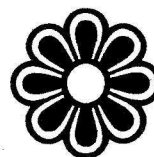


EARTH SONG



was written between 28th July and 7th September 1996 and is dedicated to:

Newcastle Choral Society

with thanks for 21 years of challenging, exciting and enjoyable music making

Durham Sinfonia Orchestra

Micaela Haslam - Soprano

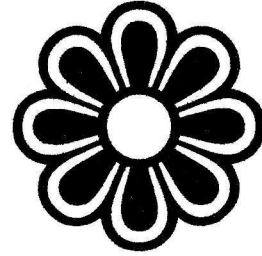
Members of Sine Nomine

The first movement is a tribute to Michael Clark in memory of many successful literary and musical collaborations

The texts may be likened to the life-progress of the soul itself: it starts at the time of cold and darkness and proceeds through the many seasons of life until it reaches fruitful maturity. When we have “made our soul” we pass into the winter of life that our world calls death, but this time with the fruits of our soul thick upon us. (extract from *A Celtic Devotional* by Caitlen Matthews)

I hope the music captures the many experiences and moods which might be encountered on this journey.

Lee Jennings
9th September '96



Earth Song - Len Young

1. Creation - Michael Clark

Before - the darkness -
Out of breathing - darkness -
Breathing - time begins

Feel - the darkness flow -
Melting - to mist - over water -
And beyond - the tree

Green shadowed - columns -
Upthrust - entwining - root fast -
Still arching - sky held

Over the wind - rain -
A confusion of branches -
But the trees - bending

Earth peoples - they learn

2. Song of Samhain (Winter) - Celtic

I am the hallow-tide of all souls passing,
I am the bright releaser of all pain,
I am the quickener of the fallen seed-case,
I am the glance of snow, the strike of rain.
I am the hollow of the winter twilight,
I am the hearth-fire and the welcome bread,
I am the curtained awning of the pillow,
I am the unending wisdom's golden thread

3. Old Indian Saying

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced.
Live your life in such a manner that when you die the world cries and you rejoice.

4. Song of Imbolc (Spring) - Celtic*

I am the unopened bud, and I the blossom,
I am the lifeforce gathering to a crest,
I am the still companion of the silence,
I am the farflung seeker of the quest.
I am the daughter gathering in wisdom,
I am the son whose questions never cease,
I am the dawn-light searching out glad justice,
I am the centre where all souls find peace.

5. The Pheasant *Aztec - Nezahualcoyotl*

A beautiful pheasant sings
over the flowers
and his songs unleash
the lord of the world.

Only his own kind answer him.

Your heart is a book of paintings, singer,
you came to sing and sound your drum.

It's simply that in spring
you make men happy.

6. Song of Beltane (Summer) - *Celtic**

I am the calm, I am the quickening,
I am the intoxication and the force,
I am the silence, I am the singer,
I am the stallion galloping to its source.
I am the bright pavilion and the feasting,
I am the wedding couple and the bed,
I am the morning chorus and the heartbeat,
I am the goal to which all paths are led.

7. Dialogue - *Aztec*

I am come
from the ocean
waves
where water is dyed
with the morning.

(I am just
a singer.
My heart
is a flower!
I offer - my song.)

I am from the rainland,
come to please the deity!

(I am just
a singer.
My heart
is a flower!
I offer - my song.)

8. Old Chinese Rhythmic Proverb

No lake is so still but that it has its wave,
No circle so perfect but that it has its blur,
I would change things for you if I could,
As I can't you must take them as they are.

9. Song of Lughnasadh (Autumn) - Celtic*

I am the sovereign splendour of creation,
I am the fountain in the courts of bliss,
I am the bright surrender of the willpower,
I am the watchful guardian and the kiss.
I am the many-coloured landscape,
I am the transmigration of the geese,
I am the burnished glory of the breastplate,
I am the harbour where all strivings cease.

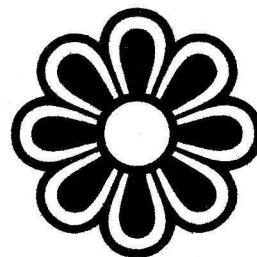
10. Navaho Creation Chant of Changing Women

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed ...
I, I am the spirit within the earth;
The bodily strength of the earth is my strength;
The thoughts of the earth are my thoughts;
All that belongs to the earth belongs to me;
I, I am the sacred words of the earth;
It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed ...

11. Song of Samhain (Winter) - Celtic * (Repeat - all performers)

I am the hallow-tide of all souls passing,
I am the bright releaser of all pain,
I am the quickener of the fallen seed-case,
I am the glance of snow, the strike of rain.
I am the hollow of the winter twilight,
I am the hearth-fire and the welcome bread,
I am the curtained awning of the pillow,
I am the unending wisdom's golden thread

28th July 1996



*Celtic Poems from *Celtic Devotional* by Caitlin Matthews and used with permission of Godsfield Press