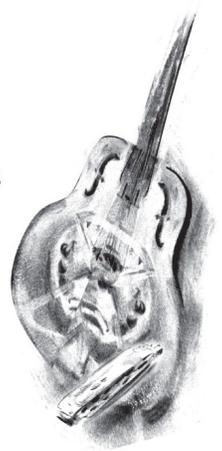


# DESTINATION UNKNOWN



## JOE FILISKO & ERIC NODEN

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Joe Filisko & Eric Noden use Hohner Musical Instruments  
Mixed and Mastered by: Jeff Jaskowiak  
Artwork by: Andy Willis

Destination Unknown is the 5th album by Joe Filisko & Eric Noden. Using only one stereo ribbon microphone the project was recorded live, in the moment with no overdubs during the spring of 2018. With this release the roots duo continues to pay tribute to the often under appreciated legends of early blues and roots music including Sonny Terry, Blind Boy Fuller, Gwen Foster and Mississippi John Hurt. The songwriting draws on various roots styles including blues, jug-band, Cajun and old-time while the lyrics express the turbulent nature of a contemporary existence.

Mixed and Mastered by Jeff Jaskowiak  
Artwork by Andy Willis  
Joe and Eric play Hohner musical  
Instruments

Tracks 1 2 4 5 7 12 by Eric Noden  
Tracks 3 and 6 by Joe Filisko  
Tracks 8 9 10 11 by Joe Filisko & Eric Noden  
Track 13 by Harry J. Noden

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**Additional thanks to:**  
Jeff Jaskowiak, Andy Willis, Michelle  
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Hohner Musical Instruments

## Destination Unknown Album Notes

### 1) **Anxious Blues**

This tune is inspired by the East coast blues style known as the piedmont blues. Blind Boy Fuller, Pink Anderson and Reverend Gary Davis all played and sang in this vibrant, danceable blues style. Joe sings the lower vocal harmony and I sing the melody. (guitar in the key of E Standard Tuning) **EN**

This is all about paying tribute to Sonny Terry as much as possible without my own style creeping in too much. I never met him but did learn tons from him by carefully listening to his recordings. My study song at FiliskoStore.com called "Sonny's Shuffle" is full of many of the licks and techniques used here, even though this is actually an 8-bar form. **JF**

### 2) **Shut It Down**

Both Joe and I are fans of the rollicking good time music of Memphis Jug Band and Gus Cannon's Jug Stompers. In the 1920's and 30's the jug bands of Memphis were legendary street performers who used whatever instruments they could get their hands on including washboard, wash-tub bass, kazoo, guitar and harmonica. This song attempts to capture that style in a duo format. (guitar drop D tuning played in key of D) **EN**

I'm playing a Low "D" Thunderbird Marine Band through my amp and using lots of octave splits. This works out fantastic as the song is mostly just based on the I and V chords. There is also a generous amount of sustaining over the verses and rhythmic chording over the choruses. I love that BIG chordal sound. **JF**

### 3) **Louisiana Song**

I love the music and food of Louisiana. This song comes from a study song called "Jerry's Cajun Blues," dedicated to my numerous Louisiana friends and especially Mr. Jerry Devillier, Mr. Jasper Manuel and big brother Ed Huey. I love the fuller accordion sound you can get when playing this Cajun style with almost all splits. My mission is to keep the "harmony" in the harmonica. This is played in the key of "D" on a G harp with NO bending. The study song can be found at FiliskoStore.com. My thanks to Michelle for help with the lyrics. **JF**

I chose to use open D tuning for the guitar on this tune. The ringing open strings add sustain and help enhance Joe's mellow vocals and Cajun influenced harmonica. (guitar in key of D open D tuning) **EN**

### 4) **Path You Choose**

A one-chord boogie in the spirit of John Lee Hooker and the Mississippi blues style he embodied. This kind of song is all about the rhythm and groove! (guitar key of E, standard tuning) **EN**

The harmonica is perfectly suited to playing this song. All the notes in the melody and single chord are readily available along with the ability to make them all bluesier. Note the full chords that I'm often playing with the organ sustaining approach. Easy, you think? Yes and no. Check out how long my breaths are being sustained before judging! I am also playing amplified on this song. **JF**

### 5) **Beginning of the End**

The guitar part was originally written as an exercise in a technique I call double alternating bass. Later I added the lyrics, melody and vocal harmony. Joe sings the melody and I sing the harmony part. (Guitar key of D, standard tuning) **EN**

