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The REWILDING MUSICAL
“The Child Who Went to the ZOO”

A HARMONY CEREMONY

“The Children’s Living in HARMONY with NATURE initiative”

OPTIONAL PRODUCTION

Operatic Version via NIGHTINGALE

(simplest non-rehearsed production with or without readers 20 - 40 minutes)

Optional

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

Please visit www.LovingNatureCommunity.org

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HOST

“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, an Elder, a Nightingale and several Giraffes at a Zoo,

(optional)

{The musical is intended as a Harmony Ceremony in which we can all be a part - a musical offering through all of us to the Natural World. I’ve brought some small, beautiful sounding musical instruments to share with all of you, all in the Key of C, meaning there will be no wrong notes as you freely improvise and harmonize along with the music.

(If available - I’d like to introduce you to a new musical instrument called a Nightingale).

I would suggest that you play softly while Nightingale is singing, and a little louder during the instrumental breaks, and then at the end of each song, play softly and slowly, fading away. At the end of each piece, please pass your instrument to a friend.

Let’s do a little warm-up to get us started. We’ll begin by creating a little musical rain. Just play any notes on your instrument, randomly, gently, slowly (rhythm not important) along with Nightingale - Beautiful!

Now let’s accompany a rhythmic variation on this theme “Raindrops - Teardrops”, fading away, creating a beautiful improvised musical ending.}

Before getting started I’d like to read you two short excerpts,

first 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.’

And second,

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).’

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 - (*piano and orchestra*)

“**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.**

“So here’s NIGHTINGALE’s story, I’d like to SHARE with you,
And that’s our THEME, SHARING, it’s so very true.
Bout a young Child and his/her Elders’, visit to a zoo,
And an amazing conversation, that took place there too.
Among some new friends, they met there by chance,
Non-humans they all, with whom we share this great dance.
Several Giraffes they were, and their friend Nightingale too,
With an important message, to SHARE with all of you!

WAVEs.....Giraffe/Human hug slide

NIGHTINGALE (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.

So off to the zoo, the Child did go,
With an Elder, in his/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?)

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 I landed nearby,
Gave a nod to the Giraffes, and to the humans I sang 'Hi'.
And as they gazed into my eyes,
I passionately sang this sweet reprise.

“Singing for Nature” (*harp intro*)

C G F

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

C G F

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

C G F

NATURE needs your help, desperately.

C G F

You’ll make a big difference, naturally.

(break)

C G F

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

C G F G

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

C G F

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

C G F G C G F G C

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

(harp interlude)

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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 TRAGEDY,

C Am F G C

Mostly on account of HU-MAN-I-TY!

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. *(slowly)*

C Am F G

Yes, help them see the big picture, remove the disguise.

C Am F G C Am F G C

Before it's too late, before our demise.

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(harp interlude)

And then the Giraffes, taking turns, spoke saying,

(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.”

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

(2)

“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.”

“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 ****)*

(1)

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

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

(2)

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

“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.”

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

(harp interlude)

NIGHTINGALE

“Golden Rule”

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 Em F G

NOT THE WAY WE WANT TO BE TREATED, WOULD YOU?

(harp interlude)

And then the Child spoke saying,

***“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.
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.”***

And then the Giraffes, spoke again saying,

(1)

“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.”

(2)

“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.”

(3)

“ It's called RE-WILDING.
GIVING BACK, RESTORING and INTER-CONNECTING OUR HOMELANDS,
RETURNING SPECIES and ADDING PROTECTIONS for the NATURAL WORLD.”

(4)

“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.”

NIGHTINGALE

“HOME”

 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 BUFFALO, 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.

And then the Child's Elder spoke and said,

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

And again, the Giraffes interjected and said,

(1)

“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.”

(2)

“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.”

And with much enthusiasm the Child spoke saying,

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

And the Giraffes, nodding their heads in unison, said,

(1 & 2 together)

“OH, WE DO SO NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE”

And then I continued to sing,

“Please Spread the Word”

C G C F

1. So here's a suggestion, we'd like to pass on to you. (slow strumming)

C G F G

A dream, we hope you can help make come true.

