

Text by Larua Tohe
Navajo translated by Jennifer Wheele
Music by Mark Grey

Enemy Slayer, A Navajo Oratorio

Naayéé' Neezghání

Libretto by Laura Tohe
Musical composition by Mark Grey

Saad Naach'ąahí Laura Tohe Áyiilaa
Sin Naach'ąahí Mark Grey Áyiilaa

Prologue
Chorus

Hane' Bee ʌʌ'álnééh
Dahojitaaf

Red earth below his feet
Red earth with open arms
The ground feels familiar
Earth-surface child returns home
From across the big water

Bikétl'ááh biyaagi nahasdzáán lichíí'
Nahasdzáán lichíí' bigaan aa'áyósin
Nahasdzáán yééhósin
Nihokáá' biyázhí nádzá
tó nteel tsé'naadéé'

Seeker returns home
Earth Surface child returns
From across the big water
Traveling lightly on a rainbow
and leaves the reign of blood
He calls forth, "shik'éeí, shidiné'ée," (trans: my relatives, my people)

Naabaahii nádzá
Nihokáá' biyázhí nádzá
tó nteel tsé'naadéé'
Nááts'íilid yee nádzá
Dił yits'áájigo dah diiyá
"Shik'éeí, shidiné'ée," ní

Seeker returns
Earth circling, stars revolving
He steps into his place
A warrior for his nation
A warrior for the future
He signed away his life
with gratitude, with honor, with love

Naabaahii nádzá
Nahasdzáán nááyis, so' naandeijeeh
Bikék'ehgi yíizí'
Bidine'ée binaabaahii
Yideeskáágoó binaabaahii
Be'iina' niidini'á
ahééh hasin yee, áhí hwiinidzin yee, ayóó'óni' yee

Seeker, five-fingered being,
Child of dawn
Child of daylight
Child of evening twilight,
Child of darkness

Naabaahii, bíla' ashdla'ii,
Hayoolkáaf biyázhí,
Nihodeet'íizh biyázhí,
Nihootsoi biyázhí,
Chahalheef biyázhí.

Here are the voices traveling through all the worlds
Here are the hands that buried his umbilical cord
Here are the voices that gave him his warrior name
Here are the voices that called him "my child," "my beloved"

Kóó azhí t'áa altsogóo naajeeh
Kóó ála' bits'ée' teeł yiyí'á yéé
Kóó azhí bízhi' bá áyiilaa yéé
Kóó azhí "shiyázhí, she'awéé'" bidíiniid yéé

Cardinal Point 1
East / Spring / Birth

Ha'a'aah / Daan / Oochíif

Scene 1
Baritone

T'áálá'í Góne'
Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaaf

I am called Seeker,
Child of my mother's blood flow
Bom for my father's people
In the warrior way I went to war
to an ancient land in the desert
I am part White shell

Naabaahii yinishyé
Shimá bidíł nílínígíí biyázhí nishłí
Shizhé'ée bidine'ée báhshishchíín
Anaa'jí nisébaa'
Háádishíí hóóltsee léí'di
Łahdóo Yoolgai nishłí

My brother and I fought together
Warriors for our nation
Warriors for the future
We signed away our lives
with gratitude, with honor, with love

In our hands we held the power of the sun
to seek and slay the enemy
Rapid explosions rained in the streets
The sky filled with flames and smoke
Turquoise was our shield

From across the big water
I returned lightly as if traveling on a rainbow
Red earth below my feet now
I am part abalone shell

Brother, I miss you tonight
In my mind I see the mound of earth
and the plastic flowers baked by the sun that cover you now
Black jet, black jet, black jet

Chorus

Warrior child born from White-Shell Woman
Warrior child born for the Sun
Warrior child holds a turquoise shield
Warrior child sings the strength of mountains

Beauty above,
Beauty below,
Beauty behind,
Beauty all around, beauty, beauty, beauty

