '1983'

In late 2010, I went to perform at a nightclub 80s party in the north of Norway. British DJ Pat Sharp (who is married to a Norwegian lady) was also working at the same club and we travelled together. Pat and I have worked many times at this type of event.

On my return to the UK he emailed me saying one of his Norwegian contacts Tommy Olsen was possibly interested in collaborating on a new Limahl single. I contacted Tommy and we exchanged a few emails. He then introduced me to his Norwegian writer/producer team of Rune Mautvedt & Stig Erik Antonsen.



I suggested they email over an MP3 of about 32 bars of music/ideas and I would see/hear if it tickled my fancy. Luckily it did!

I don't think any songwriter can explain where their idea/inspiration comes from. In English we say, it's the sixty-four thousand dollar question, it's almost impossible to answer. When I heard the 32 bars of music (drums, synthesizers, bass, etc) there was a retro vibe about it and I suddenly started singing/saying the words I wanna go back in time (at that point I didn't have the melody but it was coming).

I use a small dictaphone when songwriting and record every single idea that comes into my head. I try all kinds of phrases to see what is working good and bad. Then

usually the next day I listen again with a fresh ear and the best ones are obvious. I also usually record more ideas just in case I missed anything.

I find songwriting as natural as riding my bicycle (which I ride almost every day). I have spent so many years in studios writing, recording, mixing, editing, exploring ideas, that it's completely second nature to me now. The amazing thing is, it STILL really gets me so excited - how cool is that!

Technology these days is awesome and I was able to record my vocal lyric/melody ideas on to their 32 bars of music using my laptop, a music editing program and my lovely vintage AKG 414 professional microphone. I emailed it back and then they made suggestions, then I made suggestions and so on, until we ended up with something we were all happy with.

Once we had a more solid outline of the melody, I sunk my teeth into the lyric writing to try and bring the year 1983 back to life. I decided on 1983 because it was the year 'Too Shy' was released (my debut single with 80s group Kajagoogoo which I also co-wrote). It's a good omen.

Tommy next commissioned various remixes, one of which was the German team of 'Clouds & Coffee' who added their dance element and a touch of magic the fabulous result is what you can hear.

Hope you like it! // Limahl
10th January 2012

Copyright: Dig Music/Limahl.com

