

THE DROP THAT CONTAINED THE SEA

Works on the Theme of Water

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COMPOSED AND CONDUCTED BY CHRISTOPHER TIN

Performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

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CHRISTOPHER **TIN**

THE

DROP

THAT CONTAINED THE **SEA**



THE DROP THAT CONTAINED THE SEA

Works on the Theme of 'Water'

FOREWARD

I'm fascinated by the human voice. I love the different ways that people sing—from the early-morning call of the muezzin, to the melancholy lament of the fadista, to the lonely Mongolian long song echoing across the mountains. When I write new pieces, I try to share a bit of that love.

The Drop That Contained the Sea is a collection of commissioned works, reimagined and arranged for chorus and orchestra. Each of the 10 pieces is sung in a different language, exploring a different vocal tradition. Each piece also deals with water in a different form, arranged in the order that water flows through the world: melting snow, mountain streams, rivers, the ocean, and so forth. And like my last album *Calling All Dawns*, the end of the album flows back into the beginning, reflecting the endless nature of the water cycle.

Finally, the title *The Drop That Contained the Sea* comes from a Sufi concept: in the same way that every drop of water contains the essence of the sea, inside every human is the essence of all of humanity. In keeping with this idea I've introduced a water theme in the Prelude, and woven subtle variations throughout the album. It contains all seven notes of a major scale—four descending and three ascending—mirroring the flow of water through our world, and representing the vast ocean of melodic possibility contained within a single scale.

01 WATER PRELUDE

Sung in Proto-Indo-European
Variations on the word 'water'

Performed by the Angel City Chorale
with Soweto Gospel Choir, Shoji Kameda &
the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Proto-Indo-European is the earliest-known reconstructed language; it is the root from which most modern languages are derived. In linguistic terms, it was the original 'drop' that contained the sea. The Water Prelude is sung on variations of the word 'water', ending with an abstract version of an overture: an orchestral 'big-bang' moment made up of melodic fragments from the other movements, with the word for 'water' spoken in the ten languages featured on the full album. First performed April 13, 2014 at Carnegie Hall, New York, NY by the Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Choir, conducted by Jonathan Griffith.

TRANSLATION BY ANDREW BYRD

wódr *water*
wédns *of the water*
wédo:r *the waters*
hákwah *water*
hrósah *moisture*
hró:s *moisture*
udéni *in the water*

02 HAKTAN GELEN ŞERBETİ

"The Drink from God"

Sung in Turkish

Adapted from a poem by Yunus Emre

Performed by Kardeş Türküler
with the Angel City Chorale, Jamie Papish &
the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Haktan gelen şerbeti içtik elhamdülillah

Şol kudret denizini geçtik elhamdülillah
Kuru idik yaş olduk ayak idik baş olduk

Kanatlandık kuş olduk uçtuk elhamdülillah

Şol karşıki dağları meşeleri bağları

Sağlık sefalık ile geçtik elhamdülillah
Vardığımız illere şol sefa gönüllere

Baba Tapduk ma'nisin saçtık elhamdülillah

(inspired by water)

Commissioned by DCINY to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of TURKSOY and as a gift from the citizens of the United States to the Turkish People. First performed June 3, 2013 at the University Concert Hall, Eskişehir, Turkey by the Presidential Symphony Orchestra and Jonathan Griffith Singers, conducted by Jonathan Griffith.

TRANSLATION BY KABIR HELMINSKI

*The drink sent down from Truth, we drank it, glory
be to God.*

*And we sailed over the Ocean of Power, glory be to God
We were dry, but we moistened. We became feet we
became the head*

*We grew wings and became birds, and flew, glory be
to God.*

*Beyond those hills and oak woods, beyond those vine-
yards and gardens,
we passed in health and joy, glory be to God.*

*To whatever lands we came, in whatever hearts, in all
humanity,*

*We planted the meanings Taptuk taught us, glory be
to God.*

Dirildik pınar olduk ırıldık ırmak olduk

Aktık denize daldık taştk elhamdülillah

Beri gel barışalım yâd isen bilişelim

Atımız eğlendi eştk elhamdülillah

03 TEMEN OBLAK

“Dark Clouds”