Earth-surface child
walks with white cornmeal,
walks with yellow cornmeal,
walks on a path of corn pollen,

Let sunlight shine on warrior child
Let him speak with thunder words
Let rivers flow through him
Let the red earth hold him as her child

He is blessed by air,
blessed by earth,
He is blessed by light,
blessed by water

Shił naa'aashí dóó shí nisiibaa'
Nihidine'é binaabaahii
Yideeskááádóó binaabaahii
Nihe'iina' ndiniit'á
ahééh hasin bee, áhí hwiinidzin bee, ayóó'ó'ni' bee

Nihíłák'ee jóhonaa'éí bidziilii dah yit'áát
anaa'í biká
Da'atiingóyaa da'dildongo ndahahtin
Yá'áashdi kọ' dóó hid hadeezbin
Doot'izhii nihich'ááh naagháa nt'ée'

Tó nteel tsé'naadéé'
nánisdzá nááts'íilid bee nahalingo
K'ad shikéł'ááh biyaa nahasdzáan lichíí'
Łahdóó diichilii nishłí

Shił naa'aashí, náhásááh díjít'ée'
Nahasdzáan bikáa' dahisk'id nesh'jigo shił at'í
dóó ch'il látah hózhóón t'óó be'alyaágíí jóhonaa'éí bits'áádóó
daashch'ilgo
Bááshzhinii, bááshzhinii, bááshzhinii

Dahojitaat

Naabaahii biyázhí Yoolgai Asdzáan yáshchíín
Naabaahii biyázhí Jóhonaa'éí yáshchíín
Naabaahii biyázhí doot'izhii ách'ááh naat'áhí dah yoo'áát
Naabaahii biyázhí dził bidziilii yił hataat

Wódahdéé' hózhó,
Wóyahdéé' hózhó,
Ane'déé' hózhó,
T'áá altsogóó, hózhó, hózhó, hózhó

Nihokáá' biyázhí
naadá'álgai yee yigáát,
naadá'áltsoi yee yigáát,
Tádídíín atiingóó yigáát

Bín'dii naabaahii biyázhí bik'i shándíín
Bín'dii ii'ni' bizaad yee yáłti'
Bín'dii tó daníłínígíí binikádaazłí
Bín'dii nahasdzáan lichíí' biyázhí niljigo bóta'

Níłch'ih dine'é bee bik'ihojidlí,
nahasdzáan bee bik'ihojidlí,
shándíín bee bik'ihojidlí,
tó bee bik'ihojidlí

Cardinal Point 2
South / Summer / Youth

Scene 2
Baritone

Home Shimá, Mother Shizhe'é, Father
Grandmother Grandfather
Two days ago smoke drifted through my dreams
I longed to see your faces and this land
Over there their eyes shudder behind glass
I smoked myself in the mad smoke of war

Mothers' hopes wrapped in bloodied rags
The children lay like broken toys spilled on the streets
Red rags. Limbs and dreams rearranged by war,
a sister recoils Bodies and blood for the 21st century
monster I don't trust the stillness

I dream of my brother in that country
where leaves don't flutter from the trees
They land on the ground like a fist,
like a grenade inside me 'Don't touch death,' 'Don't touch death

Brother, here's to you! A toast!
And a toast to you, Grim Reaper!
I count coup on your head! Aieeeeeeee!
Death, you perfect equalizer, twin brother to
War, you shiny, beautiful prostitute of the powerful!

Brother, you ride on death's
wings so gracefully
Where you going Brother?
Okay then, let's walk among the "naach'99diiz" (translation--those
that walk with the dead)

I'm sorry! T'áá 'aníí 'ádishní! (translation--"I'm really telling you the
truth!")
At that moment I forgot your warrior name
that brilliant flash knew you
I let my shield down
Brother, forgive me!

