

My Mother the Earth

 **NEON**
vokal

Program

Alone Looking at the Mountain

From “3 Li Po Songs” by Frank Havrøy, based on the poem of the same name by Chinese poet Li Po

My Mother the Earth

A piece about nature, with lyrics from Native American poems, composed by Frank Havrøy

I. What I Am I Must Become

II. My Feet Touch Earth and Dance

III. My Mother the Earth

Nature Boy

Eden Ahbez, arranged by Anders Edenroth

Rolandskvadet

Trad., arranged by Ingrid Danbolt and Neon Vokal

Ingen vinner frem til den evige ro

Ingrid Hjerpseth improvises over a Norwegian folk tune

Er du der? (“Are you there?”)

A piece about belonging, composed by Frank Havrøy

I. Sov du, vesle venen min

Based on an Icelandic folk tune,
Norwegian lyrics by Trygve Bjerkheim

II. The Earth Is Closing on Us

Lyrics by Mahmoud Darwish

III. Yalla Tnam

Based on an Arabaic lullaby

Bukkehornslåt fra Østerdalen

Trad., arranged by Håvard Gravdal

Ved Rondane

Edvard Grieg, lyrics by Aasmund Olavsson Vinje

Dovregubbens haraball

Edvard Grieg, arranged by Fredrik Otterstad

Eg veit i himmerik ei borg

Trad., arranged by Anne-Line Sandegren

About the pieces

Frank Havrøy is a Norwegian composer who often incorporates poems and folk tunes from various cultures into his works. He also uses poems or excerpts of literature as a framework for his pieces, providing additional context and a deeper meaning.

Er du der? (“Are you there?”)

A piece about belonging, the fear of the unknown, and the importance of kindness and compassion, based on lullabies from different cultures, as well as the poem “The Earth Is Closing on Us” by Mahmoud Darwish. The poem “Ugledikt III” by Arild Nyquist frames the piece.

*“I think it’s unfortunate that you’re hiding there, deep in the forest where you can’t see me, and that I stand here on the road where I can’t see you – because if we can’t see each other, and talk to each other, we might think ugly things of each other – you think I spit on you, and I think you spit on me – and we stand like that, far, far away from each other and think dumb ugly things about each other. Therefore, I call on you, I shout as loud as I can manage: Come out of the forest! Come out and greet me!
... You don’t want to?
You don’t have the courage to?
Do you want me to come to you instead?
I’ll come then.
I’m coming...”*

– Excerpt from Arild Nyquist, “Ugledikt III”, translated

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A piece about the importance of staying in tune with nature. The lyrics of the three movements are from Native American poems. Excerpts from Rachel Carson's environmental science book "Silent Spring" (1962) also serves as a bridge between the different movements of the piece.

"There was a strange stillness. On the mornings that had once throbbed with the dawn chorus of robins, catbirds, doves, jays, wrens, and scores of other bird voices there was now no sound; only silence lay over the fields and woods and marsh. The apple trees were coming into bloom, but no bees droned among the blossoms, so there was no pollination and there would be no fruit. There was a strange stillness."

– One of the excerpts from "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson

I. What I Am I Must Become

What I am I must become
What I see I must try to find
What I hear I must play music to
What I touch I must leave alone

I turn then to all reflections of myself
in trees and sacred things that nature gives to me

II. My Feet Touch Earth and Dance

My feet touch Earth and dance to the drums which are in my heart as well
If my feet do not touch the earth, my dance will not be good
And the music in my heart will all be still

III. My Mother the Earth

My brother the star
My mother the Earth
My father the Sun
My sister the Moon

To my life, give beauty
To my body, give strength
To my corn, give goodness
To my house, give peace
To my spirit, give truth
To my elders, give wisdom

About Neon Vokal

Neon Vokal goes beyond the ordinary—they are trailblazers in the art of a cappella. With a passion for fun and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of vocal expression, Neon Vokal delivers a unique and unforgettable experience. Their performances are a testament to the joy of making music together and exploring new possibilities with their voices. Embracing their roots, they skillfully incorporate Norwegian folk tunes into their performances, creating a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation.



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