

Bernd's Lyrics

2021-2022

As the title suggests here I present new and re-written lyrics that I wrote 2021/2022. My full lyrics collection now would consist of three parts: "20 years - Lyrics by Bernd Harmsen since 1999", "Bernd's lyrics 2019-2020", and this publication.

With regard to copyright or licensing issues there are basically two variants if you set my lyrics to music (yes, I've said this before):

hobby use (this includes publishing your songs on the internet for free):

- just go for it (crediting me as the lyricist)

making money (this includes performing songs publicly, even if it's not you who is making the money):

- register the songs with your performing rights organization (or let me handle this if you are not affiliated with a PRO) and hand in the set list after the performances.

The usage of my lyrics is non-exclusive so you need not worry if you come across songs using the very same lyrics that you picked. This also applies to my own songs.

My working method varies depending on three different approaches:

When I write lyrics - i.e. texts that are meant to be used in songs, and therefore have a certain structure- just for the fun of it I may have tunes in my mind while writing, but the ideas and words that come to mind actually define content, meter, and rhyme scheme. Often, I begin with a verse (a scene, a story, an image...).

When I write lyrics for others like MotorPlanet or Erjan Nurhassen I have to match my words with the tune (the vocal line) of their songs. Normally, I begin with writing the chorus because that is the outstanding part of the song.

When I write for myself as "Rock Bernd" I use a backing track that I produced first. The lyrics here sort of "fill the gaps" (the space that the backing track leaves for verses, lifts, choruses, or bridges). This is the same approach the pop industry uses, where it is called topline writing (writing lyrics and inventing tunes on top of a 'beat').

I indicate the lyrics or versions that are actually used in published songs, including my own, so you can check them out, maybe to explore the differences the three different approaches induce. By the way, my other alter ego, "Folk Bernd", works "lyrics first", as in "Cassandra".

Bernd Harmsen
Bad Pyrmont (Germany), December 2022

alone in space and time (for Rock Bernd)

it's been so long
that I watched your smiling face
so long
that we were alone in space
and time

it's been so cold
since the day when you had gone
so cold
since when I'd been the only one
for you

it's been so hard
for me to accept the truth
so hard
since I lost my trust in you
and love

it's been so long
that I watched your smiling face
so long
that we were alone in space
and time

back to zero

she walked out on me
'cause she had found me out
it was to be expected
I'd acted carelessly
for crying out loud
I'd long since been suspected

they gave me the sack
'cause of my absence rate
it was to be expected
I'd acted carelessly
so as of today
I'm jobless and dejected

back to zero
restart at square one
back to zero
oh, what had I done
back to zero

the flood took my home
the house was laid to waste
it was to be expected
I'd acted carelessly
unpaid insurance rates -
so my claim was rejected

back to zero
restart at square one
back to zero
oh, what had I done
back to zero

I may be back to zero
but I'm not where I've begun
I'm standing in the shadow
but I can see the sun
I may have lost quite often
but much still can be won

back to zero
restart at square one
back to zero
but much still can be won
back to zero

bad girl (for Rock Bernd)

you led me up the garden path
but couldn't break my heart
so glad that I've got rid of you
I've got better things to do
better without you

bad girl
piss off

you've made my life a mess
you've been a pain in the ass
believe me, we are through
sure hope I've seen the last of you
just stay away from me

bad girl
piss off

Oh, how dare you
Oh, how could you
Oh, why did you
go

bad girl
come back

become who you are (for Rock Bernd)

watch out what you're wishing for
you hear what the people say
you might not like all wishes coming true

watch out when you speak out loud
watch out who you're talking to
sometime what you say will fall back on you

know what you want
know where you stand
become who you are
know where you come from
know where you will go
become who you are

watch out who you call your friend
watch out who you antagonize
watch out who you need and who needs you

know what you want
know where you stand
become who you are
know where you come from
know where you will go
become who you are

Cassandra (for Folk Bernd)