C G C F

2. 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.

C G C F

3. Raise peoples' awareness, of our plight,

C G F G

Supporting the groups, trying to put things right! (break)

C G C F

4. Help others, to perform, your 'Re-Wilding' musical too,

C G F G

A most beau -ti -ful gift, flowing thro - ugh you.

C G C F

5. 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. (slowly fading)

“And then the Child excitedly spoke again saying,”

“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.”

NIGHTINGALE (C - F - G) *“Caring and Sharing”*

1. Loving and Giving, the natural you its true, (slow strumming)

Loving and Giving, flows right through.

Caring and Sharing, much the same too,

Caring and Sharing, all you have to do.

*** 2, 4 & 6. And as you embrace this, all will be well. (Break after 4)*

The Natural World is waiting, may all be well.

3. Awareness Brings Change, it's so very true, (slow strumming)

Seeing the injustice - acting fairly too,

RE-WILDING's the cure, a gift from all of you,

Nature needs more, to see it through

5. Caring and Sharing, all you have to do, (slow strumming)

Caring and Sharing, flows right through.

Living in Harmony, by the Golden Rule,

Together, you can make this Dream come true.

(Harp interlude)

And then the Elder spoke to the Child saying,

“My dear child, I can see that the Natural World is becoming just like the Zoo, hemmed in, with inadequate spaces and populations in order for WILDLIFE to thrive.....

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.”

And the Child responded saying,

“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 all the Natural World, 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.”

And once again, the Giraffes interjected saying,

(1)

“What a GREAT idea! 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.”

(2)

“It seems that your ways of viewing the Natural World have been imprisoned by some of your beliefs. 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.”

(1)

“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.”

(1 & 2 together)

“PLEASE TREAT ALL THINGS AS YOU YOURSELF WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED”

NIGHTINGALE

Fj7

Cj7

1. We are all family, of one Mother,

Fj7

Cj7

All Children, of the Earth.

Fj7

Cj7

Brothers and sisters, inter-related,

Fj7

Cj7

Inter-dependent, this has always been so. *(repeat)*

2 & 4. Please think of us, forget us not, (C F G C)

Remember us, wherever you go.

Think of us, forget us not,

Remember us, wherever you go.

3. We are yours, you are ours,

Remember us, wherever you go.

We are yours, you are ours,

Remember us, wherever you go.

(Break after 3)

5. Thank you for listening, helping us too,

We'll be forever, indebted to you.

We are yours, you are ours,

Remember us, wherever you go.

(some words of advice)

(C - F - G) “SIMPLE GIFTS” - (C - Am - F - G)

1. Ti's a gift to live *simply*, tis a gift to be FREE.

SHARING with each other, living *CO-OP-ER-A-TIVE-LY*.

And when you are in, the place just right,

You'll be in the valley, of love and delight.

2. When true, *simplicity's* your way,

Wanting and wining, will soon fade away,

To turn and to turn, will be your delight,

Till by turning and turning, you'll come round right. *(break)*

3. Expanding Nature, good for humans too,

Ecological balance, essential for all it's so true.

Immerse yourselves in Nature, focusing your senses too,

Turning off your busy minds, just like we do.

4. When true, *simplicity's* your way,

Loving all things wild, will soon be your way,

To turn and to turn, will be your delight,

Till by turning and turning, you'll come round right. *(break)*

5. Tis a gift to live *SIMPLY*, acting *RES - PON - SI - BLY*,
Eyes on the *FUTURE*, living *SUS - TAIN - ABLY*.
And when you are in, the place just right,
You'll be in the valley, of love and delight.

6. Please find something simple, through your heart it will be, *(slowing)*
To help your **WILD BRETHREN**, 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.

“Dancing with Mother Earth”

(C - F - G) *(waltz to upbeat version)*

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.

Continuing then Slowly fading away

The WAVE.....