



STEVE VAI  
WITHOUT  
ME





## VaiTunes

It's not uncommon for a musician to record more work than they release. In my case I have a digital ocean of snippets in various degrees of completion. Some are leftovers from assorted project recording sessions, projects that were never completed, sound check jams, demo snippets, etc.

There are enough lonely unreleased notes in my world to fill an "infinity shelf." VaiTunes are tracks that are culled from this melodic abyss, brushed off, sometimes severely hosed down, and released as digital singles.

These tracks may be specific to a particular project that has never had the chance to be a completed big picture, but now, with the advent of all this digital technology and distribution, it's possible to release a variety of tracks from a potential project without having to complete the whole project itself. Eventually, if there is enough tracks completed that fall into a precise endeavor, perhaps they will be compiled and released as a cohesive CD. In any event, it's a good way to release a constant stream of music.

Although the plan is to continue to create whole, full-bodied CD releases, VaiTunes can serve as temporary pacifiers for some delectable melodies to be sucked through the ears and absorbed into the soul.



## Statistical Info.

Steve Vai  
Without Me (5:00)  
Written by Steve Vai  
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Produced, recorded, and engineered by Steve Vai

Tracked in 1998 at The Mothership, Hollywood, CA

Overdubs at the Mothership (Hollywood, CA) and the Harmony Hut (Encino, CA)

Additional engineering by Neil Citron and Greg Wurth

### **Musicians:**

Steve Vai	Guitar
Mike Keneally	Keyboards
Philip Bynoe	Bass
Mike Mangini	Drums

**Guitar Tech:** Thomas Nordegg

Mastered by Steve Vai at Stereo Laundry Mastering Lab

Written by Steve Vai. © SyVy Music (ASCAP)

## Song Juice

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This track was spontaneously born at a soundcheck sometime in the mid 1990's. The basic gist of the melody and chord changes were captured and put on the shelf. Sometime later when I was pulling potential tracks together for the Fire Garden album I came across this melody.

In listening to the disheveled and damaged recording, I heard in the melody a sort of longing. A vision of my wife Pia came to me. She was very sad, yet wore a sliver of a bittersweet smile. She was sitting on our favorite couch in the “dangerous nook” off our bedroom. (We call it that because once you let the room embrace you, it's difficult to leave it.)

I had left the world and she was left to put the pieces back together. The melody of this song is what she was feeling.

The track was recorded during the demo sessions for the Fire Garden album and put on the shelf again. A few years later I was asked for a track that would be part of a compilation called “Musicians for Minneapolis Benefit”. It was for the survivors of the I-35 Bridge Disaster in Minneapolis. I was happy to find this song, brush it off, and donate it to the record. Recently, when I decided to start releasing VaiTunes, the track was remixed and re-mastered in January 2010. It is now available as a VaiTunes release.

Since it was originally a studio demo I believe the guitar track is one take. It's interesting to hear how I played back then—my choice of notes, intonation, vibrato, etc. It's fascinating to listen to older musical sensibilities and see what was important at the time.

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## Gear

### **Guitar used:**


Evo (Ibanez Jem)

### **Amp set up:**

From the guitar into a Bad Horise Wha, into a Boss DS distortion pedal, into the front of a Bogner head.

The send from the back of the Bogner was set into a TC Electronics G Force and a bit of stereo delay was used. The stereo return from the delay was sent back to the return of two Bogner heads.

(2) 4x12 cabs with 30 watt celestions were used.



## Academics

Management: Ruta Sepetys for SEG, Inc. - [www.sepetys.com](http://www.sepetys.com)

Label: Light Without Heat, Inc.

Booking: Brian Greenbaum & Chris Dalston at CAA

Production Management: Pamela Dancy & Lindsey Hess

PDF Design: Blake Haley

Photo: iStock Photo

Vai.com: Michael Mesker

Legal: Gerald F . Rosenblatt, Law Offices of Gerald F . Rosenblatt; Chris Corabi, Law Offices of Chris Corabi.

Financial Management: Staci Robley & Margaret Robley at R&R Business Management

Steve used: Ibanez Jem Guitars; Bogner Amps; Morley Bad

Horsie Wah & Little Alligator Volume Pedals;

DiMarzio Evolution Pickups.

Visit [www.vai.com](http://www.vai.com)

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