

The Story Behind Chris' New Single – 'Fire'

'Fire' is the heart felt new, soon-to-be-released single on May 8th 2020 in tribute to Tony Eke of the Blackhill Pioneers (BHP) who died last year. Originally, a collaboration between Tony and fellow singer/songwriter Simon Dawes, 'Fire' has been re-created by Chris McConville, Drummer of the BHPs and recently mixed and mastered by Bjorgvin Benediktsson of Audio Issues. Each aspect of this song is performed by Chris and was recorded in his home studio in London.

Read on for the full story...

It is interesting how timings in life can work out. Chris had been following Bjorgvin Benediktsson for the past few years, learning how to improve his home studio recordings through Bjorgvin's tips, so when Bjorgvin announced that he was looking for songs to mix, Chris jumped on the chance to put 'Fire' up for consideration. A rough mix was sent out and the rest is history.

Background of the Song...

Chris and the bassist of BHPs (Ben Frost), used to travel from London to the bands studio in Essex for rehearsals and recording sessions. In the caffeine fueled conversations of their journeys, Chris talked about how much he loved this song and could see it's potential as dance floor filler at all night disco's and festivals.

'Fire' took on further meaning to Chris when sadly, band member Tony Eke died in 2019 after a short battle with cancer. The band was unable to complete 'Fire' before Tony's death.

This re-do of 'Fire' originated when Chris picked up the guitar in the immediate aftermath of learning about Tony; and as part of the grieving process, he began to work on it in his studio. Soon, completing 'Fire' became a conscious decision and drive.

Chris of course had Simon's 'go ahead' to work on the song and found inspiration when Simon shared about how he and Tony originally developed it: "Tony had the verse and I wrote the chorus melody as well as the middle 8. That's how Tony and I used to do it, he always had a verse and I found a chorus". Tony often hummed the baseline to 'Fire' and the bass melody has stayed true to these hums. The song deviates towards the end, as Chris was pleased to develop this section into a climatic outro chorus, which differs from the original. This new ending came into being from improvising on early vocal takes, trying to find something different, and feeling that this section had potential.

Throughout the process, the objective had always been to make a recording that represented the originality of the song. It is a dream come true to hear this final outcome ~ a fitting tribute to Tony who too died young and who's talents and lovely soft English tones we lost too soon.