

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 32440 STEREO

# MARCUS

LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN





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# MARCUS Life's Railway to Heaven

*From East New York to the C&W bars of New Jersey...  
To the folksongs at Washington Square,  
To the record hops and the Rock-a-bill sounds  
of Tin Pan Alley. Yes... the Brill building and the bubble-gum  
Songs. Onward to the Cafes of Greenwich Village...  
Acoustic music and espresso. The prevailing protest!!  
The Folk music groups of the mid sixties.*

*The Hitch Hikers,  
The All Night Singers,  
The New Christy Minstrels...*

*To the Haight Ashbury in '67... Acid Rock... producing  
records...! "The San Francisco Sound."*

*It's A Beautiful Day,  
West Coast Natural Gas,*

*Solo album effort... A remnant of the spaced out 60's,  
On to the Visual Art world of the 70's...*

*Linear landscapes and Marin County. A one man  
Show in San Diego—another in Indianapolis,*

*Born again... Musical renewal!!*

*A subway car, a twinkling star continuing the ride,  
From the sunshine on the freeway, my 6 string by my side,  
Another day, another dream, an old familiar rhyme  
The words keep ringing in my ear,*

*Let your little light shine.*

MARCUS



For bookings write: Marcus c/o Oaksprings Productions P.O. Box 861, Fairfax, Ca. 94930

## Side One:

1. I Saw the Light 2:50 Hank Williams
2. The Great Speckled Bird 3:15 Guy Smith
3. Life's Railway to Heaven 3:00 Abbey/Tillman
- \*4. Gently Lead Me On 3:56 Marcus Uzilevsky
- \*5. Take Up Your Pallet and Walk 2:47  
Marcus Uzilevsky
6. Where the Soul Never Dies 3:53 William Golden

## Side Two:

1. The Battle of Armageddon 2:50 Acuff/McLead
2. On the Wings of a Dove 3:40 Ferguson
3. Higher Ground 2:50 Johnson Oatman/  
Charles Gabriel
4. Thank God 2:55 Fred Rose
5. Tramp on the Street 2:30 Grady & Hazel Cole  
(I Saw Him) Sarah Walton Miller
6. Gospel Ship 2:40 Traditional

\*Published by Oaksprings Workshop © 1978

## MUSICIANS

**Marcus:** Vocals, 6 and 12 string rhythm guitars, dulcimer, autoharp, lead nylon string guitar.

**Darby Slick:** Bass, drums, electric guitar on "Thank God" and lead acoustic on "Higher Ground."

**Mark Kingen:** Bass and drums.

**Dan Hayes:** Harmonica.

**Gene Mitchell:** Steel guitar, and "mandolin style" acoustic guitar.

**Mark Spoelstra:** Dobro.

Background Vocals—Mary Young & Sandy Guestella \_ recitation—Rachel Uzilevsky

Cover Photo—Gerald French

Engineer & Musical advisor—Darby Slick

Produced by—Marcus Uzilevsky

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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## MARCUS / LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN

From East New York to the C+U. Gars of New Jersey...  
To the folk songs at Washington Square,  
To the record hops and the Rock-a-billy sounds  
of Tin Pan Alley. Yes... the Brill building and the bubble gum  
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From the sunshine on the freeway, my 6 string by my  
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Let your little light shine.

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Hank Williams wrote several Gospel songs. "When God Comes And Gathers  
His Jewels," "How Can You Refuse Him Now" and "House Of Gold" to name  
a few. One of his best is "I SAW THE LIGHT."

### I SAW THE LIGHT by Hank Williams

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin  
I wouldn't let my dear savior in  
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
Praise the lord, I SAW THE LIGHT

Chorus:

I SAW THE LIGHT, I SAW THE LIGHT, no more darkness no more night  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I SAW THE LIGHT

Just like a blind man I wandered alone,  
Worries and cares I claimed for my own,  
Just like the blind man that God gave back his sight,  
Praise the Lord, I SAW THE LIGHT.

I was a fool to wander and stray,  
Straight is the gate, narrow the way  
Now I have traded wrong for the right  
Praise the Lord, I SAW THE LIGHT.

My guitar playing Buddy, Gene Mitchell played a Roy Acuff record of  
"The Great Speckled Bird" for me back in 1957 and the lyrics immediately  
caught my attention and continue to intrigue me to this day.

Acuff learned the song from Charlie Swain while they performed on  
the same radio station in Knoxville Tennessee. This song was a big hit  
for Roy in 1937.