Sung in Bulgarian

Adapted from a poem by Hristo Botev

Performed by Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares
with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Zadade se oblák témen
Otkum gora, ot Bălkana

Eh, moy dyado, tejko vreme!
Raloto se edvam vlachi

*We became a trickle that grew into a river. We
took flight and dove into the sea,
and then we overflowed, glory be to God.*

*Come here, let's make peace, let's not be strangers to
one another.
We have saddled the horse and trained it, glory be to
God.*

(inspired by clouds)

Commissioned by the International Schools Choral Music
Society. First performed February 22, 2014 at the Forbidden City
Concert Hall, Beijing, China by the ISCMS Festival Orchestra and
Chorus, conducted by Christopher Tin.

TRANSLATOR UNKNOWN

*A cloud of darkness has appeared
from the mountains and the forest.*

*Ah, granddad, these are troubled times!
Hard the dragging of the plough.*

Zakapaha edri kapki
Neli ne sa kapki drebni.
Boorya strashna shte da revne
Neli ne sa kapki drebni.

Kaji dyado, che az pomnya
Kakuv yunak naped beshe
Bog da prosti baba Stoina
Tya peeshe, ti oreshe

“Eh moj sinko! Shto me pitash?
Chui tos garvan de tam grachi..
No f'selo neli otivash
Shte da vidish zashto place

Star voyvoda sled tui ralo!
Tam seloto se e zbralo
Na megdana za da gleda
Moyte momtzi, moyte cheda!”

Zadade se oblák témen
Dali shte e dujdétz dremen?

Seki ticha, f'selo byaga,
Dyado ne shte da razpryaga

*Large raindrops have begun to fall,
this is no gentle drizzle now.
A terrifying tempest howls -
this is no gentle drizzle now.*

*Tell me, granddad - I remember
how you once walked brave and proud.
Granny Stoina was alive then -
she was singing while you ploughed.*

*“Ah, my son, why you ask?
Listen to the raven croak..
But when you go down to the village
you'll find out why the tears choke*

*an aged chieftain, following his plough.
For the village gathers all around,
in the square, to gaze upon
my children, my young men.”*

*A cloud of darkness has appeared
does it mean a gentle drizzle?*

*Everyone through the village races,
but granddad won't unhitch the traces.*

04 IZA NGOMSO

“Come Tomorrow”

Sung in Xhosa

Adapted from ‘Keramos’

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Performed by Soweto Gospel Choir
with the Angel City Chorale &
the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Imvula izawubuya ezulwini
Umphungu uphinde ube imvula namafu
Ndizawuqabela
Apho amatapha nentsimi eluhlaza
Izikhophe ezizotyiweyo zibhabha emoyeni

Njengentaka ndiyabhabha,
ndibamba umoya
Njengentaka ndiyabhabha,
ndibambebele ngamaphiko

Iza ngomso
Kuzawubalela
Makube ngomso

Iyeza imini
Ndibhabha, ndidada emhlabeni wonke,
Ndibamba umoya

{inspired by mist}

Commissioned by Waterford Union High School, Derek Machan,
Director of Choirs. First performed January 5, 2014 at Waterford
Union High School, Waterford, WI by the WUHS Choirs, conducted
by Derek Machan.

