



A Treasure in Jeopardy

In late summer 1985, I had the opportunity to travel into the virgin rainforests of the Amazon River Basin of Brazil, South America. The Kuja Sni Research Group, Inc. (KSRG), an environmentally conscious, non-profit organization, sponsored the expedition.



interaction that leaves ecosystems in tact after this inevitable penetration.

Why the Amazon? The Amazon River Basin is the earth's proverbial melting pot of natural resources: plant, animal and mineral. Few countries possess the natural abundance and beauty of Brazil. This fragile environment, however, is constantly under duress due to external pressures on land development, use and resource extraction.

The term *deforestation* refers to the clearing of large tracts of forest for timber export, farming, and to create access to mineral excavation. A majority of its by-products, however, are exported to developed countries, with little regard for replenishment locally, if at all. Should an ecosystem like the Amazon River Basin collapse by not being able to recuperate, the global repercussions, both economic and ecological, would be far-reaching.



Briefly, *Kuja Sni* is a Lakota Sioux Indian word meaning *never sick or perpetual health*. If mankind's interaction with its environment is necessary and inevitable, then the KSRG's mission was to promote harmonious

But first, a look back...

In the 1980s, and to support both an agrarian economy while redistributing its wealth to jobless / homeless urban dwellers, the Brazilian government offered large tracts of land in heavily forested regions of the country for ownership, to those willing to colonize these new areas. This plan catalyzed the mass exodus of thousands of unprepared urbanites into unexplored territories, to lay claim to land and the fruits of its country. What they encountered was soil unsuitable for domesticated crops; little or no government supervision; no internal infrastructure of roads, communities and marketplace; and above all, violence from wealthy land owners fighting to eradicate squatters from what they deemed their land, not that of Brazil and its government. Perhaps most affected were the indigenous tribes of Indians who made the forest its home.

What this meant to the rainforest was irreversible devastation.

So why should we care? The more tropical the climate, the more diverse its plant and animal life; simply termed, *biodiversity*. Conservative estimates suggest that more than 70% of all plant and animal species reside in the tropics. Botanists and zoologists claim that perhaps only half of those have been discovered and documented to date. A majority of Western medicines utilize derivatives from tropical plants. Perhaps in these forested regions is a plant with a derivative to help cure cancers, AIDS, or any number of diseases; scientists just don't know. What they do know is that at the current rate of clear-cutting and/or burning, tropical forests could be eradicated completely in the 21st century.



Further, analysts cited in *Scientific American* speculate that global carbon emission from rainforest areas is more than the world's sum total of cars and trucks! If you recall from your early days in science class, we breathe oxygen and emit carbon dioxide, whereas trees perform the opposite function. It's a symbiotic relationship that is jeopardized when an abundance of trees cannot absorb and filter its share of carbon emissions, whether produced by machines or human means.

Fast-forward to today, for not all is lost.

Since the mid-80s, Brazil has led the way in ecologically sustainable best practices. In fact, they lead all of the coffee-producing countries in terms of technology deployed, efficiency of production and sustainability of farm areas. The Brazilian government continues its charge to impose the preservation of a portion of all land used in farming; protects waterways to ensure clean drinking water; and now has stringent labor laws to protect the rights of laborers, including requirements for medical, dental and housing. Schools within forested regions are also required to educate students on sound sustainability practices, even providing gardens for them to manage a harvest-to-market activity.



Globally, governments are working together to curb carbon emissions and its warming effect (*the Kyoto Protocol*), while fostering development of less resource-intensive, alternative energies. World automobile manufacturers race to bring hybrid technology to the consumer forefront. More work forces now operate remotely via the

Internet, further reducing the need to commute, and more efficient markets online are replacing large shopping complexes, and its impact on the carbon footprint.

