



OWEN TEMPLE DOLLARS AND DIMES

Produced by Gabriel Rhodes
Recorded in Austin, Texas, July 2008 and January 2009

Owen Temple – Vocals, Acoustic Guitar
Gabriel Rhodes – Acoustic Guitar, High Strung Guitar, Electric Guitar, Ukelele, Pump Organ, Piano
Will Sexton – Bass, Electric Guitar, Background Vocals
Hunt Sales – Drums, Percussion, Electric Guitar
Brian Standefer – Cello
Michael Thompson – Piano
Adam Carroll – Harmonica

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Dollars and Dimes, the fifth studio record from Austin, Texas-based songwriter Owen Temple, is a collection of eleven songs about people making their way through hard times in the different regions of North America.

The project includes songs written by Owen Temple and co-writes with Adam Carroll, Gordy Quist (of the Band of Heathens), Scott Nolan and others.

A concept album focused on regional incarnations of continent-wide drama, *Dollars and Dimes* was produced by multi-instrumentalist Gabe Rhodes (Billy Joe Shaver, Kimmie Rhodes). Temple's lyrics present eleven portraits of characters and the places they inhabit and are backed by a top notch band made up of Hunt Sales (Iggy Pop, David Bowie) on drums and Will Sexton (Terry Allen, Randy Weeks) on bass, and Rhodes on guitar and keys.

Praise for Owen Temple

"Playing off North America's regions, travel album delivers concept richly"
-Dave Hoekstra, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Texas born and bred singer/songwriter Owen Temple is a country artist, but like Townes Van Zandt, another Texas songwriter he's often been compared to, Temple is as much folk as country, with a finely honed lyrical sense, a wry sense of humor, and a knack for blending melancholy melodies with ingenious wordplay that can conceal as much as it reveals... his ability to deliver telling insights without resorting to clichés or obvious images marks him as an original voice"
-J. Poet, *All Music Guide*

"Thanks to simply yet vividly developed real-world characters, the relentless melancholy doesn't get old. Rather, *Dollars and Dimes* is comforting in its gloom and nostalgia, and the moody, understated accompaniment from producer Gabriel Rhodes and backing players fits the mood like an old pair of Levi's."
-Jesse Hughey, *Dallas Observer*

"an artful shot of reality, as told through the memory and perspective of a traveler with perhaps more questions than answers. Drawing on the current socio-economical climate, Temple has crafted an album that will remind many that story-telling can be relevant and revealing when looking into times of crisis."
-Kelly Dearmore, *Twangville*

- 2007 Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk Finalist
- 2007 B.W. Stevenson Songwriting Competition Winner – Dallas, Texas
- 3 previous projects produced by Grammy winner Lloyd Maines (The Flatlanders, Terry Allen)
- 1 previous project produced by multi-instrumentalist Phil Madeira (bandmate of Emmylou Harris, Buddy Miller)
- On tour in 2009-2010 supporting release with shows in U.S., Canada, France, and Italy



DOLLARS AND DIMES

North America is many different places. Of course, there are different states and different provinces, but that's not really where the big differences happen. The really fundamental distinctions happen between the different regions.

One great thing about my job is I get to travel. Mostly on the highways, and frequently from one end of the country to the other. When I get to see how the different regions fit together, how they unroll from end to end, that's the most interesting travel. Occasionally, if the booking agent is sadistic enough (or optimistic enough?), I get to see three or four different regions in three or four days.

I've been traveling, playing gigs, and making records for twelve years. The place where this started for me was Austin, playing at a dark wooden barroom downtown called O Henry's Back Forty (now the site of the downtown Hilton). I've worked different jobs, lived in Houston, Dallas, New York, and Madison, Wisconsin, and made good friends in all those places.

A fellow traveler and songwriter, Brian Rung, recommended a book to me last year, *The Nine Nations of North America* by Joel Garreau. In the book, Garreau argues that state borders are basically irrelevant and artificial and that North American society can be better understood grouped into nine larger regions. Nine regions that have distinct economic and cultural features.

Garreau breaks it down and labels the regions (for example, New England, The Foundry, Dixie, The Breadbasket, The Empty Quarter, etc.) He says that the regions are basically defined by the jobs that people have (or don't have) and the work that people do in those regions. Whether you're sold on the details of this idea or not, I thought it was an interesting idea.