Home Shimá, Mother Shizhe'í, Father
Grandmother Grandfather

I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

Shádi'ááh / Shí / Atseelke'

Naaki Góne'
Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Hooghan. Shimá. Shizhé'é
Shimá sání. Shicheii
Naakiiskánídáá' neeshyeełgo lid shaanina'
Nihinii' dóo nihikéyah laanaa nízí'
Nléidi éi tséso' bine'déé' bináá' dah daalk'ol
Lid baa'ihii biyi' ádińsétt'oh

Amá bisihasin yéé dił bił daasdis
Áłchíní yéé daané'é k'ídaasto' nahalingo atíingóó nikiđétaad
Bee ádit'oodi daalchíí'. Anaa' bits'áadóó ats'íis dóo sihasin yéé
nikidél'á
Adeezhí léi' la' ahaniniyá. Ats'íis dóo dił díjji
naayéé' bá. Hodézyééłígíi doo yooshdláa da

Shił naa'aashí áádi naagháago baa neeshyeeł
T'íis bit'aa' doo hozhóó'ógo nahindééh dadi
Ála' dancemas nahalingo nahindééh
Shiyi'di dadildoní si'á nahalin
"Ch'íidii bidóólchíidÁ" "Ch'íidii bidóólchíidÁ"

Shił naa'aashí, díí náÁ Ná da'iidláÁ
Ni dó' ná da'iidlá, Grim ReaperÁ
Nizhonígó ninahat'áa lágo nitsiikáá' yíilta'
Ch'íidii, ahaah neenilí, naaki bitsilí
anaa', bidziilii binaalte'í nízhońí, dinisxos

Shił naa'aashí, ch'íidii
bit'a' nizhońigo bee yit'ah
Háagóosh díniyá, Shił naa'aashí?
Hágoşhí ląa, ti' "naach'íidii" bitahgóó tádiit'aash

Shaa ndi'ni'aahÁ T'áá aníí ádişhniÁ
Ts'idá ákohgo nízhi' beesenah
Adídláád yéé néehoosjíd
Ách'áah naash'áhéé yaa kóshlaa
Shił naa'aashí, shaa ndi'ni'aahÁ

Hooghan. Shimá. Shizhé'é
Shimá sání. Shicheii

Shaa ndi'ni'aahÁ Shaa ndi'ni'aahÁ Shaa ndi'ni'aahÁ

Orchestra interlude

Bee Ndajinéhígíí T'éiyá Diits'a'

Cardinal Point 3
West / Fall / Adulthood
Scene 3
Baritone

Your blood poured brightly
through my hands like a lamb being slaughtered
I could not stop it!
Your last breath muffled into my still arms
I can't stop thinking!

I wish for sleep, a deep sleep not
hammered with gunfire and the
click of my nerves
nor the sight of bodies and bloody rags scattered like
trash cast to the wolves in the deserted streets
When I'm not looking, they call me a hero

Chorus

Your spirit weighs heavily
and has wandered away
from your heart and mind
War causes imbalance
in you and in the world

Baritone

I'm in a world of pain
I'm hard core
I seek and destroy the enemy
This is my war horse
I charge the enemy
I am the home town hero!
I am child of war!

I am lost
What's the use
to go on living
when I am here
and want to be there?
T'áadoo biniyéhi'dah (trans: "what's the use for my existence?")

Chorus

Shiyázhí, wéé', t'óó báhádzid! (trans: beloved child, it is a
dangerous thing to say!)
Please be careful with what you say
You are speaking for all of us
Nihiyázhí nílí (trans: you are our beloved child)
You were not born without a reason
You are a miracle
brought to life,
given breath

E'e'aah / Aak'ee / Amá dóó Azhé'é Jileehgo

Táá' Gone'
Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Nidil yéego lichíi'go naazna'
shilák'ee dibé yázhí ná'ah nahalingo
Ch'ééh ííł'jídÁ
Shigaan biyi'ji' akéé'di náhidínídzíi'
Ch'ééh doo nitséskees daÁ