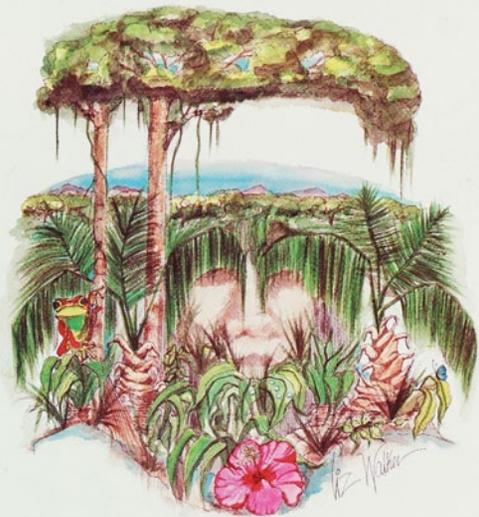
Here in the States, there are hundreds of organizations involved to steward activities to protect wildlife, habitat and biodiversity abroad, including the *Rainforest Alliance*, the *Earth Day Network* and *Environmental Defense Fund*, to name a few. If you cannot support via your time, many are set up for donations to help fuel their respective causes. Many large corporations are also producing its product with ingredients / materials sourced from farms practicing sustainable techniques. For instance, *Caribou Coffee* sources 100% of its beans from *Rainforest Alliance Certified* plantations, while *Ben & Jerry's* uses *Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)* certified paperboard for all of its U.S. pint ice cream containers. Buying such product let's your dollar vote for conservation. Finally, several federal agencies recently created and introduced the *Next Generation Science Standards*, in hopes of making climate literacy a part of every school's curriculum. Educating future generations is an integral part to fostering real change.

Echoes Within The Forest was created to first entertain and then hopefully educate an influential audience of American consumers about a global concern occurring outside our immediate backyards, but inadvertently affecting us all. If music is indeed the international language, then perhaps music can let a voice be heard, and a message be delivered.

- Kevin Schrandt



Kevin currently resides in Portland, Oregon – USA, with his wife and two kids. He is the co-founder of a digital marketing agency, intent on converting business practice and its operations online, and to reduce the use of printed mediums.



ECHOES WITHIN THE FOREST

KEVIN SCHRANDT

Echoes Within The Forest is...

1	So Won't You Come To Rio?	2:50
2	To The Waves	4:29
3	Ominous Day	3:44
4	Flight Of The Peregrine	3:18
5	Keepers Of The Forest	3:42
6	Cry For The Hunted	3:45
7	Amazon	1:52
8	The Calm Before The Storm	2:43
9	Big River	4:11
10	The Sands Of Copacabana	2:41
11	It Changes By The Day	5:15
12	(Reprise) Ominous Day	1:30





So Won't You Come To Rio?

*There is a place in the south of Brazil
Where winds blow warm and the weather's fine
Even in the dead of winter
You can be where the sun does shine*

*They call this place – Rio de Janiero
No other place is finer in the land
So take some time and enjoy the moment
And brush your feet through the sand*

Chorus:

*So won't you come to Rio?
So much to see – oh!
A walk on the beach
Where the sky is in reach
And bikinis are out of this world*

*In Rio
So wild and free – oh!
Well you can find me there
Without any care
Down the Rio-way*

*I met a street man named Antonio
He said anything would be his command
All I do is give him \$20
And with a smile he held out his hand – hey!*

*I met a girl from Ipanema
She told me of the Rio-way
You can drink until the morning
And sleep on the beach in the day*

Chorus

Cha – cha – cha!

To The Waves

*Look at all the people with their lives in the street
But can you really blame them all for draggin' their feet?
And can you hear their voices as you sit from your seat?
Listen to the waves*

*Everyday our policies get twisted around
But then again our ideas may not be very sound
And can you hear their voices as we're greasin' their palms?
Listen to the waves – crashin' down*

*I met a man who knew the earth as mother
Nothing could be simpler than his ways
But now the earth would not support him water
He packs his family and moves to greener fields*

*This fortress hopes to draw power from this river
To enter into this world's modern age
But all it's brought is thousands to its borders
The land of promise and pain begins to weep*

*And all the people who used to be city-bound
Are coming quicker than water from a tap
And all the land now is theirs to be newly found
So grab a piece and a claim before she's gone*



Ominous Day

*Ominous day
What can I expect from you?*

*Ominous day
Won't you change your skies to blue?*

*I know this may sound funny
But I've got a lot to do*

*Ominous day
What can I expect from you?*





Flight Of The Pergrine
(instrumental)



Keepers Of The Forest

*I never really thought that it would come to this
To sing the plight of nature's people
Can we say it's ignorance or is it bliss?
And do we realize what we're losing?*

Chorus:

*Taught by ancestors who journeyed through the past
Keepers of the forest were made to make it last*

*And everywhere you turn their land's been cleared away
It's turning dollars for the white man
Another hundred miles has their spirit paved
We'll keep their small voice in submission*

Chorus

Cry For The Hunted

*Stand up and see all the wild down the river of doubt
The fragrance of life is drifting through the trees
Who will save our mother earth?
Before we strip her of all she's worth?
Are we strangling the heart of the unknown?*

