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*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**  
Dahojitaʌ

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,  
Hayoolkáat biyázhí,  
Nihodeet'iizh 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 / Oochííł**

**Scene 1**  
Baritone

**T'áála'í Góne'**  
Naabaahii Yáłti'go Hojitaʌ

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 báhshishchííł  
Anaa'jí nisébaa'  
Háádishíí hóółtsee 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

**Dahojitaal**

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'  
Níléidi éi tséso' bine'déé' bináá' dah daalk'ol  
Lid baa'ihii biyi' ádiínsétt'oh

Amá bisihasin yéé dił bił daasdis  
Áłchíní yéé daané'é k'ídaasto' nahalingo atíingóó nikiidétaad  
Bee ádit'oodí daalchíí'. Anaa' bits'áádóó ats'íis dóo sihasin yéé  
nikidél'á  
Adeezhí léi' la' ahaniniyá. Ats'íis dóo dił díjji  
naayéé' bá. Hodézyééligíi 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 nízhoóní, dinisxos

Shił naa'aashí, ch'íidii  
bit'a' nízhoónigo bee yít'ah  
Háagóosh díniyá, Shił naa'aashí?  
Hágoshíí ląa, ti' "naach'íidii" bitahgóó tádiit'aash

Shaa ndi'ni'aahÁ T'áá aníí ádishníÁ  
Ts'idá ákohgo nízhi' beesenah  
Adíidláád yéé néehoosjíd  
Ách'ááh 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 íil'jidÁ  
Shigaan biyi'ji' akéé'di náhidínidzií'  
Ch'ééh doo nitséskees daÁ

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

Dahojitaal

Nits'íis nidaaz  
dóó dah diiyá  
nijéí 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  
Díí éí 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 ájíníí da  
Nizaad baa sínti'  
T'áá áníltso nihá yánílti'  
Nihiyázhí nílí  
Doo t'áadoo biniyéhígóó ni' dizhchíí 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 naazyínígóó azhdoo'ot,  
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,  
nihísiníłts'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, tádíídíin atiin béenílniih,  
 Hane' béenílniih,  
 sin béenílniih,  
 tsodizin béenílniih,  
 ádéenílniih,  
 Nanineetáá' yéé,  
 Diyin Dine'é yee ndanineeztáá' yéé,  
 nílák'ee silá k'ad  
 Nahasdzáán 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 háídíí shíí baa ádinsht'aah

She'atiin shił bééhózingo yisháál  
 Shiyiin bitsxe'go bee hashtaał  
 Ii'ni' saad bee tsodiszin  
 Shich'ááh naagháii yínishstą'  
 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',  
 Nahasdzáán 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 kichíí'  
 Hayoolkáál adiníldíín  
 Shimá bihózhó bits'áádóó haséya

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

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

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 ninaagóó 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