Apollo fell in love with you
and to win you over
endowed you with your special gift,
the art of prophesy

he got enraged when you refused
and cursed you that in future
you always would be disbelieved
in spite of what you'd see

such bitter fate to see the truth
when no-one will believe you
be it the curse or just your youth
your gift quite without use

you see the future clear as day
everything that's coming
the downfall of your native land
yet nothing you could do

maybe someday you'll find a way
someone to do the drumming
communicate what is at hand
and get the message through

such bitter fate to see the truth
when no-one will believe you
be it the curse or just your youth
your gift quite without use

such bitter fate to see the truth
when no-one will believe you
be it the curse or just your youth
your gift quite without use

come my lover (for Rock Bernd)

a friendly word you say
makes me feel okay
just one little smile
makes me melt away

more than I can say
I love you every day
just one little smile
casts a sunny ray

oh, come morning
oh, come sunshine
oh, come evening
come my lover

a pub, or a café
a concert, the ballet
where we go or meet
your presence makes my day

wrong turns, and past mistakes,
decisions, family ties
commitments, baby cries
all serve to block your way

if I could have my way
I'd fly to you to stay
no hurdle, and no fence
could keep me away

oh, come morning
oh, come sunshine
oh, come evening
come my lover

flash flood (for Rock Bernd)

as sudden as a thunderbolt
I ruin lives in a single blow
wash villages and roads
away

fill living rooms with trash and mud
drown careless people in the flood
all in a matter of
one day

the signs were there and pretty plain
heavy rainfalls, rising creeks
bulging dam walls showing
first leaks

I was here decades ago
but people have short memories
this time I've brought them
to their knees

I spoil freshwater, stocks of food
I wipe out harvests, lay waste to woods
destroy the new-build railway
bridge

downstream you can watch and gape
as lives float by in the shape
of TV-sets, a car, a chair,
a fridge

the signs were there and pretty plain
heavy rainfalls, rising creeks
bulging dam walls showing
first leaks

I was here decades ago
but people have short memories
this time I've brought them
to their knees

as sudden as a thunderbolt
I ruin lives in a single blow
wash villages and roads
away

fill living rooms with trash and mud
drown careless people in the flood
all in a matter of
one day

a warmer climate does me good
humid seasons make me strong
I think I'll come here
more often

I do mudslides, I do floods
I drown cattle, I break dams,
don't expect me
to soften

as sudden as a thunderbolt
I ruin lives in a single blow
wash villages and roads
away

fill living rooms with trash and mud
drown careless people in the flood
all in a matter of
one day

gutless (for Rock Bernd)

when you learned you'd got her knocked up
and Ma would not get rid of me
you walked out on her leaving no trace
you broke her heart, you shattered her dreams

you're a gutless prick
the thought of you makes me sick

you gave me my life but didn't give me your name
left me in the lurch but left no-one to blame
I'm running 'round in circles while I'm going insane
should we ever meet I'll pay you back for my pain

you're a gutless prick
the thought of you makes me sick

with no help and with no job
Ma tried her best to get us through
until she cracked seein' no way out
there was nothing that she could do

you're a gutless prick
the thought of you makes me sick

you gave me my life but didn't give me your name
left me in the lurch but left no-one to blame
I'm running 'round in circles while I'm going insane
should we ever meet I'll pay you back for my pain

you're a gutless prick
the thought of you makes me sick

Ma left me in a children's home
I learned to fend for myself and how to fight back
I learned to steal, I learned to cheat
and to strike first in an attack

after many years in and out of jail
I'm a man with nothing to show
not a chance for me on a decent life
I'll just wait for the next blow

hellfire

we set on fire to feel the heat
walk barefoot and to burn our feet
we breathe in smoke until we choke
until we're getting what we seek

hellfire
we burn in hellfire
hellfire
chained up with barbed-wire
hellfire
we burn in hellfire

we burn forests, dry the soil
heat up ponds until they boil
we create a lasting drought
we damage all that we can spoil

hellfire
we burn in hellfire
hellfire
chained up with barbed-wire
hellfire
we burn in hellfire

do you try to see
or are your eyes still blind
has the fire yet charred
what was on your mind

hellfire
we burn in hellfire
hellfire
chained up with barbed-wire
hellfire
we burn in hellfire

hellfire (re-written for Rock Bernd)

we set on fire to feel the heat
we walk barefoot and burn our feet
we breathe in smoke until we choke
until we're getting what we seek
what we seek

we burn our houses, burn our land
use up resources till they're spent
we are proof that we are goofs
we bring mankind to an end
to an end

we burn in hellfire
hellfire, hellfire
we burn in hellfire
hurray, hurray

hellfire
hellfire
stoke up the hellfire
hellfire
hurray, hurray
hurray, hurray

we burn forests, dry out the soil
heat up ponds until they boil
bring about a lasting drought
we damage all that we can spoil
we can spoil

we burn our houses, burn our land
use up resources till they're spent
we are proof that we are goofs
we bring mankind to an end
to an end

jump up and dance (for MotorPlanet)