The harp is played in the chordal approach of the Old-Timey Fox Chase/Lost John tradition in the key of "D" on a G harp. The first known cross-harp recording from 1923 was played in this same style. I'm trying to make those chords on the backbeat sound as BIG and full as possible. I love those chords! **JF**

### 6) **Black Clouds**

Another amplified harp song played in the Chicago Blues tradition trying to get a big, fat, greasy, ornery sound in the style of Sonny Boy Williamson #1 and early Little Walter. I was not thinking about the weather when I wrote this song. First person to guess what is most unusual about the harmonica playing on this song will be awarded a signed copy of the CD. **JF**

This slide guitar tune is heavily influenced by the low down Mississippi style that Muddy Waters represented so well. (guitar key of E, standard tuning) **EN**

### 7) **Destination Unknown**

This one is a tribute to the legendary blues duo of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee. Awhile ago I was listening to a song they recorded called "Old Jabo" and I was really mesmerized by the call and response pattern going on between the vocals, harmonica and guitar. I used the call and response concept for the verses in this song but added a chorus to mix things up. I sing the higher melody part and Joe sings the lower harmony part. (guitar key of E, standard tuning) **EN**

This is another song that is all about Sonny Terry. He likely had the most skillful use of "dirt" of any player but oddly, never used octave splits, just occasionally split 3's. Check out my study song called "Chasin' Lost Sonny" at FiliskoStore.com for ideas on Sonny's unique licks and techniques used on this type of song of I (one) chord song. **JF**

### 8) **As We Are Now**

The song celebrates the circle of life and was partially inspired by a self-drawn portrait of my Grandfather (my father's father) and my mother, who was a war refugee and forced to leave her homeland with her family. You hear a low D Thunderbird Marine Band harp trying to support the lyrics and paint the sonic landscape. There is an accordion vibe in the old-world part of the song and a blues harp vibe in the new world part. Thanks to Michelle for helping with the lyrics and arrangement. **JF**

I came up with the vocal melody and chords for this tune but never found the right lyrics to go with it. I sent it Joe's way to see what he could do with it and this song is the result! (guitar key of A, standard tuning) **EN**

### 9) **My Kitchen**

This is just a fun song about all the memorable times that have been had in the kitchen. It also uses the low D Thunderbird Marine Band with lots of octave splits. Dedicated playfully to people who try to help with things they know nothing about. Thanks again to Michelle. **JF**

The guitar playing and singing on this one is a tribute to Mississippi John Hurt. Hurt had a subtle but effective way of playing and singing that always appealed to me. Joe wrote the lyrics. (guitar key of D capo 2nd fret, standard tuning) **EN**

### 10) **Four Letter "F" Word**

I am always amused by the varied reactions after hearing the four letter "F" word, free, and had to act on it to amuse myself. Quite the dedication to John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson's playing style. He was a very big influence on me and was the first to really refine what the Chicago Blues harmonica playing style is, by playing a minimal amount of clean single notes. I am using an amp on this song of which Eric wrote the melody and is singing. Thanks again to Michelle. **JF**

This driving swinging blues is influenced greatly by Big Bill Broonzy. Broonzy's driving guitar rhythms and soaring vocals made him a legend in both the blues and folk worlds. Another source of inspiration was the song "Mellow Chick Swing" by Sonny Boy Williamson (guitar key of A, drop D tuning) **EN**

### 11) **My Jesus**

This song is actually a prayer drawn from Micah 6:8. I used a low D Thunderbird Marine Band again on this but am now playing in 4th position (Bm) and using lots of octave splits and "dirt" for that fuller sound & tone. Thanks again to Michelle. **JF**

I was trying to create something haunting along the lines of Geeshie Wiley's "Last Kind Words". Joe contributed the lyrics and spooky harp playing (guitar capo at 2nd fret, key of B minor, standard tuning) **EN**

### 12) **Can't Take the edge**

This is a driving one chord slide guitar song in the style of hill country bluesman Mississippi Fred McDowell. (guitar key of G, open G tuning) **EN**

I am trying to capture the powerful rhythmic style of Mississippi player Johnny Woods, who, in my opinion, is one of the most underappreciated harp players. Check out his recordings with Fred McDowell. If it wasn't for the bridge section of the song which uses splits, you would only be hearing chords. Johnny's playing may possibly be the most difficult chordal playing to imitate. It took years of practice to get it down. The irony here is that the chords are the easiest thing that can be played on the harmonica. Really! What is difficult is maintaining the rhythmic precision and explosive attack while still being able to breathe. **JF**