TRANSLATION BY KANYI MAQUBELA
AND VUYELWA MAQUBELA

*The rain will return to the cloud
The clouds bring down the rain
I will climb
Where over fields and pastures green
The painted ships float high in the air.*

*Like a bird I fly,
I'm holding on to the wind
Like a bird I fly,
I'm holding on by my wings*

*Come tomorrow
The rain will clear
May it be tomorrow*

*The day is coming
I fly, I swim all over the lands
I'm holding on to the wind*

Phezukwe santizasendle,
Phezukwamalwandle namachibi

Njengentaka ndiyabhabha,
Njengentaka ndiyacula

Lizaw'balela
Makube ngomso

*Over desert sands,
Over gulf and bay*

*Like a bird I fly,
Like a bird I sing*

*The clouds will clear
May it be tomorrow*

05 TSAS NARAND UYARNA

“The Heart of Snow”

Sung in Mongolian

Adapted from ancient Mongolian texts

Performed by Nominjin

with the Angel City Chorale, Shoji Kameda &

the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Tsalin mungun duulgatai

Tsantyn davaa mini amaglantai

Tsasan shuurga tsagiin erhee

Tsailgan setgel mongol zan

Alsyn alsad odod anivchna

Ayanchin chinchin aisui baina

Aagtai tsaigaa uudalya yu daa

Aisui zochnoo ugtaya yu daa

Tsar naran hamtdaa orshih horvood

Tsalgin halgih hair mine ee

Tsas narand uyarna

{inspired by snow}

Commissioned by the Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra. First performed September 27, 2013 at the Colorado Christian University Music Center, Denver, CO by Pearl Rutherford and the Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra, conducted by David Rutherford. Original title: “Kawa Korwa (Swirling Snow)”.

TRANSLATION BY NOMINJIN

The stars afar glimmer with might

The arrival of a traveler; a caravan is near

I shall joyfully greet and bring forth freshly brewed tea

The mountain sits at peace, adorned by a helmet of silver mist

A snow storm is the will of Time, the conqueror of all

A pure heart beats at the core of each Mongol

In this world where the sun and snow live in harmony

The love in my heart flows abundantly

Songs of peace thaw the heart of

The Wheel of Earthly Samsara

The heart of snow

06 PASSOU O VERÃO

“Summer Has Gone”

Sung in Portuguese

From Sonnet CXCV by Luís de Camões

Performed by Dulce Pontes

with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Correm turbas as águas deste rio,

Qua as rápidas enchentes enturbaram:

Os florecidos campos se secaram;

Intratável se fez o valle, e frio.

Passou, como o verão, o ardente Estio;

Humas cousas por outras se trocaram:

Os fermentidos fados já deixaram

Do Mundo o regimento, ou desvario.

Já o tempo a ordem sua tem sabida;

O Mundo, não: mas anda tão confuso,

Que parece que delle Deos se esquece.

Casos, opiniões, natura, e uso,

Fazem que nos pareça desta vida

Que não há nella mais do que parece.

{inspired by mountain streams}

Commissioned by Alexandra Iranfar. First performed October 25, 2013 at Old First Church, San Francisco, CA by Alexandra Iranfar. Original instrumentation: soprano and guitar. Original title: “Águas da Montanha (Passou o Verão)”.

TRANSLATION BY WILLIAM BAER

When the turgid waters of the river flow by, they bring the muddied runoff from the mountains; nearby the once-flowering fields are parched and dry, and the valley is cold and unproductive. The spring

and the heats of summer are gone. The transition of things into other things continues. But it seems as though the Fates have abandoned their usual schemes, forsaking this world to its mostly disordered condition

Time, of course, has order, and it never breaks its rules, but not this world, whose chaotic strife seems almost forgotten by God. The uncertainty

of customs, events, opinions, and nature makes it always seem as though this life is nothing more than what it seems to be.

07 DEVIPRAVAHA

“Goddess River”

Sung in Sanskrit

From the Gangashtakam by Adi Shankara

Performed by Roopa Mahadevan
with the Angel City Chorale, Jon Sterckx &
the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

bhagavati tava tīre nīra-mātrāshano ‘ham
vigata-vishaya-trishnah krishnam ārādhayāmi
sakala-kalusha-bhange svarga-sopāna-sange

taralatara-tarange devi gange prasida

{inspired by a river}

Arranged from a melody written for Roopa Mahadevan. First performed April 13, 2014 at Carnegie Hall, New York, NY by Roopa Mahadevan with the Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Choir, conducted by Jonathan Griffith.