I may appear electric
I'm fully charged and live
my lifestyle may seem hectic
'cos chaos spurs my drive

I won't settle down
if I have my way
the party ain't over yet
let's jump up and dance
roll and rock
till we drop dead

I may appear ignorant
don't take things seriously
you will not find me dormant
but bounce deliriously

I won't settle down
if I have my way
the party ain't over yet
let's jump up and dance
roll and rock
till we drop dead

you're earnest and reflective
world's troubles weigh you down
seen from my perspective
you are at risk to drown

where shadows fall
there also is light
the party ain't over yet
let's jump up and dance
roll and rock
till we drop dead

lost my soul (for Rock Bernd)

lost my trust
lost my dreams
lost my soul
to alcohol

things looked so easy
when I was a boy
nothing more serious
than playin' with my toys
all could be fixed
with a little ploy
breezy
easy
don't grow up
stay on top
never stop

my biz went bust
all my schemes
down a black hole
-

I lost my trust
lost my dreams
lost my soul
to alcohol

my life eventually
took a turn for the worse
had to learn the hard way
how fast dreams can burst
somehow my whole life
seemed to have been cursed
messed up
fucked up
it's quite plain
all in vain
down the drain

I found a friend quite easily
that would soothe and comfort me
can be bought in shops nearby
helps you say your cares goodbye
bye bye

no fun, no lust
life lost its gleam
no worthwhile goal
-

I lost my trust
lost my dreams
lost my soul
to alcohol

my bride (for Rock Bernd)

she strolls through my dreams
oh yes, she does
but leaves with the first sun beam
oh yes, she does

she's back
the next night
she fears
the daylight

come close
my bride
come stay
by my side
every
night

she's here and she calls
oh yes, she does
as soon as the night falls
oh yes, she does

she's here
each night
she just fears
the daylight

come close
my bride
come stay
by my side
come close
my bride
come stay
by my side
each and
every
night

my God (for Rock Bernd)

Oh, my God is very generous
and my God is very kind
he is smart, and he is caring
always got my best in mind
while your God is breathing vengeance
when he's angry, when he's mad
your God is a raving monster
he's waging wars, he's truly bad

I don't pray
there's no need
'cause my God
is inside me

the old Gods of the Greek and Romans
were quite human-like, indeed
they fell in love, they loved adventures
they would quarrel, plot, and cheat
while my God is very generous
and my God is very kind
he is smart, and he is caring
always got my best in mind

I don't pray
there's no need
'cause my God
is inside me

never mind (for Rock Bernd)

never mind the rumours
never mind the gossip
never mind the sneers
and abuse

do what does you good
trust your gut instinct
take charge of your life
ignore what people think
when they paint you black
paint your own world pink
never mind, never mind

ain't no use to aim at
pleasing everybody
fuck the public morals
just let loose
never mind the rumours
never mind the gossip
never mind the sneers
and abuse

look with your own eyes
find your way to go
rather go astray
than move with the flow
be prepared to catch
the first stone they throw
never mind, never mind

do what does you good
trust your gut instinct
take charge of your life
ignore what people think
when they paint you black
paint your own world pink
never mind, never mind

ain't no use to aim at
pleasing everybody
fuck the public morals
just let loose
never mind the rumours
never mind the gossip
never mind the sneers
and abuse

not good (for Rock Bernd)

gawking
she got me gawking
talking
she got me talking
I talked more than was good for me
you could say that I was all at sea
not good

dreaming
she got me dreaming
gleaming
got my hope gleaming
she fed my mind with fantasies
many more than were good for me
not good

quailing
she got me quailing
wailing
she got me wailing
she made a moanbag out of me
so much heartache wasn't good for me
not good

yearning
she got me yearning
burning
she got me burning
she got me burning in the fire
the fire of my own desire
not good

nothing much

crawl out of my dream
share with me the day
nothing much to life but living
nothing much to gifts but giving
give your gift to me
nothing much to love but loving
give your love to me
give your love to me

pop up in my day
spend with me the night
nothing much to life but living
nothing much to gifts but giving
give your gift to me
nothing much to love but loving
give your love to me
give your love to me