The melody is old traditional English and very similar to other tunes  
such as "I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes." The lyrics were written by  
Reverend Guy Smith and additional verses were latter written by  
Acuff.



The "Great Speckled Bird" is a beautiful poetic symbol of the Church persevering through the criticism of its despisers while awaiting the second coming of Christ.

### THE GREAT SPECKLED BIRD

by Guy Smith 1936

What a beautiful thought I am thinking  
concerning THE GREAT SPECKLED BIRD  
Remember her name is recorded  
On the pages of God's holy word.

Desiring to lower her standards  
They watch every move that she makes  
For they long to find fault with her teachings  
But really they find no mistake.

I am glad I have learned of her meekness  
I am proud that my name is in her book  
For I want to be one never fearing  
The face of my savior to look.

In the presence of all her despisers, with a word never uttered before  
She will rise and be gone in a moment  
Til the great tribulation is o'er

When Christ comes descending from heaven  
On the cloud as He said in His word  
I'll be joyfully carried to meet Him  
On the wings of THE GREAT SPECKLED BIRD

I first heard this song in New York City in 1957 by a guitar playing friend, Rocky Marro. He so identified with the words of the song that he gave the impression he wrote it. I later found out it was written in 1921 by M.E. Abbey and Charlie Tillman and was respectfully dedicated to the railroad men. I didn't begin singing it myself until 1973 when I came across it again in an old Hymnal I found at a garage sale in San Francisco.

### LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN

by M.E. Abbey & Charlie D. Tillman  
1921

Life is like a mountain railroad, with an engineer so brave,  
We must make the run successful, from the cradle to the grave,  
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels, never falter, never fail,  
Keep your hand upon the throttle and your eye upon the rail.

Blessed Savior Thou wilt guide us, 'til we reach that blissful shore,  
Where the angels wait to join us, in Thy praise forevermore.

You will roll up grades of trial, you will cross the bridge of strife,  
Make sure that Christ is your conductor on this lightning  
train of life,

Always mindful of obstruction, do your duty never fail,  
Keep your hand upon the throttle and your eye upon the rail.

Blessed Savior Thou wilt guide us, 'til we reach that blissful shore,  
Where the angels wait to join us, in Thy praise forevermore.

As you roll across the trestle, spanning Jordan's swelling tide,  
You behold the Union depot, into which your train will glide,  
There you'll meet the Superintendent, God the Father, God the Son,  
With a hearty joyous plaudit, weary pilgrim welcome home.

Blessed Savior Thou wilt guide us 'til we reach that blissful shore  
Where the angels wait to join us in Thy praise forevermore.

I've always identified with the concept of being a sojourner, a pilgrim or a stranger in a strange land. My alienation has been diminished as I now realize I'm no longer a lone sojourner but a fellow citizen with the saints of God's household.

This is a song I wrote recently to a traditional country melody and I hope it integrates with the classic old country Gospel songs it stands alongside of in this collection.

### GENTLY LEAD ME ON

by Marcus Uzilevsky ©1978

I've walked a road unwinding down the corridors of time  
A pilgrim and a stranger yet not alone  
The tears and laughter echo through the canyons of my mind  
Oh my precious Savior, GENTLY LEAD ME ON



My teardrops bear the gift you give, which is my guiding light  
Whenever I am weak you are strong  
You've shared my mourning and my sorrow through the  
darkest night

O my precious Savior, GENTLY LEAD ME ON

Take my hand and lead me through the fragrant morning dew  
Through peaceful gardens and the raging storm  
As I wander in my footsteps let me follow after you,  
O my precious Savior, GENTLY LEAD ME ON.

*I wrote this one just after the concept of doing this album occurred to me.  
It kind of all came at once and immediately felt comfortable to me...  
as if I'd been singing it for years.*

### TAKE UP YOUR PALLET AND WALK

by Marcus Uzilevsky © 1978

Take up your pallet and walk my friend,  
TAKE UP YOUR PALLET AND WALK,  
To the man at the pool of Bethesda He said,  
TAKE UP YOUR PALLET AND WALK

Open your eyes and see my friend, open your eyes and see  
I'm the Man from Gallilee and I've come to set you free  
Open your eyes and see.

I am the light of the world my friend,  
I am the light of the world,  
No one comes to know the Father but by me,  
I am the light of the world.

I am the bread of Life my friend,  
I am the bread of life,  
He who partakes of this bread shall never die,  
I am the bread of life.

