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**The REWILDING MUSICAL**

**“The Child Who Went to the ZOO”**

**As told and sung by NIGHTINGALE**

**A HARMONY CEREMONY**

**Through**

**Heart of the Earth Productions**

**Actors - Host(Narrator), Nightingale, Child, Elder, 3 Giraffes.**

**(Optional Narrator in lieu of Nightingale spoken parts and as Child/Elder accompanist)**

**All reading/singing from scripts**

**Instrumentalists - Narrator, Nightingale/, Ensemble, Audience**

**(guitar/baritone uk or piano substitutable if no Nightingale musical instrument available)**

**Singing parts - Narrator, Nightingale, Child and Elder**

**(one verse Caring & Sharing and five versus Simple Gifts)**

**Intended audience, actors, chorus = upper elementary students through adults**

**OPTION - PARTICIPATORY THEATER**

**(some of the actors and many of the musicians drawn from the audience)**

**Orchestra - Nightingale, piano, guitar, base, cello, EVI, hand drums**

**With optional children’s chorus**

**Improvisational Key of C instruments shared among the audience include; harp; marimba; sills; wings; sparrows; resonator bars; jingle otters, frogs and snakes; sunflower**

**POSSIBLE ADD ONS**

**DANCERS, Masked Childrens’ CHORUS**

**Please visit [www.LovingNatureCommunity.org](http://www.LovingNatureCommunity.org) for more information.**

**Contact: Dick (Frog) Bozung, [Frog@LovingNatureCommunity.org](mailto:Frog@LovingNatureCommunity.org)**

HOST (*near piano using giraffes mic*)

Phones off please.

Welcome everyone and thanks for joining us. I'm \_\_\_\_\_, and I will begin by serving as your Host for tonight's musical offering to the Natural World, a most amazing story about a conversation among a child, her Grandparent, a Nightingale and 3 Giraffes at a Zoo,

I know there is a lot going on in our human world today - seems overwhelming at times. The same can be said for the challenges facing the Natural World which most of us here are already aware. Tonight may we offer a respite, feel inspired, and join together in  
OUR musical offering to the Natural World.

THE LONG TERM INTENTION of the MUSICAL

Our intention is simply to raise awareness and reach out to a more general audience, illuminating the magnitude of Natures' dilemma, and offering a hopeful message about how a new world-wide movement called REWILDING, in which we can all play a role, has a real chance of significantly reversing BIODIVERSITY LOSS.

From the words of Dr. E. O. Wilson, noted Harvard biologist

“We are committed to helping RE-WILD half the EARTH by 2050, re-storing and protecting the Earth's diverse species and natural processes (with science at the core and a moral obligation to the rest of life at its heart).”

This production is just a *Bare Bones Template* so to speak, acting as foundation upon which others can *spread the word*, like upper elementary, middle and high schools, childrens' theaters, libraries and so on, creating more elaborate productions if they choose, adding a “*masked wild things*” Childrens' chorus, more elaborate costuming, dancing, etc., even recruiting actors and improvisational musicians from the audience -  
a form of Participatory Improvisational Theater.

We are not seeking perfection. This is a work in progress - a simple rehearsal really, and we will appreciate any suggestions you might offer to make this production more effective and influence a greater audience.

And before I forget, I would like to announce the launch of a new website, [LovingNatureCommunity.org](http://LovingNatureCommunity.org) intended to point us in the direction of local, national and international individuals and organizations dedicated to helping restore and protect the Natural World. There you'll find links to local volunteer opportunities, important events, meetings and more, as well as links to the script, recordings of some of the music, and a 25 minute video of excerpts of our April 2024 rehearsal. Please take a look and offer any additions - *we're all in this together.*

From a TED talk by Jon Mooallem

“How we feel about an animal dramatically influences its future survival. Storytelling matters. Emotion matters. Our imagination has become an ecological force.”

To get us in the proper mood, please take some depth breaths, close your eyes if you like, and totally focus your senses on the music of our opening Prelude, entering the present state of ‘*sensory mindlessness*’, just as our wild relations are so adept at doing.

PRELUDE - (*pianist w/ensemble only*)

“Dancing with Mother Earth” (slow waltz C - F - G)

- 1 & 4      Dancing Mother Earth, gently dancing with you,  
Turning and turning, all day and night through,  
Your beauty abounds, in all that you do,  
Oh Mother Earth, how we do love you.
  
2.            Dancing with all of Nature, listening to you,  
Your sweet music enchants us, the whole day through,  
As equals and friends, RESPECTING all of you,  
Oh Mother Earth, SHARING more with you too.
  
