

MAY FEATURED SONG

by Paul Cooper

HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN

Brian Kalinec has been a well-known performer, producer and friend of acoustic music on the Houston scene for many years. He will perform at our Second Saturday concert Saturday, May 13 (see front page), and has graciously given us permission to publish this song from his new CD, *The Beauty of it All*, which will be available at the concert. You can hear this song at <https://youtu.be/b0ucjsXtAel>, or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html.

NEXT DOOR STRANGER

By Brian Kalinec

C G
These walls are so thin I can feel my neighbor sweat
G7 C
I can hear the ashes scatter off his danglin' cigarette
F G
I taste every cup of coffee that he fills
Am F G
I smell every shot of whiskey that he spills



C G
He's a flame when he's angry that smolders when he's just upset
G7 C
But he's truly at his worst when his Sunday paper's wet
F G
I feel every book he throws against the wall
Am F G
His conversations make no sense at all



Chorus: F C
He hasn't lived there long; I don't know his name
G C
But he seems a bit familiar and just a touch insane
F C G F
He'd probably be the first to tell you that he's the last to blame
G C
Ooh, that next door stranger.

I can hear him click those channels like popcorn on a fire
And it's hard to get much sleep as he scrolls the volume higher
Then he tosses the remote onto a shelf
I know more about this stranger
Than I know about myself.

CHORUS

Bridge: F G C
I thought it was time a couple words were spoken
F G C Am
I knocked on his door, and it flew right open
F G Am
No one lived there as far as I could see.
F C G
How could I have known the guy next door was me.



Chorus: C G
Guess he didn't live there long; And I never got his name
F
But he surely seemed familiar
G F G F G C
Ooh, that next door stranger.