So I decided to write an album with songs set in the different regions, exploring characters trying to make their way and make a living in their respective places. *Dollars and Dimes*, my fifth record, is what I came up with.

We recorded the songs in July 2008 and January 2009. Gabe Rhodes produced the project and played guitar, piano, and anything else with strings on it. Will Sexton played bass, sang backup vocals, and played some guitar, and Hunt Sales played drums.

So we're releasing the record this summer, driving and playing shows all over these "regions," seeing if there's anything to this idea. Trying to see if regionalism still survives, looking for good coffee.

Owen Temple (Austin, Texas, April 2009)

Cut by Cut - Dollars and Dimes

By Owen Temple

Broken Heart Land

I wrote this song with a friend from Indiana, Jeff Burkhart. We were talking about the Midwest and the industrial cities around the Great Lakes. He told me about a train trip he took home through Eden, Indiana, and he told me the town name has become more ironic over the last few decades - it's no longer paradise, if it ever was.

Black Diamond

Adam Carroll played some shows in Canada with Scott Nolan, and they spent some time in a town in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies called Black Diamond. (A black diamond is a lower valued dark diamond used in industry for drilling - also called a carbonado). They wrote some lines about the place but never finished the song. Adam and I finished it up after he was back in Texas. (Green dragon is a concoction made of Everclear steeped with weed for days and days and days)

Making a Life

A song about four different people paying the bills, getting by, keeping a sense of what it is they're working for.

City of the King

A song about a two characters stuck in the middle. Maybe St Louis is stuck in the middle in a lot of ways. Not really west, not really east, not deep south, not north. Not really sure what role to play, out in between. The Gateway to... wherever you're going.

Dollars and Dimes

Adam Carroll and I played the last show of a tour in Indianapolis and on the way home we took smaller roads along the Mississippi River. Thinking about musicians and sharecroppers who left the Delta to get jobs in Chicago during the war, migrant workers that move with the harvest from Michigan to Florida to California, and the labor camps that built the railroads and the levees along the river. Getting out of town to get paid, and the most logical title for the record.

Memphis

I asked a girl from Arkansas who had moved to Memphis how she liked it. She said, "Memphis is not what it used to be." But then again, what place is like it used to be? And who is? We just move on-

Los Angeles

Converting the desert into a playground and into one of the world's largest cities is an amazing feat of imagination and engineering, but it's a fragile balance. Southern California requires water from all over the western half of the United States to keep it green, and Los Angeles requires people from cultures all over the world to move there and work there to keep it running. Like all machines, it generates friction and heat and breaks down sometimes.

I Don't Want to Do What I Do

By the pool tables, upstairs at the White Water Tavern in Little Rock, I saw an ad for lawyer in a newspaper. The lawyer had his picture in the ad and he looked weary and beaten in the photo, which was surprising because they usually try to look like Superman in those ads. Adam said, "it looks like that old boy's ready to crawl in that hole." We thought of an Ohio car dealer we knew and an anesthesiologist who got tired of practicing medicine and wrote the song in ten minutes.

Quiet Look

A song about the irretrievable past. I wrote the verses for this song and adapted the chorus from William Carlos Williams' 1934 poem "The Revelation." This song is not about a place changing, it's about going back to an old place and finding that two people hadn't changed as much as they thought.

Golden Age

I started playing music at a club in downtown Austin called O. Henry's Back Forty. It was a wood paneled bar with shuffleboard, pool tables, and a jukebox. Smoking, domino-playing old men ruled the place from noon to 6pm. Then from 10 pm til close the twenty-one year olds took over. Even with both sets of patrons the owners were always struggling to pay the bills.

The owners were finally delivered from their month-to-month purgatory when the Hilton offered to buy the site for a couple million dollars. They tore down the bar and built the new hotel at 5th Street and Neches. The eighth floor rooftop swimming pool sits right on the old footprint of the Back Forty. I wrote this song by the pool.

Winnipeg Waltz

I lived in the Great White North for a few years, and I found out that when it's really cold, you go to a bar, drink beer, and talk about how cold it is outside.