Bił laanaa nisin, bił ntsaágíi doo
éi da'dildongóó dóó
shits'íis doo naha'náágóó
doo at'síis dóó dił bee ádí't'oodí níkédel'áágóó
ts'iilzéi ma'ii tsoh atíngóó bich'i' aheelt'iíd nahalingo
Doo dínish'íi'góó, naat'áanii dashilní

Dahojitaal

Nits'íis nidaaz
dóó dah diiyá
nijéi dóó nintsékees bits'áájigo
Anaa' bits'áádóó doo akóhoot'ée da yileeh
niyi'di dóó nahasdzáán bikáá'góó

Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Adiniih bii' naashá
Doo sisti' da
Nayéé' hanishtá dóó naastseed doo
Díi éi shiljí'
Naayéé' bich'i' shil nééltih
Hooghan haz'áagi binaat'áanii nishjíÁ
Anaa' be'awéé' nishjíÁ

Yóó'íiyá
Haa'íish biniiyé
jiináa doo
háálá kóq naasháago
dóó áádi naasháa doo laanaa nisin leh?
T'áadoo biniyéhi da

Dahojitaal

Shiyázhí, wéé', doo ájíníi da
Nizaad baa sínti'
T'áá áníltso nihá yánílti'
Nihiyázhí nílí
Doo t'áadoo biniyéhígóó ni' dizhchíi da
Nik'ihjoosdle'go
hosínííí,
iiná neilyá

Baritone

What's the use to go on living
when I can just stop this madness?

Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Ha'íish biniiyé jiináa doo
díí doo yá'át'ééhgóó áhoot'éhígíí nideeshtíhgo?

Chorus

Shiyázhí, there is a natural order in the world (trans: beloved one)
You must return to it
You have walked away
from the corn pollen path
Shiyázhí, t'áa shòòdí (trans: beloved one, please!)
You have purpose for your existence
You are our child and a child of the Holy People

Dahojitaal

Shiyázhí, t'áadoo le'é t'áa ałtso bá áhoot'é
Ákóó ndíídáál
Tádídíín atiin bits'áájigo
dah diniyá
Shiyázhí, t'áa shòódí,
biniinaanii honíló
Nihiyázhí nílí dóó Diyin Dine'é biyázhí nílí

Return to the path of hózhó
Return to the Beauty Way
In the world there is
evil and beauty,
sickness and health,
disorder and harmony,
light and darkness
Balance must always be restored
Éí bik'eh naniná, shiyázhí (trans: follow that path, my child)
Follow the corn pollen path of life
Follow the corn pollen path of life
Follow the corn pollen path of life
Follow the corn pollen path of life

Hózhóójí be'atiin bich'í' ndíídáál
Hózhóójí bich'í' ndíídáál
Kéyah bikáá'gi hózhóójí hóló,
naayéé' dóó hózhó hóló,
ts'íís doo yá'át'ééhii dóó ts'íís yá'át'ééhii hóló,
tsi'hodeezdéél dóó hózhó hóló,
shándíín dóó chahałheel hóló.
T'áa ałtso ahaąah niná'nił
Éí bik'eh naniná, shiyázhí
Tádídíín atiin bik'eh yínáál
Tádídíín atiin bik'eh yínáál
Tádídíín atiin bik'eh yínáál
Tádídíín atiin bik'eh yínáál

Baritone

I wish for sleep
To sleep in the arms of snow,
to drift down into a watery abyss,
or to swallow my steel peace maker
I will ride my war horse north
to charge the war monsters
I am child of war!