TRANSLATION BY SHIV SUBRAMANIAM

*Drinking only water on your bank, O Goddess,
Free from my worldly desires, I worship Krishna.
Destroyer of all our sins, who have become the stair-
case of heaven,
With waves ever wavering, O Divine Ganga: be kind!*

08 SEIRENES

“Sirens”

Sung in Ancient Greek

From The Odyssey by Homer

Performed by Anonymous 4
with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

“deur’ ag’ iōn, poluain’ Oduseu, mega kudos
Achaïōn,
nêa katastêson, hina nôiterên op’ akousêis.

ou gar pô tis têide parêlase nêi melainêi,

prin g’êmeôn meligêrun apo stomatôn op’
akousai,
all’ ho ge terpsamenos neitai kai pleiona eidôs.

idmen gar toi panth’ os eni Troiêi eureiêi

Argeioi Trôes te theôn iotêti mogêsan,

idmen d’, hossa genêtai epi chthoni
pouluboteirêi.”

{inspired by the ocean}

Commissioned by the Bangor Symphony Orchestra. First performed January 19, 2014 at the Collins Center for the Arts, Bangor, ME by Anonymous 4 and the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lucas Richman.

TRANSLATION BY RODNEY MERRILL

*“Come to us here, the Achaians’ renown, much-
honored Odysseus,
drawing the ship right in, so that you to our voices
may listen.
This is a place past which in his dark ship no one has
ever
driven, before from our lips he has heard the melodious
voices,
but having taken delight he goes on greater in
knowledge.
We know all of the things that the Argive troops and
the Trojans
there in the broad Troäd by the gods’ wills labored and
suffered;
we know all that is on the much-nourishing earth
generated.”*

09 **HAF GENGR HRIÐUM**

“The Storm-Driven Sea”

Sung in Old Norse

From the Poetic Edda

Performed by Schola Cantorum
with the Angel City Chorale &
the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Haf gengr hriðum
við himin sjalfan,
líðr lönd yfir,
en loft bilar;
þaðan koma snjóvar
ok snarir vindar;
þá er í ráði,
at ragn of þrjóti.

(inspired by a hurricane)

Commissioned by the Stanford Chamber Chorale. First performed May 18, 2013 at Memorial Church, Stanford, CA by the Stanford Chamber Chorale and Stanford Taiko, conducted by Steve Sano. Original instrumentation: choir and taiko ensemble.

TRANSLATION BY HENRY ADAMS BELLOWES

*The sea, storm-driven,
Seeks heaven itself,
O'er the earth it flows,
the air grows sterile;
Then follows the snows,
and the furious winds
For the gods are doomed,
and the end is death.*

10 **WALOYO YAMONI**

“We Overcome the Wind”

Sung in Lango

From a rainmaking litany

Performed by Soweto Gospel Choir, the Angel City
Chorale & Schola Cantorum with Anonymous 4,
Dulce Pontes, Nominjin, Roopa Mahadevan,
Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares, Kardeş Türküler,
Shoji Kameda & the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Waloyo yamoni. (Waloyo.)
Wan wamito kot ochwe, oony akirok chutok

Oami! In, kot, alami ichwe. Ka i chwe, beber.

Ka monwa olelo (ber)
Ka atino oleo (ber)
Ka awobi owero (ber)
Ka adwong olelo (ber)

Eryamita ka jigi jigi.
Eryam, alech alelech.
Ka kot adok Burutok
Ka yamo adok Burutok

Ilech i dula.
Kalwa opong dero.

(inspired by rain)

Commissioned by St. Matthew's Music Guild with support by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles Arts Commission. First performed June 1, 2012 at The Parish of St. Matthew, Los Angeles, CA by Rose Beattie, Rayvon Moore, and The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's, conducted by Tom Neenan. Original instrumentation: mezzo-soprano, tenor, chorus, percussion and string orchestra. Original title: “Beber”.