I am the lamb that was slain my friend,  
I am the lamb that was slain,  
There at Calvary I cast out the enemy,  
I am the lamb that was slain

I am the water of life my friend  
I am the water of life my  
He who drinks this water will never thirst again  
I am the water of life

*I heard a recording of a radio broadcast where Hank and Audrey Williams sang a duet version of this song. I really enjoy the harmony counterpoint of this tune. When I decided to record it I got out my old Appalachian style dulcimer and played it by bouncing a small paint brush lightly on the strings. This causes the note to repeat itself several times in rapid succession and produces a tremelo effect.*

### WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES

by William Golden 1914

To Canaan land I'm on my way, Where the soul never dies  
My darkest night will turn to day, where the soul never dies

chorus:

{ No sad farewells no tear dimmed eyes,  
Where all is love and the soul (of man) never dies.

A rose is blooming there for me, where the soul never dies  
And I will spend eternity, where the soul never dies

A love light beams across the foam, where the soul never dies,  
It shines to light the shores of home, where the soul never dies.

My life will end in deathless sleep, Where the soul never dies,  
And everlasting joys I'll reap, where the soul never dies.

I'm on my way to that fair land, Where the soul never dies  
Where there will be no parting hand, and the soul never dies

chorus:

{ Dear friends there'll be no sad farewells,  
There'll be no tear dimmed eyes,  
Where all is peace and joy and love,  
And the soul of man never dies.



When I was a teenager singing and playing my guitar along with a Hank Williams 78 record of "The Battle of Armageddon" I could hear my father singing along in the other room. He was quite familiar with the Bible and enjoyed the lyrics of this apocalyptic subject.

This song has a power in its sermon-like cadence as it describes this final of all battles.

### THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

by Acuff/McLeod

There's a mighty battle coming and it's well now on its way,  
It'll be fought at Armageddon, It'll be a sad sad day.  
In the book of Revelation, words in chapter sixteen say,  
There'll be gathered their great armies for the battle on that day.

chorus:

All the way from the gates of eden  
to the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON  
There's been trials and tribulation  
There'll be sorrow and despair  
He has said, "Be ye not troubled these things shall come to pass,"  
And your life will be eternal when you dwell with Him at last.

Turn the pages of your bible, Saint Matthew you will see  
Start with chapter twenty four, read from one to thirty three.  
In our savior's blessed word, on earth He prophesied,  
He spoke of this great battle that's coming by and by.

There'll be nation against nation, there'll be war and rumors of

war,  
There'll be great signs in heaven, in the sun, the moon, the stars,  
The hearts of men shall fail them, there'll be knocking of  
the teeth

Those who seek it will receive it, mercy at the savior's  
feet.

I heard this on the radio. It was a big hit in the pop field  
for country singer Ferlin Huskey in the late 50's.

### ON THE WINGS OF A DOVE

by Joe Ferguson

Noah he drifted on the sea many days  
He searched for land in various ways  
Troubles he had some, but he wasn't forgotten  
He sent down His love ON THE WINGS OF A DOVE

On the wings of a snow white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
a sign from above, ON THE WINGS OF A DOVE

When troubles beset us, when evils come  
the body grows weak and the spirit grows numb  
When these things beset us, He doesn't forget us  
He sends down His love, on the WINGS OF A DOVE

On the wings of a snow white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above, on the WINGS OF A DOVE

When Jesus went down to the river to pray,  
He was baptized by John, in the Jordan that day  
When these things were done, God blessed His Son  
He sent down His love, on the WINGS OF A DOVE

I learned this one from a Sarah Carter record.

### HIGHER GROUND

by Johnson Oatman & Charles Gabriel

I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day,  
I'm praying as I'm onward bound  
Lord plant my feet on HIGHER GROUND.

chorus:

Lord lift me up and let me stand,  
By faith on heaven's table land,  
A higher plane than I have found,  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay,  
Tho some may dwell where these abound,  
My prayer, my aim, is HIGHER GROUND.

chorus:

I want to scale the utmost height,  
And catch a gleam of glory bright,  
And I will pray 'til heaven I've found,  
Lord lead me on to HIGHER GROUND.



Another one I learned from Hank.

## THANK GOD

by Fred Rose

There's a road that's straight and narrow, the saints have traveled  
down,  
Paved with all the tribulations, of the martyrs that have gone,  
If you're grateful for their victory, for showing you the way,  
Give thanks for all your blessings, get on your knees and pray.

Thank God, for every flower and each tree,  
Thank God, for all the mountains and the sea,  
Thank God, for giving life to you and me,  
Wherever you may be, THANK GOD.