occupy my mind
spend with me your time
nothing much to life but living
nothing much to gifts but giving
give your gift to me
nothing much to love but loving
give your love to me
give your love to me

nothing much to life but loving

people live, people die (for Rock Bernd)

people push and shove
people kiss and love
people laugh and smile
runners run for miles
baby boys are born
bereaved people mourn
people live, people die

here a thief is caught
there a pupil taught
teachers are laid off
travellers take off
people exercise
some are dumb, some wise
people live, people die

we are fighting
and reconciling
oh, we make much ado
we are struggling
sometimes succeeding
and we are coming through

priests abuse young boys
children sing for joy
my brother takes a swim
a gambler grabs his win
old friends meet again
I dance in the rain
people live, people die

here a girl friend beefs
there a mother grieves
while their husbands snore
housewives do the chores
there an old man dies
here a young girl cries
people live, people die

we are fighting
and reconciling
oh, we make much ado
we are struggling
sometimes succeeding
and we are coming through

we are fighting
and reconciling
oh, we make much ado
we are struggling
sometimes succeeding
and we are coming through

stick by me, stay with me (for Erjan Nurhassen aka Leroy Fahnkär)

you popped up in my life
like a lightning without thunder
making me confused and wonder
you just tore my mind asunder
you had the looks and style
of a model or a starlet
just the type to break ones heart

I fell in love at once
I never asked where you had come from
just got caught up in the maelstrom
of the feel and vibe of stardom
you had brought the sun
you kissed me and I turned scarlet
you said that this was just the start

say a word and you'll find me convincible
goin' hand in hand love will make us invincible
if you're here to stay then I will stick by you
I will stick by you

stick by me, stay with me
our love is meant for infinity
stick by me, stay with me
a love as vast as the endless sea

stick by me, stay with me
our love is meant for infinity
stick by me, stay with me
a love as vast as the endless sea

you kept up the pretense
that we'd always been together
that we're two birds of a feather
and we would get along forever
you had the confidence
and the power of persuasion
leaving no room for dissent

I fell for you at once
not questioning your aim or reason
I gave in to the adhesion
hoping for an endless season
for our fresh romance
and that I'd rise to the occasion
of a love that would not end

say a word and you'll find me convincible
goin' hand in hand love will make us invincible
if you're here to stay then I will stick by you
I will stick by you

stick by me, stay with me
our love is meant for infinity
stick by me, stay with me
a love as vast as the endless sea

stick by me, stay with me
our love is meant for infinity
stick by me, stay with me
a love as vast as the endless sea

oh, yeah
we're soaring in the sky
our love's so strong that we can fly
we're gonna soar over the highest peaks
to stare down at the seas far below

our love will never end and never ever fade away
it's based on the enduring spell of your eternal
mystery
that I'll respect to never jeopardize our bond of
unity
so let us kiss and celebrate each moment of each
single day
each single day

stick by me, stay with me
our love is meant for infinity
stick by me, stay with me
a love as vast as the endless sea

stick by me, stay with me
our love is meant for infinity
stick by me, stay with me
a love as vast as the endless sea

the bandstand (or maybe "people everywhere" for MotorPlanet)

they erected a bandstand
and they hired a rock band
no-one will stay at home
the music will be grand
you will hear it 'cross the land
tonight will never end

people gather in the streets
joining others as they meet
no-one will stay alone
they are stumbling over feet
stumbling towards the beat
they want to feel the heat

people everywhere
jump and dance across the square
they're all feeling fine
all have heard the call
tonight they have a ball
(and) make the most of time

the music blows the dust away
that has gathered over the day
tonight the days are far
people dance and rock and kiss
while they share a time of bliss
each one can be a star

people everywhere
jump and dance across the square
they're all feeling fine
all have heard the call
tonight they have a ball
(and) make the most of time

the dawn of something new (for MotorPlanet)

blackbirds are singing as the day is dawning
I greet the new day as the sun breaks through
starting life anew

new plans arising
new dreams are flying
everyone finds hope again
everyone
everyone
but you

torrents
that drown whole cities
lay waste to life plans,
so the people flee
dreams and hopes left behind

you cannot get the pictures
of their plight off your mind
scenes of debris and flash floods
haunt your sleep
is this the end of mankind?

