

**[1] The First Tears (2015)**

It was Raven who created the world. One day, Raven was out on the water in his kayak, when he saw what he thought was an island. He rowed up to it and tried to land his kayak, but a huge mouth opened up and swallowed him. It wasn't an island at all, but an enormous whale! As he went down the whale's throat, Raven thought that he would surely die, but instead he saw the Whale's ribs rise up around him like huge ivory columns. In the distance he could see a mysterious light, and could hear a faint sound as if someone was banging on a drum. Raven followed the light and went further inside the Whale, where he came to a strange little house. He peered in through the window, then knocked on the door and went inside. He came into a small room, and there in the corner sat the most beautiful young girl he had ever seen.

'Won't you marry me? And come out into the World with me?'

'I do not belong in the world just as you do not belong inside the Whale, but you can stay here and keep me company for a while if you like. However I must warn you never to touch my drum or my lamp.'

She then stood up and started to dance. When she danced quickly, the Whale soared through the ocean, and when she danced slowly the Whale rested gently near the surface of the water. The girl then stopped dancing and walked straight out of the door.

'Where are you going?'

'It's not important, Just a matter of breath and life, life and breath.....'

'Who are you? And why do you live inside a Whale?'

'I am the Whale's Soul and my drum is the Whale's heart. My lamp must never go out, or I will die, and there will be nobody to beat my drum. I sing and dance all day and all night and never grow tired.'

But when the girl next left the room, Raven did something truly dreadful, he ignored what the girl had said to him. He touched the lamp. Raven burnt himself on the lamp, and dropped it on the floor. It hit the floor, the flame went out. The girl fell in through the door and dropped down dead; the house collapsed and became a pile of dead whale bones. Suddenly Raven was all alone in complete darkness, inside a mess of blood, fat and blubber. Raven clambered back up the Whale's throat, up through its blow-hole, up onto the top of its dead body. Raven flew higher and higher, far from the sea, he flew to the Earth, and there he wept the first tears the world had ever known.

Inuit legend retelling by *Ēriks Ešenvalds*

**[2] Rivers of Light (2014)**

Kuovsakasah reukarih tåkko teki, sira ria,  
tåkko teki,  
sira ria, sira siraa ria.

Northern Lights slide back and forth, sira ria,  
back and forth,  
sira ria, sira siraa ria.

Guovssat, guovssat radni go, libai libai libaida,  
Ruoná gákti, nu nu nu.

Northern Lights, blanket shivering, libai libai libaida,  
green coat [traditional Sámi costume], nu nu nu.

Sámi folk songs

English Text (chorus): Winter night, the sky is filled with symphony of light, the sky is flooded with rivers of light. The doors of heaven have been opened tonight. From horizon to horizon misty dragons swim through the sky, green curtains billow and swirl, fast-moving, sky-filling, the tissues of gossamer. Nothing can be heard. Light shakes over the vault of heaven, its veil of glittering silver changing now to yellow, now to green, now to red. It spreads in restless change, into waving, into many-folded bands of silver. It shimmers in tongues of flame, over the very zenith it shoots a bright ray up until the whole melts away as a sigh of departing soul in the moonlight, leaving a glow in the sky like the dying embers of a great fire.

Text compiled by the composer after writings by Charles Francis Hall, Fridjof Nansen and various other writings on the Northern Lights

**[3] A Drop in the Ocean (2006)**

Pater noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum.  
Adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua sicut in caelo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,

et dimitte nobis debita nostra,  
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem: sed libera nos a malo.  
Amen.

and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

Luke 11: 2b–4

Lord, make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, let me sow pardon,  
Where there is discord, let me sow harmony,  
Where there is error, I may bring truth,  
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith,  
Where there's despair, let me sow hope,  
Where there is darkness, I may bring light,  
Where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

St Francis of Assisi (c1181–1226)

Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! Oh, the wings of a dove!  
I would fly away, I would flee far away and be at rest.  
I would find my place of shelter far from the tempest and storm.

Psalm 55: 6–8

Ah, Jesus, you are my God,  
Jesus, you are my spouse,  
Jesus, my life, my love, my all in all.

My work is nothing but a drop in the ocean, but if I did not put that drop, the ocean would be one drop the less.