In this world of grief and sorrow, of selfishness and greed,  
There remains a glory fountain to supply our every need,  
You can find it in the temple with the welcome at the door,  
Be sure to count your blessings before you ask for more.

Be forgiving to the wayward, like the Master told us to,  
When He said, forgive them Father, they know not what they do,  
They will change their way of living if they could but  
understand,  
Remember their your brothers, they need a helping hand.

THANK GOD, for every flower and each tree,  
THANK GOD, for all the mountains and the sea,  
THANK GOD, for giving life to you and me,  
Wherever you may be, THANK GOD.

One evening our friend Mary Young was over at our house and we were singing "Tramp On The Street" when I got the idea that my wife Rachel recite her part from a Church play she was in a year ago, where she played the streets of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Mary and Rachel perform with me on the recording and I believe the song and recitation really enhance each other.

## TRAMP ON THE STREET

by Grady & Hazel Cole 1940

recitation is an excerpt from

"I Saw Him" a play by  
Sarah Walton Miller

Jesus He died on Calvary's tree  
Shed His life's blood for you and for me  
They pierced His side, His hands and His feet  
And they left Him to die like A TRAMP ON THE STREET

recitation:

O Jerusalem! Occupied city of David...

I am your streets, ancient, dirty.

Yes, I had seen Him now and then through the brief years.

I had felt the feet that followed Him... and jostled Him...

and surrounded Him

On that last, dreadful night, I felt all the feet... especially His...  
the feet of a suffering God.

I felt the dragging end of that heavy Roman cross.

I felt the blanketing press of His body, when He fell exhausted.

Some of my dust clung to Him to the very end...

Some of His blood fell upon me and mingled with my dust  
and became one with me... to the end of time.

He was Mary's own darling

He was Mary's own son

Once He was fair and once He was young

Mary she rocked Him, her little darling to sleep

And they left Him to die like a TRAMP ON THE STREET.



The Carter Family and The Monroe Brothers recorded "Gospel Ship" in 1936 and 1937. I don't know where I learned it... seems like I've always known it.

## GOSPEL SHIP

Traditional

Gonna take a trip on the old Gospel Ship  
Goin' far beyond the sky  
I'm gonna shout and sing, until the bells done ring  
When I bid this world goodbye

I have good news to bring, that is why I sing  
My joy with you I'll share  
I'm gonna take a trip on the old Gospel ship  
And go sailing through the air.

I can hardly wait, I know I won't be late,  
My time I'll spend in prayer,  
And when the ship comes in, I'll leave this world of sin,  
And go sailing through the air.

Gonna take a trip on the old GOSPEL SHIP,  
Goin' far beyond the sky,  
I'm gonna shout and sing, until the bells done ring,  
When I bid this world goodbye.

If you're ashamed of me, you ought not to be,  
And you'd better have a care,  
If too much fault you find, you'll sure be left behind,  
When I'm sailin' through the air.

## SIDE ONE:

- ① I SAW THE LIGHT 2:50 Hank Williams
- ② THE GREAT SPECKLED BIRD 3:15 Guy Smith
- ③ LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN 3:00 Abbey/Tillman
- \* ④ GENTLY LEAD ME ON 3:56 Marcus Uzilevsky
- \* ⑤ TAKE UP YOUR PALLET AND WALK 2:47 Marcus Uzilevsky
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## SIDE TWO:

- ① THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON 2:50 Acuff/McLeod
- ② ON THE WINGS OF A DOVE 3:40 Ferguson
- ③ HIGHER GROUND 2:50 Johnson Catman/Charles Gabriel
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(I SAW HIM) Sarah Walton Miller
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MUSICIANS — MARCUS: Vocals, 6 and 12 string rhythm guitars, dulcimer, autoharp, lead nylon string guitar.

DARBY SLICK: Bass, drums, electric guitar on "Thank God" and lead acoustic on "Higher Ground."

MARK KINGEN: Bass and drums.

DAN HAYES: Harmonica.

GENE MITCHELL: Steel guitar, and "mandolin style" acoustic guitar.

MARK SPOELSTRA: Dobro.

Background Vocals — MARY YOUNG & SANDY GUESTELLA  
recitation — RACHEL UZILEVSKY

Cover Photo — GERALD FRENCH

Engineer & Musical advisor — DARBY SLICK. Recorded on Teac 80-8, eight track

Produced by — MARCUS UZILEVSKY

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