wherever you are looking
there's disasters, wars, and floods, and storms
like a deer caught in the headlights
you stare at the news
everywhere just doom and gloom
but mark my words
could be the dawn
of something new

armies
that bomb the cities,
do bomb freedom, too,
so the people flee
lives and hopes left behind

you cannot get the pictures
of their plight off your mind
scenes of death and carnage
haunt your sleep
is this how it feels to die

wherever you are looking
there's disasters, wars, and floods, and storms
like a deer caught in the headlights
you stare at the news
everywhere just doom and gloom
but mark my words
could be the dawn
of something new

time to grow (for Rock Bernd)

you play the tough guy
but you live a lie
it won't be too long
that you'll eat humble pie
it won't
be too long
that you'll eat
humble pie

your ego too big
your mind too sick
someday you'll see
you'll break like a twig
someday
you'll see
you'll break
like a twig

it's time to grow
do something to show
make sure you're ready
to go with the flow
make sure
you're ready
to go
with the flow

Titanic Cruises (for Rock Bernd)

do the round trip of British moorland fires
stay on crumbling cliffs in Lincolnshire

cross the oil sand wastes in Canada
visit mystery holes in Siberia

Titanic Cruises, Doom Adventures
Downfall Travel, Badland Tours
last minute offers, morbid pleasures
trips of a lifetime, be assured

join the last fish going with the flow
watch polar bears jump from floe to floe

enjoy the charcoal woods of Yosemite
walk with Jesus across the plastic sea

Titanic Cruises, Doom Adventures
Downfall Travel, Badland Tours
last minute offers, morbid pleasures
trips of a lifetime, be assured

don't wait too long
opportunities are on the wane
don't miss your chance
such bargains may not come again

Titanic Cruises, Doom Adventures
Downfall Travel, Badland Tours
last minute offers, morbid pleasures
trips of a lifetime, be assured

tree (for Rock Bernd)

you took your time
to grow your roots
you found firm footing
in the ground
why not stretch
your mighty arms
towards the sky
yet earthbound

today you're here
and standing tall
play with your fingers
in the air
be shelter,
and be home
be calming
and stay square

take your time
to come to rest
there is no hurry
there's no need
you gave your best
you gave your all
you will be cherished
by who you feed

you took your time
to grow your roots
you found firm footing
in the ground
why not stretch
your mighty arms
towards the sky
yet earthbound

today you're here
and standing tall
play with your fingers
in the air
be shelter,
and be home
be calming
and stay square

take your time
to come to rest
there is no hurry
there's no need
you gave your best
you gave your all
you will be cherished
by who you feed

wasting time (re-write for Rock Bernd, the original version was written for MotorPlanet)

I used to have a passion
I aimed to having fun
avoiding all commitment
I'd rather bolt and run

living faster, living louder
parties, booze, uppers, downers

I never missed (out) a chance
to groove and to dance

to spend my life like other geeks
would mean wasting time to me

wherever they had a ball
I was on a roll

the more time I was filling
the more I seemed to lose
at last I got the feeling
that it was time to choose

the life that I'd been leading
seemed to lack all meaning

no structure and no purpose
my life was just a circus

while I thought I was smart and cool
I behaved just like a fool

in truth I wasn't doing fine
I was just wasting time

you cannot hide (for Erjan Nurhassen aka Leroy Fahnkär)

I keep looking for a sign or for a trace of you while I am roaming the streets day and night
I look into entrance halls and windows and I check all parking lots for a familiar sight
I don't know where you have gone but I know you and I belong together till the end of time
I can't understand why you should feel that you must leave me and I think there's neither reason nor
rhyme

you've gone without a trace
I'm looking for you everywhere
now I'm realizing
how much I need you

you can run from me
cross the seven seas
but you cannot hide from me
you are tied to me
'cause I'm your destiny

while you run from me
you will not be free
'cause you cannot hide from me
love you eternally
unconditionally
you can not hide from me

you have been tight as a clam since quite a while so that for me there was no getting through to you
you did all your household chores without complaint, you never dropped a hint of what you'd rather do
you just packed your stuff and ran away from me, you did not even bother to leave me a note
you did never tell me what you felt was maybe wrong, no clarifying talk so I would have no vote

you've gone without a trace
I'm looking for you everywhere
now I'm realizing
how much I need you

you can run from me
cross the seven seas
but you cannot hide from me
you are tied to me
'cause I'm your destiny

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