3.            Awed by the magic, in all that you do,  
Nurtured by the gifts, flowing through you too,  
Trying to take, such good care of you,  
Oh Mother Earth, how we do thank you.

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**HOST**

**“So here’s our story, we’d like to SHARE with you,  
And that’s our THEME, SHARING, it’s so very true.  
Bout a young Child and her Grandmas’, visit to a zoo,  
And an amazing conversation, that took place there too.**

**Among four new friends, they met there by chance,  
Non-humans they all, with whom we share this great dance.**

**Three Giraffes they were, and their friend Nightingale too,  
With an important message, to SHARE with all of you!**

**It’s all been written down (show book cover), we’ve some actors too,  
That we might bring it to life, just for you.**

***WAVE ..... (GIRAFFE/HUMAN HUG)***

(solo) NARRATOR (C – Csus4)

“There once was a Child, much like all of you,  
Who wanted very much, to go to the zoo,  
To see all the animals, from far, far away,  
To have a good time, to laugh and to play.

*(Child and Elder enter down aisle in red car)*

So off to the zoo, the Child did go,  
With her Grandma, in her old red Volvo.  
On a windy autumn day, the sun shining bright,  
Not a moment to soon, and with much delight!

They arrived at the gate, and paid their fee,  
Hand in hand entering, so happily!  
But within them both, (it was hardly noticed at all),  
A strange tingling was felt, (maybe it was just the change into fall?)

*(Stella and Grandma assume positions in front of humans mic)*

*(Giraffes enter taking positions at Giraffes mic)*

And once inside, they decided to go,  
To where the Giraffes were housed, (they're such a beautiful show!)  
So they walked right on up, looking high in the sky,  
And believe it or not, they heard the GIRAFFES say 'Hi.'

And quite startled by this, they turned all around,  
Wondering if anyone else, had heard the same sound,  
But no one else, seemed alarmed at all,  
For only they, had heard the Giraffes' gentle call.

It was about this time, that a Nightingale landed nearby,  
Gave a nod to the Giraffes, and to the humans sang 'Hi'.  
And as they gazed into its eyes,  
It passionately sang this sweet reprise.”

*(All actors focused on Nightingale)*

**“Singing for Nature”**    **NIGHTINGALE**    *(w/soft ensemble backup)*

**(C - G - F - C)**

I sing for all of NATURE, to HU-MAN-I-TY,

Please help us, please help us, please listen to me.

NATURE needs your help, desperately.

And you’ll make a big difference, naturally.

Please help us, please help us, to spread the word,

Rallying people every - where, singing out like a bird.

Please help us, please help us, please listen to me.

I sing for all of NATURE, through you, to all of HU-MAN-I-TY,

*(harp interlude)*

**“A Great Tragedy”**

1.                    C                    Am                    F                    G  
                  We can see for great distances, futures and pasts too,
- C                    Am                    F                    G  
                  And we have some things to SHARE, from NATURE'S point of view.
- C                    Am                    F                    G  
                  HUGE LOSSES among US, A GREAT TRADGEDY,
- C                    Am                    F                    G                    C                    G                    F                    G  
                  Mostly on account of HU-MAN-I-TY!

2.                   C                   Am                   F                   G  
Many people don't see it, they're just not AWARE,  
                  C                   Am                   F                   G  
We know they don't mean, to be so UNFAIR.  
                  C                   Am                   F                   G  
So maybe we could start, by opening their eyes,  
                  C                   Am                   F                   G  
Help them see the big picture, remove the disguise.

3.                   C                   Em                   F                   G  
Yes, help them see the big picture, remove the disguise.  
                  C                   Em                   F                   G                   C                   G                   F                   G  
Before it's too late, before our demise.

NARRATOR

“And then, most amazingly, the Giraffes, smiling, spoke saying,”

*(eyes on the giraffes) GIRAFFES (speaking slowly and with feeling)*

(1) “My dear friends, how's the weather way down there? Just kidding, of course, but in a serious vein, we do have some disturbing facts to share with you.”

(2) “Because of so many people, their needs and wants too. We've lost much of our homelands, and been over-hunted too.”

(3) “Do you see the connection, where your homes, crops, businesses, stuff ..... everything humans have and use up comes from? From what was once the Natural World, when all is said and done.”

(1) “Here are the facts, (why we're feeling so blue), over just the last century, only 1 in 8 of us Giraffes are left, while there are 4 times more of you.”

*(\*\*\*\* AV - dates and populations projected on screen \*\*\*\*)*

*In 1924, there were 800,000 giraffes and 2 Billion people*

*In 2024, there are only 100,000 giraffes left while there are 8 Billion people*

(2) “Just 200 years ago, much of the Earth was Wild and Free,  
It seemed like forever, all things living in relative balance and harmony.”