Mother Teresa Of Calcutta (1910–1997)

#### **[4] Passion and Resurrection**

##### Part I

##### Quartet:

Parce mihi, Domine, nihil enim sunt dies mei.  
Quid est homo, quia magnificas eum?  
Aut quid apponis erga eum cor tuum?  
Visitas eum diluculo, et subito probas illum.  
Usque quo non parcis mihi, nec dimittis  
me, ut glutiam salivam meam?  
Cur non tollis peccatum meum, et quare  
non aufers iniquitatem meam?  
Ecce, nunc in pulvere dormiam, et si mane  
me quaesieris, non subsistam.

Leave me alone, Lord. My life makes no sense.  
Why is man so important to you?  
Why pay attention to what he does?  
You inspect him every morning and test him every minute.  
Won't you look away long enough for me  
to swallow my spittle?  
Can't you ever forgive my sin? Can't you  
pardon the wrong I do?  
Soon I will be in my grave, and I'll be gone  
when you look for me.

After Job 7:16–21

**Soprano:** Woe is me, for my foolish love of debauchery and my cleaving to iniquity have become a deep night unto me in which no light shines. Accept thou the wellsprings of my tears, thou who drawest the waters of the sea up into the clouds. Turn thy countenance upon the sobbing of my heart, thou who hast come from Heaven in thy inexpressible sacrifice. I shall kiss thy immaculate feet; I shall dry them with the tresses of my hair. In Paradise, Eve seeing them approaching, hid herself in fear. Who will examine the multitude of my sins, and thy judgments? O my Saviour, Redeemer of my soul, do not turn away from me: I am thy handmaiden, thou who art infinitely merciful.

From Byzantine Liturgy

**Choir:** Thy sins are forgiven; thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace.

Luke 7:48, 50

## **Part II**

**Choir:** My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. My Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Matthew 26:38, 42

And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. When they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand, and the spit upon him: and they have bowed the knee before him. They mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And after they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

After Matthew 27:28-31

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Luke 23:34

**Quartet:** My friend betrayed me by the token of a kiss: whom I shall kiss, that is he, hold him fast. That was the wicked token which he gave, who by a kiss accomplished murder. Unhappy man, he relinquished the price of blood, and in the end hanged himself.

Tenebrae Responsory for Maundy Thursday

**Soprano:** How great is thy love for mankind, O Lord! Thou bent down and washed Judas' feet, although he denied and betrayed thee.

From Byzantine Liturgy

**Quartet:** Amicus meus osculi me tradidit signo:  
Quem osculates fuero, ipse est, tenete eum!  
Hoc malum fecit signum,  
Qui per osculum adimplevit homicidium.  
Infelix praetermisit pretium sanguinis,  
Et in fine laqueo se suspendit.

Tenebrae Responsory for Maundy Thursday

## **Part III**

**Soprano:** At thy mystic Supper, admit me to thy communion, O Son of God. For I shall not betray the secret to thy enemies, nor give thee the kiss of Judas. But, like the thief, I beseech thee: Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

From Byzantine Liturgy

**Choir:** Verily I say unto thee: today thou shall be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:43

**Soprano:** The grieving Mother stood beside the cross weeping where her Son was hanging. Through her weeping soul, compassionate and grieving, a sword passed. Who is the man who would not weep if seeing the Mother of Christ in such agony?

From Stabat Mater

**Choir:** Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!

John 19:26-27

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachtani?  
My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 27:46

They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have counted all my bones. They divided my garments among them, and upon my garments they have cast lots.

Psalm 22:17-19

The enemy hath persecuted my soul, they have smitten my life down to the ground, they have made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.

Psalm 143:3

I thirst!

John 19:28

It is finished!

John 19:30

**Soprano:** By his stripes are we healed.

Isaiah 53:5

**Quartet:** Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:46

#### **Part IV**

##### **Soprano and Quartet:**

O dulce lignum, O dulces clavos,  
O dulcia ferens pondera:  
quae sola fuisti digna sustinere  
Regem coelorum et Dominum.

O sweet wood, whose sweet nails held the sweet burden. You alone were the one who held the Ruler of Heaven and the Lord.

Alleluia at Mass on the Finding of the Holy Cross

**Choir:** Why seek ye among the dead, as a mortal, the One who abides in everlasting light? Behold the linens of burial, the Lord is risen!

After Luke 24:5-6

**Quartet:** Woman, why weepest thou? Woman, whom seekest thou?

**Soprano:** Sir, if thou hast borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

John 20:15

**Soprano, Quartet and Choir:** Mariam. Rabboni.

John 20:16