*A forest is never what it appears to be
There's so little of it we know
Our knowledge of it can only grow
Are we strangling the heart of the unknown?*

*So just don't stand there
Your fist up in the air
Turn your anger into action
Learn wisdom from despair
All you thousands
Your hearts all beat as one
Your voice cannot be silenced
The fighting has begun*

*It's up to you now and never too soon
To turn and face the day
We can ill-afford to
Waste it all away
So just remember
Right here – today
There's too much in the fire
For the coals to come to rest*

*Cry for the hunted
The need is most alarming now
Join the preachers of the race
Their whispers' turned to roar
Rise for the countdown
It's up to every one of us
For when you let your voice be heard
The hunters will be gone*

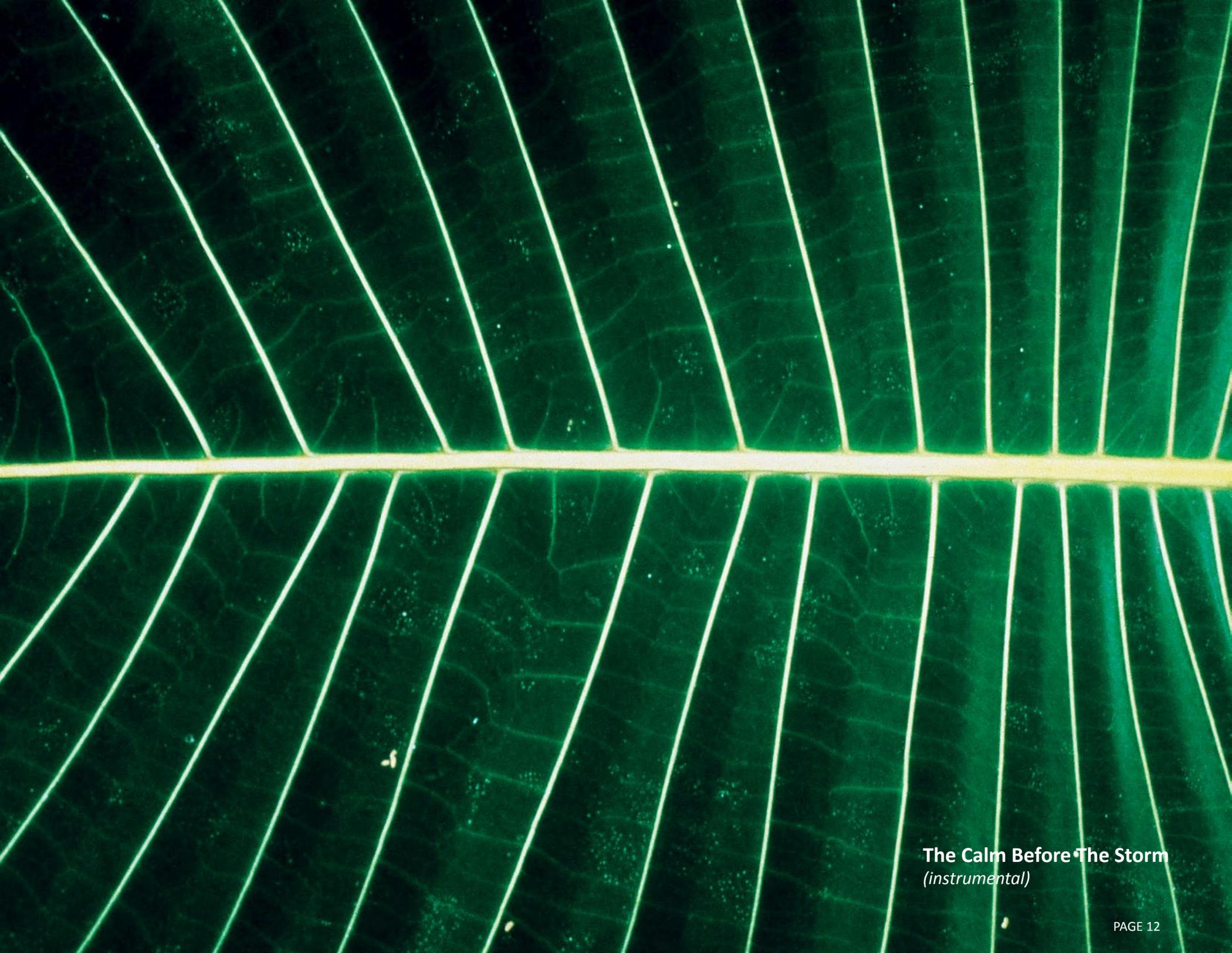


Amazon

*Does anybody out there really hear – at all?
Or is my silent beckoning in vain – or just a call?
And these feelings in me won't subside
For the river is deep and wide
Like a canyon amidst the plains
Heaven on earth
Amazon*

