



**Review by:** Arthur Wood  
**Record Label:** Self released  
**Website:** [www.stevechizmadia.com](http://www.stevechizmadia.com)  
**Star Rating:** ★★★★★

## JACK OF ALL TRADES

This ten-song collection is Peekskill, New York based award-winning songwriter Steve Chizmadia's sophomore album. It's launched by the melodically strident, personal declaration that I'm Alright — 'It's all good, the future's bright.' The latter prominently features Andrew Bordeaux's fiddle. Steve exchanges his acoustic guitar for mandolin, and Andrew's fiddle further shines, on the ensuing, Cajun-flavoured Memphis Girl — a love song dedicated to: 'A Mississippi river-bed Tennessee pearl.' It's followed by the country-flavoured Nashville Star, wherein, performing with his late father's Gibson 7J, the main character pursues his dream of becoming a recording artist: 'He's going to grind that axe into stardust.' Song For Pete is a heartfelt tribute to the tall, banjo-picking, now 94 year old folk legend and Seeger patriarch, while in Rebuild This City the contention: 'raging waters rushing in, politicians, gale force winds, acts of God, corporate sins, Can't destroy this city' positively turns the spotlight on the ailing New Orleans, post-Katrina.

During the second-half of Louisiana Girl the lyric name-checks a series of state towns, while introduced by another strident guitar riff and handclaps, in the hope of rekindling an old flame, the lovelorn narrator of I'm Still Me, Are You Still You? remarks: 'Our kind of friendship never ends.' The Wall Street Fat-Cat Tax-Payer Bail-Out Blues won the grand prize in Noel Paul Stookey's 2010 Music2Life songwriting contest. Supported by a wailing harmonica, an electric guitar, and a pounding blues backbeat, it's a no-holds barred, bare-knuckle tirade. Toward the close the narrator nervously announces: 'Can't turn on the news without feeling abused,' while the guilty are pinpointed as: 'hedge fund hot shots,' 'Wall Street bulls' and 'the brokers and the bankers and the poor starving CEOs' drawing the conclusion: 'I was taught that if you gamble and you lose, You gotta take it on the chin and pay.' A hand-me-down That Old Shirt used to belong to the narrator's father— 'It's a little worn and frayed, It's true it's seen some better days.' The ballad paced album closer Find A Song suggests, nay confirms, how music 'any style will do' can lift the spirits when life's path becomes rocky.