(3) “But now less than 1/4 of Nature survives,  
Yes, truly a Great Tragedy, would you not surmise?”

(1) “And that includes much of the life in the Earth’s oceans as well.  
And by the way, the land areas left wild (mostly mountains, deserts, and areas  
covered with ice and snow) are not really suitable for many species to call home.”

(\*\*\*\* AV - back to giraffe/human hug \*\*\*\*)

### NIGHTINGALE

“Golden Rule” (w/soft ensemble)

C Em F G  
Yes, please see through our eyes, feel through our hearts too,

C Em F G  
Doesn't seem FAIR to us, does it to you?

C Em F G  
Do you feel the INJUSTICE, .....your COMPASSION is true.....

C Em F G C G F G  
NOT THE WAY WE WANT TO BE TREATED, WOULD YOU? (repeat)



**CHILD**

*(Gently caressing the side of one of the Giraffes, then reading)*

***“I HAD NO IDEA. I AM SO VERY, VERY SORRY FOR YOU.***

***I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT BEFORE, HOW EVERYTHING I HAVE and USE  
IMPACTS THE NATURAL WORLD.***

***I DO SO EMPATHIZE WITH YOUR SITUATION!***

**Hmm., maybe I need to *SHARE* more with my friends and just get along with *LESS* stuff?**

***NOR WOULD I EVER WANT SOMEONE COMING ALONG, HURTING MY  
FRIENDS, and PUSHING ME and MY FAMILY OUT of OUR HOME.***

***THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME UNDERSTAND NATURE'S DILEMMA.”***

*(Giraffes continuing to speak)*

**GIRAFFES**

- (2) “Did you know that we have really big hearts, weighing as much as 25 lbs.?  
That is one of the reasons why we were selected to speak to you on behalf of and  
from the Heart of our Earth Mother.”
- (3) “Although we’re very upset by what has been happening to giraffes and much of the  
Natural World, our hearts are swelling with HOPE, knowing that a new human movement  
aimed at SAVING the NATURAL WORLD, is awakening all over the planet.”
- (1) “It's called RE-WILDING.  
GIVING BACK, RESTORING and INTER-CONNECTING OUR HOMELANDS,  
RETURNING SPECIES and ADDING PROTECTIONS for the NATURAL WORLD.”
- (2) “HALF of the EARTH for NATURE by 2050, its goal.  
From backyards to the Serengeti, from sea to shining sea,  
more room for NATURE, in all her majesty.”

**NARRATOR**

“And then from somewhere in the distance there resounded the drum beat of our  
EARTH MOTHER’S HEART.”

*(drumming w/flute)*

*(And as her heartbeat fades away, continue singing)*

*(ensemble back up) “Home” (with optional Children's Chorus)*

1.                   C           G           F           G  
1.   FOR THE EARTH IS HOME, TO MANY IT'S TRUE,  
3.   (YES)

                  C           G                   F           G  
1.   NOT JUST TO PEOPLE, BUT GIRAFFES, AND JAGUARS TOO,  
3.   (TO WOLVES AND FROGS, AND CORAL REEFS TOO)

                  C                   G           F           G  
1. TO WHALES, CONDORS AND REDWOODS, TO NAME JUST A FEW,  
3. (TO ATLANTIC COD AND RAINFORESTS)

                  C           G           F           G           C  
1. & 3.   THEY ALL NEED HOMES, JUST LIKE YOU DO.

                  C           G           F           G  
\*2. & 4\*   SO LET'S GIVE THEM ALL, NEW HOPE FOR SURE,

                  C           G           F           G  
MORE ROOM FOR YOUR *WILD RELATIONS*, “RE-WILDING” IS THE CURE.

                  C           G           F           G  
IT'S THE FAIR THING TO DO, PLEASE CAN'T YOU SEE,

                  C           G           F           G           C           G           F           G           C  
THAT WE ALL MIGHT LIVE, IN HAR - MO - NY.