*Just try arranging flowers in a field – they're wild
Don't try to capture something so untame – like a child
We've been deluding fiction from the facts
The things we're given must stay in tact
Like the water flowing endless-free
It's meant to be
Amazon*





The Calm Before The Storm
(instrumental)

Big River

*Big River – here so long
Your waters flowin' into every dawn
Chugga, chugga, engine runnin'*

*Big River – you're my home
From your banks I'll never roam
Chugga, chugga, engine runnin'*

*Big River – to Belem
Movin' down your waterways
Chugga, chugga, engine runnin'*

*Big River – can't you see?
What your bounty has done for me
Chugga, chugga, engine runnin'*

Chorus:

*Big River – Take me to my home
Where will your waters flow?
How can one ever guess your age?
When you've been here for so long*

*Big River – take my soul now
Lay me down on your muddy shores
Chugga, chugga, engine runnin'*

*Big River – 'til I die
You have taught me all the ways to cry
When they take me
Lay me down
This river gonna be my final ground
Chugga, chugga, engine runnin'*

Chorus





The Sands Of Copacabana
(instrumental - traditional)

It Changes By The Day

*I wait in darkness for another day
(The sun's)**

*Risin' as I look beyond the haze
The light pillars through the green maze
And then I ask, 'Will the trees be here?'
(Or gone?)*

*It's something that's been wandering through my mind
And the answer's gettin' harder to find
(Answer's hard to find)*

*I look and see miles of horizon go to waste
Everyday*

*And now I'm sure as leaves blow in the wind
(We must begin)*

*To look at the beauty of it al
And let the summer see another warm fall
(Blind to see – is what we need)*

*Their reasons are confusing me
But losin' all the trees is plain to see
I've been lookin' forward to this day
(But soon it could be gone)*

*And if you ask a man of the land
What will he say?*

Chorus:

*It changes by the day
It changes by the day*

*And I can hear the voice of those
(Who say it doesn't matter as their wallet's gettin' fatter)*

*I think it's what we'd all like to see
For the blind to stop leadin' the blind
(Blind to see – is what we need)*

*[spoken] 'Cause the trees are the life of the air that we breath
(So full of life – so full of life)*

*So full of life
(Blind to see – is what we need)*

*And if you ask a man of the land
What can he say?*

Chorus

**(denotes harmonies)*



Players

Jock Bartley – slide guitar : track 4
John Baude – keyboards : tracks 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6
Mark Bosnian – backing vocals : track 9
Towner Galaher – drums : tracks 9, 10 & 11
Paul Kaaren – drums & percussion : tracks 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6
Kip Kuepper – bass : tracks 1, 2, 5 & 6
Terry Robb – slide guitar : track 9
Eric Robnett – percussion : tracks 1 & 3
Brian Rose – keyboards : tracks 7, 8, 10 & 11
Scotty Wardinsky – percussion : tracks 8 & 10
Tom Wasinger – electric guitar solo : tracks 2 & 5
Danny Wilson – bass : tracks 9, 10 & 11
Nancy Wilson – vocals : track 4
Kevin Schrandt – electric & acoustic guitars, piano, keyboards & vocals

Recording Engineers

Kip Kuepper & Ed Kaufman at Coupe Studios, Boulder, CO: tracks 1 thru 6; 12
Hal Lee & Rick McMillan at Cascade Recording, Portland, OR: tracks 7 thru 11
Mastered at Nimbus Records, Los Angeles, CA

Additional Credits

CD cover artwork by Liz Walker Productions, Denver, CO

CD booklet design by Shannon Kaiser at playwiththeworld.com, Portland, OR

All sound effects recorded on location throughout the Amazon River basin in Brazil, South America from August to October 1985, utilizing a SONY Walkman PRO recorder and Audio Technica shotgun microphones

All photographs shot on location in Brazil by Kevin Schrandt; Kevin Schrandt images shot by Robert Heinzman

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All compositions written, arranged and produced by Kevin Schrandt

Kevin Schrandt is a writer affiliate of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)

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