Naabaajii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Bił laanaa nisin
Yas bigaan bii' ajiłhosh le',
tó naazyínigóó azhdoo'otł,
éí doodago bee adıldoqhi ajóneeh
Shilíí' náhookosjigo shił dooldlosh
naayéé' bich'í'
Anaa' biyázhí nishlíÁ

**Cardinal Point 4
North / Winter / Old Age / Death
Scene 4**

**Náhookos / Hai / Sá / Aná'iildééh
Díí' Góne'**

Chorus

Shiyázhí, take courage
listen to our guidance
spoken with much love for you
You were raised
with the natural laws of the Holy People
You were raised
with Sa'ah naaghái bik'eh hózhóón (trans: the Navajo philosophy of
life.)
Remember these

Dahojitaal

Shiyázhí, ádinílt'is,
nihíísíníłts'áá'
ayóó'óni' bee nich'í' yáti'
Niyaa hazlíí'
Diyin Dine'é bina'nitin bee
Niyaa hazlíí'
Sa'ah naaghái bik'eh hózhóón bee
Díí béeníłniih

Shiyázhí, she'awéé'
 Here is your path,
 Here is your song,
 Here is your prayer
 Here is the corn pollen path way of life
 We are placing them in your hands

Throughout life you carry your warrior name
 Your name is your shield
 Your name is your protection
 Remember your warrior name

Shiyázhí, remember the corn pollen path way of life,
 remember the stories,
 remember the songs,
 remember the prayers,
 remember who you are,
 What we have taught you,
 what the Holy People have taught you,
 they are in your hands now
 You are armed to walk forward into the world
 with courage, with strength, with bravery

Baritone

To choose the abyss or to slay
 the enemies pressed inside me
 I hear my relatives' voices in my dreams
 I know it's time to make the choice

I walk with knowledge of my path
 I sing with the power of my song
 I pray with thunder words
 I hold the power of my shield
 I know who I am
 I am Enemy Slayer!

Enemy! I destroy you!
 Enemy! I destroy you!
 Enemy! I destroy you!
 Enemy! I destroy you!
 I take myself back
 I make the world safe

Chorus

You are blessed by air
 You are blessed by water,
 You are blessed by light
 You are blessed by earth
 You are restored
 You are restored

Shiyázhí, she'awéé',
 kóó ne'atiin,
 kóó niyiin,
 kóó nitsodizin
 kóó nitádídíin atiin
 Nílák'ee niilyé

Náásgóó nízhi' nanilée doo
 Nízhi' ách'ááh nanilé
 Nízhi' nich'ááh naaghá
 Nízhi' béenílniih

Shiyázhí, tádídíin atiin béenílniih,
 Hane' béenílniih,
 sin béenílniih,
 tsodizin béenílniih,
 ádéenílniih,
 Nanineetáá' yéé,
 Diyin Dine'é yee ndanineeztáá' yéé,
 nílák'ee silá k'ad
 Nahasdzáan bikáá'góó bee yínáál
 adziil bił

Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Náásgóó daats'í éí doodago
 naayéé' shiyi'di hólónígíí daats'í ndooltsił
 Shik'éí ádaani yiits'a' naashyeełgo
 K'ad háidíí shí baa ádinsht'aah

She'atiin shił bééhózingo yisháál
 Shiyiin bitsxe'go bee hashtaał
 Ii'ni' saad bee tsodiszin
 Shich'ááh naagháii yínishłta'
 Nishhínígíí shił bééhózin
 Naayéé' neezghání nishłí

Naayéé'Á NiishxéhÁ
 Naayéé'Á NiishxéhÁ
 Naayéé'Á NiishxéhÁ
 Naayéé'Á NiishxéhÁ
 Nát'áá' nánishdááh
 Hózhóógo ánáhashdlééh

Dahojitaal

Níłch'ih bee nik'ihojisdle',
 Tó bee nik'ihojisdle',
 Shándíin bee nik'ihojisdle',
 Nahasdzáan bee nik'ihojisdle'
 Náhosínídlíí'
 Náhosínídlíí'

Baritone

Shimá, shizhe'é, nánísdza, I return (trans: Mother, Father, I return)
 Red earth below my feet
 Early twilight dawn brings the cleansing light
 I emerge from the belly of my mother's beauty