**NARRATOR**

**“And then the Child’s Grandma, excitedly spoke, saying,”**

**ELDER (*facing the audience*)**

**“I SEE, 'RE-WILDING', what a WONDERFUL thing! GIVING back to NATURE  
SOME OF WHAT HUMANS HAVE SO THOUGHTLESSLY TAKEN AWAY!”**

**GIRAFFES**

**(3) “Yes, and here's some more GOOD NEWS.**

**Humans will benefit immensely from an expansion of the NATURAL WORLD,  
by returning an ecological BALANCE to the EARTH,  
which is vital to the overall health and well being of all living things.”**

**(1) “Please remember, this isn’t just about Giraffes, but much of the NATURAL WORLD,  
like most of the other species confined here at the zoo, and at the aquarium next door too,  
and many indigenous peoples long living in balance and harmony with the Earth as well.”**

**CHILD**

**“YES, OF COURSE. WHATEVER CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?”**

**GIRAFFE (2)**

**“OH, WE DO SO NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE.  
SO HERE'S A SUGGESTION, WE'D LIKE TO PASS ON TO YOU,  
A DREAM, WE HOPE YOU CAN HELP MAKE COME TRUE!”**

NIGHTINGALE

**“Please Spread the Word”** (*ensemble back up*)

1.           C           G           C           F  
*Please spread the word, what we've said and sung to you,*  
          C           G           F           G  
*Create a musical, it'll be fun, and you'll feel good too.*
2.           C           G           C           F  
*Raise people's AWARENESS, of our plight,*  
          C           G           F           G  
*Supporting the groups, trying to put things right!*
3.           C           G           C           F  
*And help others, to perform, your 'Re-Wilding' musical too,*  
          C           G           F           G           C  
*A most beautiful gift, flowing thro – ugh you.*
4.           C           G           C           F  
*You're all key players, in your own special way,*  
          C           G           F           G  
*Every little thing you can do, will go a long, long way.*

NARRATOR

“And then the Child excitedly spoke again saying,”

CHILD

“Yes, of course. What a great idea!  
And I have many friends who would love to help.  
I promise with all my heart, to help the NATURAL WORLD RECOVER.”

NARRATOR

“And then the Child and her Grandma softly sang to the Giraffes,”

CHILD and ELDER (*w/guitar accompaniment*)

“Caring and Sharing” (C - F - G)

C F

Looking into, your eyes so true,

G C

Ever grateful, just knowing you.

C F

We'll stick by your sides, just like glue,

G C

Growing in our LOVE and Devotion to you.

C F

And know that we'll help you, never abandon you.

G C

We'll be your messengers, always speaking up for you.

*(harp interlude)*

(then w/Ensemble backup) NIGHTINGALE (*w/optional chorus*)

C F

1. *Loving and Giving*, the natural you its true,

G C

*Loving and Giving*, flows right through.

C F

*Caring and Sharing*, much the same too,

G C

*Caring and Sharing*, all you have to do.

\* 2, 4, 6\*            C            F            G            C  
And as you *embrace* this, all will be well.  
C                            F            G            C  
The *Natural World* is waiting, may all be well.

3.            *Awareness Brings Change*, it's so very true,  
              Seeing the *injustice* - acting *fairly* too,  
*RE-Winding's* the cure, a gift from each of you,  
              *Nature needs more, to see it through.*

5.            *Caring and Sharing*, all you have to do,  
              *Caring and Sharing*, flows right through.  
              Living in *Harmony*, by the *Golden Rule*,  
              Together, we can make this *Dream* come true.

(singing facing the audience CHILD and ELDER (w/guitar accompaniment))

7.            C                            F  
*Loving and Giving*, the natural us it's true,  
              G                            C  
              *Loving and Giving*, flows right through.  
              C                            F  
              *Caring and Sharing*, much the same too,  
              G                            C  
              *Caring and Sharing*, all we have to do.

8.            C            F            G            C  
And as we *embrace* this, all will be well.  
C                            F            G            C  
The *Natural World* is waiting, may all be well.

**NARRATOR**

**And as they prepared to leave, the Child's Grandma pulled her aside and they began to talk.**

**ELDER**

**“You know, the Natural World is becoming just like the Zoo, hemmed in, with inadequate spaces and populations in order for WILDLIFE to thrive.....”**

**Maybe we should ask the folks here at the Zoo, to SHARE with their visitors all the things we've learned from Nightingale and the Giraffes, and thank them for the Re-Wilding work they are already doing with certain endangered species.”**

**CHILD**

**Maybe they could put up a big sign at the entrance to the Zoo, with some words of wisdom from the indigenous peoples of the earth regarding the fair treatment of the Natural World, and APOLOGIZING for confining our amazing relations in such small spaces and GIVING THANKS to them all so that we might get to know them and Nature's dilemma better.”**

**ELDER**

**“What a great idea my dear!”**

**GIRAFFES**

- (3) “Did you know that we are over 95% genetically the same. Because of our similarities, we'd like to offer a little heartfelt advice to all of humanity. It seems that your ways of viewing the Natural World have been imprisoned by some of your beliefs.”**
- (1) “Instead of seeing the world as belonging to humans, see yourselves as belonging to the Earth. Please see us as equals and friends, treating us with respect and reverence, not as having dominion over us, but as guardians of the NATURAL WORLD.”**
- (2) “And consider turning off your electronic devices and busy minds and instead, go outside, immerse yourselves in the Natural World, focusing your senses in the present, as we do (we call it ‘sensory mindlessness’). Your lives will be so enriched when you do.”**