13) **Time is for you**

This is a song that my grandfather Harry J. Noden wrote many years ago. He loved singing campfire songs like Coming Round the Mountain and On top of Old Smokey. He didn't write a lot of songs but this was one of my favorites. This is the first waltz Joe and I have recorded. (guitar capo 2nd fret key of D standard tuning) **EN**

I'm happy to keep the spirit of Gwen Foster alive today using all his fluttering and chirping sounds. This is played on a standard Crossover Marine Band in the key of "D". I was quite amused to actually be able to get some bending happening on the 10th hole during the chorus melody, tongue blocking of course. **JF**

**continue to next page for lyrics**

**Anxious Blues (2:58)**

Anxious, worried, troubled, tangled  
Blues has got me and it won't let go.

Toss and turn, can't sleep at night.  
Don't know if I should turn left or right.

You ain't living if you running too fast  
Time you have, it sure ain't gonna last.

Everything ain't black and white.  
Sometimes I'm just lost inside the grey.

Found a two-dollar bill; it's a good-luck charm.  
Think I'll keep it, sure can't do no harm.

Lost and lonely, if I could only  
Change my luck and find my way back home.

**Shut it Down (2:45)**

Gonna shut it down. Gonna turn it off.  
Going off the grid. You know I had enough.

*Gonna shut it down. Gonna turn it off.  
Well you know I had enough.*

I've been thinking 'bout the good old days.  
You had to read a map just to find your way.  
You had to plan ahead. Had to write it down.  
If you don't know you gotta ask around.

Gonna cut the cord. Gonna disconnect.  
Gonna walk away. I don't need this mess.  
Gonna travel far. Try the woods awhile.  
I want to live real free out in the wild.

**Louisiana Song (3:48)**

Just one place, among fifty states, casts a spell  
and compels.  
The tradition's so bewitchin.'  
Holy cross, eerie moss in the air, everywhere.  
Hear them reeds sing that Louisiana song.

NOLA city, fine and gritty, mansions tall, stucco walls.  
Races friended, people blended.  
Culture's deep, music seeps in the air, everywhere.  
Hear them reeds sing that Louisiana song.

Get me down, to Eunice town, to see Mr. Jerry.  
He's legendary!  
Get enriched in Jasper's kitchen.  
Two-step there, Cajun fare in the air, everywhere.  
Hear them reeds sing that Louisiana song.

Baton Rouge, swampy Blues. World-renowned,  
"Excello" sound.

Do you know, Slim Harpo?  
Makes you move, with his groove in the air,  
everywhere.

Hear them reeds sing that Louisiana song.

**Path You Choose (4:22)**

It's a cold, cold feeling, can chill you to the bone.  
This cold can chill you, cold can chill you,  
Chill you to the bone.

A raging storm is rolling through this land.  
Raging storm is rolling through this,  
rolling through this land.

Shine, shine, I wish the sun would shine.  
Sky's been grey, and grey and cloudy,  
for a long, long time.

No one knows what's up around the bend.  
Road keep on twisting; twisting, turning,  
cannot see the end.

Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.  
Got to keep on walking, keep on walking,  
along the path you choose.

**Beginning of the End (3:05)**

Beginning of the end, right around the bend.  
A strange place to be. The beginning of the end.

Nothings real no more, that's all I know for sure.  
It twists and it turns. Nothing's real no more.

It's been a lonely day. The sun slips away  
Into the big-sky dream. It's been a lonely day.

Don't die until your dead. Keep on living strong,  
Let your light shine on. Don't die until your dead.

Send a prayer on up. Hope it'll be enough  
To bring about a change. Send a prayer on up.

In my soul there is a song, helps me to get along.  
I sing it all the time. In my soul there is a song.

### Black Clouds (3:57)

*I see black clouds sure heading this way.  
I see black clouds sure heading this way.  
Them storms are coming.  
You best take cover and pray.*

Bad weather is upon us.  
Ain't no sunshine here.  
Them twisters gonna touch down  
Worse than any other year.

Lightening striking around me.  
There's flashes everywhere.  
The air is electric.  
It's your worse nightmare.

Hear them winds howling.  
Feel that thunder roar.  
You best head for shelter.  
Close and lock your door.

### Destination Unknown (2:38)

Wrong way is the right way, too.  
He's not sure just what to do.  
Went up the hill, he saw a town,  
Come right back and turned around

*Rolling along a long way from home  
Not a care in the world destination unknown.*

Lost his compass long ago.  
Chart his course when the wind blow.  
The winding road, it twist and turn,  
It will teach and we will learn

Prettiest town I ever seen,  
In the mountains like a dream.  
Not quite sure what brought us here  
Where we're headed sure ain't near.

