



## TALES FROM THE ARMADILLO: VOL. I

So...you may ask, “Why Tales from the Armadillo?” Well, many years ago a very lifelike Armadillo came back with us from a visit to San Antonio, and since then, he has faithfully guarded the entrance to RyvrWud’s Mr. Moon Studios in Oregon. The Armadillo is known for its thick armor and resourcefulness, which allows it to thrive even when separated from others, and is symbolic of patience, determination, and resilience. **From this...**you might suspect that these admirable traits and the lofty symbolism may have been the inspiration for our mascot...and you would be **incorrect**. We just liked the animal and the vibe he created at the door.

**However**, upon reflection, the traits of the Armadillo do represent **RyvrWud’s journey** since we separated to Oregon and South Carolina from our old home base in Minnesota. Between the distance and Covid, we have rarely had opportunities to perform together in person. So instead, we resiliently collaborate through amazing technology across great distance to patiently and persistently create new music we can now share with **EVERYONE**.

There is no greater joy for a musician than to create something from nothing and then share it, as we do when writing, arranging, and producing a new song. We hope you enjoy *Tales From the Armadillo: Vol.1*, ... and yes, more “*Volumes*” will come soon.

Now, more about the songs ...





### ***Mann's Fate***

An old favorite instrumental blues tune written by Jorma Kaukonen and recorded by Hot Tuna in the 70's. Our arrangement, which has become a fan favorite at our live shows, takes the bones of the song and infuses them with a bit of a jazzy Latin flair.

### ***Nothing Gold* © (Gary Walbrun)**

The chorus of this song was inspired by a Robert Frost poem that evokes the transience of the present moment, and the myriad of possibilities that live within it. This song speaks to the feeling in those moments when we are faced with difficult choices, while the clock ticks in the background. *Note: The Hammond B3 performance on this song was provided by our old Full Moon keyboardist friend, Mick Zampogna.*

### ***When Love is Broken* © (Tom Riopelle)**

A breakup song surrounded in hope, about how relationships need to be carefully tended, especially through the tough times. This song feels very personal, so we chose a sparse arrangement and nylon strings guitars to emphasize the intimate nature of the lyrics. *"I need you to hold me, like you still want to care..."*

### ***Prelude to Starlight* © (Gary Walbrun)**

Occasionally, a song comes to me completely out of the blue. This is especially true when improvising in an unfamiliar tuning like Open D minor. Sometimes when the muse knocks, you open the door without a specific end in mind and let the melody lead you where it wishes to go.

All songs written, arranged, performed, and produced by RyvrWud, with the exception of Mann's Fate © written by Jorma Kaukonen.

***With very special thanks*** ...To our families, friends, fans, and the many great musicians in our lives - for all of your inspiration, love and support.