NARRATOR

“And with that, the Child and her Grandma were ready to leave, but before doing so, they were inspired to sing for the last time,”

*(Child and Elder facing the audience)*

*(Ensemble backup) ELDER and CHILD (w/guitar accompaniment)*

“Simple Gifts”

C

1. Tis a gift to live *SIMPLY*, tis a gift to be FREE  
F G  
*SHARING* with each other, living *CO- OP - ER - A - TIVE - LY*.

C

And when we are in, the place just right,  
F G C  
We'll be in the valley, of love and delight.

C

\* 2. \* When true, simplicity's our way,  
*Am* F G  
Wanting and wining, will soon fade away,

C

To turn and to turn, will be our delight,  
F G C  
Till by turning and turning, we'll come round right.

C

3. Tis a gift to live *SIMPLY*, acting *RES - PON - SI - BLY*,  
F G  
Eyes on the *FUTURE*, living *SUS - TAIN - ABLY*.

C

And when we are in, the place just right,  
F G C  
We'll be in the valley, of love and delight.

\* 4. \*  
C  
When true, simplicity's our way,  
Am F G  
Loving all things wild, will soon be our way,  
C  
To turn and to turn, will be our delight,  
F G C  
Till by turning and turning, we'll come round right.

C  
5. Giving back to the Earth, a SIMPLE GIFT it is true,  
F G  
In solidarity as ONE, t'is long overdue.  
C  
And when we are in, the place just right,  
F G C  
We'll be in the valley, of love and delight.

NIGHTINGALE (solo)

6. Please find something simple, through your hearts it will be,  
To help the NATURAL WORLD, given lovingly,  
There are so many ways, and it needn't seem like much,  
When combined with many others, it will surely help a bunch.

*WAVE fading.....*

**HOST**

**“As we conclude our time together, I’d like to remind you to check out our new website  
LovingNatureCommunity.org for links to REWILDING organizations  
that you can support locally, nationally and world-wide  
(or start your own) dedicated to reversing BIO - DIVERSITY LOSS.**

**And now, we would like to JOYFULLY play you out, with an upbeat (danceable if you like)  
rendition of our opening piece - “DANCING with MOTHER EARTH”.**

**THANK YOU!**

(optional) **ACTORS, ALL MUSICIANS, AUDIENCE and CHORUS** (singing with masks)

**“We Have the Whole World in our Hands”**

**We have the whole world, in our hands,  
All the (children's wild name), in our hands,  
And the places they live, in our hands,  
We have the whole world in our hands.**

**From the NAVAJO BEAUTY WAY**

**“I walk with BEAUTY before me, I walk with BEAUTY behind me,  
I walk with BEAUTY above me, I walk with BEAUTY below me.  
I walk with BEAUTY all around, my life will be BEAUTIFUL.”**

**Note - Nightingale music can be provided by Nightingale Autoharp or guitar or piano.**

**PROPS**

**GIRAFFE/HUMAN HUG PHOTO  
GIRAFFE BACKDROP & STATUES  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS for AUDIENCE**

**SIGNAGE**

**PROGRAMS - web page**

**HANDOUTS - web page**

**COSTUMES**

**WAVES/ENSEMBLE INSTRUMENTS/AMPS/MICS/STANDS, etc**

**SUPPORT**

**VIDEOGRAPHY**

**SOUND**

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DISPERSION**

**HOST MUSIC**

**w/ NIGHTINGALE warm-up**

**w/piano PRELUDE including “DANCING with MOTHER EARTH”**

**NIGHTINGALE SONGS (w/ensemble back-up)**

**“INTRODUCTION”**

**“SINGING for NATURE”**

**“A GREAT TRAGEDY”**

**\*GOLDEN RULE”**

**“PLEASE SPREAD the WORD”**

**NIGHTINGALE AUDIENCE IMPROV SONGS**

**“HOME”**

**“CARING and SHARING”**

**“SONG of ENDEARMENT”**

**“SIMPLE GIFTS”**

**“DANCING with MOTHER EARTH” (flute added if extra guitarist)**

**“WE HAVE the WHOLE WORLD in OUR HANDS” (optional)**

**CHILD and ELDER SONGS (NARRATOR)**

**Opening and closing verses “CARING and SHARING”**

**1st five versus “SIMPLE GIFTS”**