### As We Are Now (5:05)

Illustration - My father's father's frown,  
Replication - Right here on my brow.  
We don't know what the gene pool will allow.

Devastation - My mother's mother's town.  
Relocation - Pulled right from their ground.  
You never know just where you will be bound.

Immigration - Families take a route.  
Adaptation - Dig a new life out.  
You never know just where your kin will sprout.

Celebration! A boy, eight pounds, one ounce.  
Generations come see, he's theirs, no doubt.  
For him they'll leave life better than they found.

Compilation of the then and now,  
Dedication to what time allows,  
We'll never be as young as we are now.

### My Kitchen (4:24)

My welcome mat's well worn. Friends step in a lot.  
I offer some good food cooked up on the spot.  
I enjoy folks talking at the counter seats.  
I don't enjoy when my guest get under my feet.

*Stay out of my kitchen. Stay out of my kitchen.  
Stay out of my kitchen if you ain't gonna cook.  
Stay out of my kitchen. Stay out of my kitchen.  
Stay out of my kitchen. I don't mind if you look.*

I've got a way that I like to get my cooking done.  
No complaints from my guests, I can't recall a one.  
So when you say that you know just what I should do,  
I smile and say, "Too many cooks will spoil the stew."

Tell me some good stories and I'll cook right along.  
Look on through all my records. Play your favorite  
song.  
Move on now, don't you hover to see if I'm on track.  
Read the words right here on my kitchen plaque.  
It says . .

It seemed to me that you had some things on your  
mind.  
Wish that you had kicked back and tried to unwind.  
In the end your praises sounded so sincere.  
Its good to know, that you enjoyed your last meal  
here.

### Four Letter "F" Word (2:58)

I'm a cool cat, normally.  
One word can make me go crazy.  
That four letter "F" word - Free.

When I was a child my father told me  
The best things in life are ones that are free.  
That four letter "F" word - Free.

Don't need nothin' if there's a fee,  
But if there's not, I'll take two or three.  
That four letter "F" word - Free.

Slammin' on the breaks. I'm so sorry!  
But did you see what's on that marquis?  
That four letter "F" word - Free.

Sure don't need it. Looks like debris.  
 If there's no charge it's going with me.  
 That four letter "F" word – Free

The woman has spoken, "Choose the stuff or me."  
 Need to make choices or she will flee.  
 That four letter "F" word – Free.

It's my weakness, everyone agrees.  
 Makes me stumble, it's guaranteed.  
 That four letter "F" word – Free

### **My Jesus (3:58)**

My Jesus, you hear me, proud or on my knees.  
 My Jesus, you hear me, proud or on my knees.  
 When my head goes to bow  
 I hope your voice is clear.  
 Sometimes I hear what I want to hear.

My Jesus sees his child clean and free of hate.  
 My Jesus sees his child clean and free of hate.  
 Men are cruel. Men will fall.  
 But mercy's great and grace is free.  
 If anyone should not throw stones it's me.

My Jesus, show me how to do justly.  
 My Jesus, show me how to do justly.  
 Hold my hand. Guide me through.  
 I've been here countless times,  
 But sometimes I know can be so blind.

### **Can't Take the Edge (3:44)**

I can't take the edge off of you,  
 No matter how I try. No matter what I do.  
 I can't take the edge off of you,  
 No matter how I try. No matter what I do.

Some things stay the same. They don't never change.  
 Like a tree in the forest, like a stone in the rain.  
 Some things stay the same. They don't never change.  
 Like a tree in the forest, like a stone in the rain.

Sometimes I think I've got a haunted soul.  
 Something got a hold of me and it won't let go.  
 Sometimes I think I've got a haunted soul.  
 Something got a hold of me and it won't let go.

### **Time is For You (2:46)**

There are a million-and-one things to know,  
 There are thousands of places to go,  
 There are things, dear, that I'd rather do,  
 But all of my time is for you.

*Time is for you. Time is for you.  
 Hours mean nothing, my time is for you.  
 Time is for you. Time is for you.  
 Daytime and nighttime, my time is for you.*

There are people who bring me good cheer,  
 There are friends that I like to be near,  
 There are some who are just passing through,  
 But all of my time is for you.

There is work that has got to be done,  
 There is play that I know would be fun,  
 There is leisure with nothing to do,  
 But all of my time is for you.