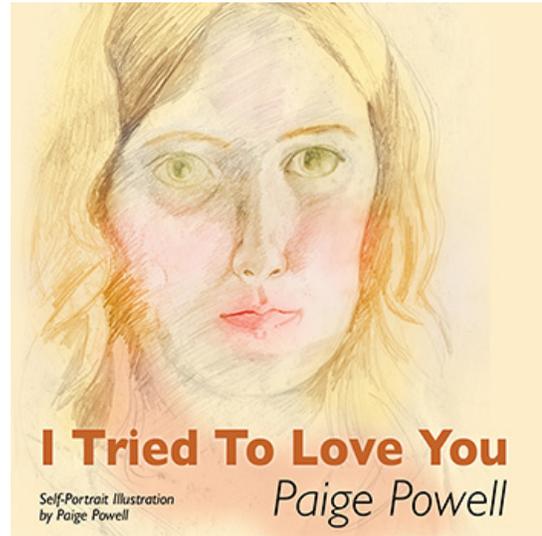


Paige Powell Music Blog for July 24, 2020:

The Story Behind the Song, "I Tried To Love You"

If **Joni Mitchell** can write songs about her old boyfriends, why can't I? She has been a big influence on my songwriting through the years, and this self-portrait I drew in art school is a "nod" to Joni's self-portraits on her album covers. In "*I Tried To Love You*," you may recognize a **Joni Mitchell vocal style** in the lines, "*sports reports on or off TV*" and "*I'm only human too*" in the 3rd verse. I'm also playing the guitar using an alternate guitar tuning I learned from studying her songs on the "*Hissing of Summer Lawns*" album. It gives "*I Tried To Love You*" a Jazz sound, and playing jazz chords is easy with that guitar tuning. I liked the music I wrote for this song so much that I also recorded an instrumental version on the **Wolfe and Powell CD, "Cappuccino Music"** where **Steve Wolfe** plays the melody on saxophone.



"*I Tried To Love You*" explains "*I guess love is rare*" and asks, "*Is love ever fair?*" I have learned that you can't make yourself fall in love, that love is mysterious. One of my favorite quotes is from the character **Neelix** from *StarTrek Voyager* at the end of episode 17, season 5, "*The Disease*". Ensign Harry Kim falls madly in love, but has to break it off. Recovering from his broken heart, Neelix tries to comfort him: "*If we really understood love, I think it would lose its power*". And now, dear reader, you found out that **I'm a Trekkie!** I'm also a fan of *StarGate SG-1* and the late, great *The Orville* created by **Seth MacFarlane** (also a phenomenal singer). Do send me an email if you love science fiction as well. I've never written a song about this part of my life. Maybe I could someday.

Each of the 3 verses in "*I Tried To Love You*" portrays a different love interest: Randy, Robert and Michael. If you're wondering if they were real, yes, they were, although I changed the name of one of them. His name was too unique, so for songwriting reasons, I changed it to a more common name. Each guy had very desirable qualities, but I see "*ice in my veins*" and "*no sparks in the air*". However, in the bridge of the song, I lament that I have also been the "dumpee" in relationships: "*Now, I've been in love before, and cried — I wasn't the one who walked away... like sand in my hand, love wouldn't stay.*"

Well, dear reader, I'm ashamed to say that until today, I neglected to put this jewel of a song on my website! I'm like Swiss cheese: I know a lot and do a lot, but I still have holes. Meanwhile, I have a **whole pile of songs** to finish. I'm either waiting for instruments to be added, vocals from other singers, a final polish at the tail-end of studio production, or for ME to do some re-writing or creating what is called a "scratch" recording. At our recent NSAI* meeting, one of my songwriter buddies, **Don Micallef** told us about his process of creating a table, like a spreadsheet, so he can see the progress of each of his songs. Time for me to make a spreadsheet of my own, watch fewer sci-fi television shows and get to work!

*Nashville Songwriters Association International