Shimásání, shicheii, nánísdza (trans: Mother, Grandfather, I return)
 I return from the enemy
 By means of sacred prayer,
 I am cleansed of war
 I am renewed with the four directions
 I am restored in a sacred manner

**Return
 East / Spring / Rebirth**

Orchestra interlude (flowing)

Chorus

Shiyázhí, greet the early morning spirits
 with yellow corn pollen
 Each blessing
 borne of love;
 each blessing
 borne of compassion;
 each blessing
 borne of hózhó; (trans: peace and spiritual harmony)
 each blessing
 by means of corn pollen

By means of corn pollen
 May there be hózhó before you (trans: peace and spiritual harmony)
 May there be hózhó behind you
 May there be hózhó below you
 May there be hózhó above you
 May there be hózhó all around you

Baritone

By this song I walk
 By means of corn pollen I walk,
 my feet
 my legs,
 my body,
 my face,
 my voice,
 my feather
 By this song I walk

I am child of dawn
 I am child of daylight
 I am child of evening twilight
 I am child of darkness

Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Shimá, shizhé'é, nánísdzá
 Shik'ét'ááh biyaagi nahasdzáán kichí'
 Hayoolkáál adiníldíin
 Shimá bihózhó bits'áádóo haséya

Shimá sání, shicheii, nánísdzá
 Nayéé' bits'áádóo nánísdzá
 Tsodizin bee
 anaa' shaah náá'éél
 T'áa díí'góo bee náhosésdlíí'
 Hózhó'ogo náhosésdlíí'

**Njídzá
 Ha'a'aah / Daan / Ná'oochíí'**

Bee Ndajinéhígíí T'éyá Diits'a'

Dahojitaal

Shiyázhí, hayoolkáál dine'é bich'í'
 naadá'áltsoi dínííł
 Tsodizin t'áá'á'ígíí
 ayóó'ó'ni' bee yizhchí
 Tsodizin t'áá'á'ígíí
 k'é bee yizhchí
 Tsodizin t'áá'á'ígíí
 hózhó bee yizhchí
 Tsodizin t'áá'á'ígíí
 tádííín bee yizhchí

Tádííín bee
 Niláá'j'í' hózhó doo
 Nikéédé'é' hózhó doo
 Niyaagi hózhó doo
 Nitsij'í' hózhó doo
 T'áa' altso ninaagóo hózhó doo

Naabaahii Yálti'go Hojitaal

Díí sin bee yisháát
 Tádííín bee yisháát,
 shikee',
 shijáád,
 shits'íis,
 shinií',
 shizhí,
 shít'a'
 Díí sin bee yisháát

Hayoolkáál biyázhí nishłí
 Nohootsoi biyázhí nishłí
 Nohodeetl'iizh biyázhí nishłí
 Chahaatheel biyázhí nishłí

Chorus

Child of dawn
Child of daylight
Child of evening twilight,
Child of darkness

May there be hózhó before us
May there be hózhó behind us
May there be hózhó below us
May there be hózhó above us
May there be hózhó all around us
May there be beauty all around
May there be peace all around
on earth,
on earth

Baritone Í Chorus

Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł (trans: Let peace prevail)
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł

Dahojitaat

Hayoolkáát biyázhí,
Nohootsoi biyázhí,
Nohodeetł' iizh biyázhí,
Chahalheel biyázhí

Nihiláájí' hozhóo doo
Nihine'déé' hózhóo doo
Nihiyaagi hózhóo doo
Nihitsiijí' hózhóo doo
T'áá altso nihinaagóó hózhóo doo
T'áá altsogóó hózhóo doo
T'áá altsogóó hózhóo doo
Nahasdzáán bikáá'gi
Nahasdzáán bikáá'gi

Nabaahii Yálti'go Bił Dahojitaat

Nahasdzáán bikáá'gi t'áá altsogóó hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł
Hózhó náhásdlíí' dooleeł