TRANSLATION BY J. H. DRIBERG

*We overcome this wind. (We overcome.)
We desire the rain to fall, that it be poured in showers
quickly.
Ah! Thou rain, I adjure thee fall. If thou rainest, it
is well.*

*If four women rejoice (it is well)
If the children rejoice (it is well)
If the young men sing (it is well)
If the aged rejoice (it is well)*

*A drizzling confusion.
Confusion, a torrent in flow.
If the rain veers to the south
If the wind veers to the south*

*An overflowing in the granary.
May our grain fill the granaries.*

PERFORMED BY

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Conducted by Christopher Tin

Concertmasters: Clio Gould, Tamás András

Featured Soloists: Emer McDonough (flute), Phil Woods (horn), Skaila Kanga (harp), John Alley (piano), Clio Gould (violin), Tim Gill (cello)

Managing Director: Ian MacLay

Orchestra Contractor: James Fitzpatrick, Tadlow Music

ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS

Shoji Kameda: Udu, Frame Drum, Shakers, Bells, Bowls, Throat Singing

Jamie Papish: Darbuka, Riq

Jon Sterckx: Tabla

Burcu Yankın: Dhol, Daf

Selda Öztürk: Daf

Diler Özer: Tambourine, Shaker, Hand Cymbals

FEATURED ARTISTS

Angel City Chorale

Directed by Sue Fink

Managing Director: Dan Barnett

Project Coordinator: Andrew Cheeseman

Kardeş Türküler

Lead Vocals: Feryal Öney, Fehmiye Çelik, Vedat Yıldırım

Backing Vocals: Selda Öztürk, Gürkan Salih Çakar,

Fidel Kılıç

Manager: Ülker Uncu

Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares

Directed by Professor Dora Hristova, PhD

Manager: Kalina Barova

'Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares' is a trademark of Marcel and Catherine Cellier

Soweto Gospel Choir

Directed by Diniloxolo Ndlakuse

Soloists: Victor Makhathini, Refiloe Msebenzi

Improvisations: Sipokazi Nxumalo, Phumla Nkhumeleni

Executive Producer/Director: Beverly Bryer

Company Manager: Jimmy Mulovhedzi

Soweto Gospel Choir appears courtesy of Universal Music

Nominjin

Dulce Pontes

Roopa Mahadevan

Anonymous 4

Schola Cantorum

Directed by Tone Bianca Sparre Dahl

Leader: Lars Christen Hausken

PRODUCED BY CHRISTOPHER TIN

Mixed by Andrew Dudman at Abbey Road Studios, London

Mastered by Gavin Lurssen and Reuben Cohen at Lurssen Mastering, Los Angeles

LONDON

Recorded at Abbey Road Studios, Studio 1

Session Producers: Gareth Williams, James Fitzpatrick

Recording Engineer: Andrew Dudman

Pro Tools Operators: Lewis Jones, Paul Pritchard

Studio Assistants: Greg McAllister, Matt Jones

ISTANBUL

Recorded at Babajim Istanbul Studios

Recording Engineer: Saygin Özatmaca

Business and Marketing Director: Melis Tarhun

SOFIA

Recorded at Bulgarian BNT TonStudio 2

Recording Engineer: Todor Lechev

Pro Tools Operator: Roumen Simeonov

JOHANNESBURG

Recorded at SABC M3, Openroom Studios

Recording Engineer: Etienne Kruger

NEW YORK

Recorded at Avatar Studios

Recording Engineer: Anthony Ruotolo

Additional Recording by Travis Ruscil

LOS ANGELES

Recorded at The Village Recorder

Recording Engineer: John Kurlander

Alternate Recording Engineer: Jorge Velasco

Pro Tools Operator: Jeff Gartenbaum

Studio Assistants: Gabe Burch, Malachi Stoevers

Special Thanks to Jeff Greenberg

Additional Recording at the LA Taiko Institute

BANGOR, MAINE

Recorded at the New England School of

Communications, Studio D

Recording Engineer: Walter Clissen

Assistant Engineer: Elijah Gudroe

MUSIC PREP

Aaron Purvis

Laura Intravia

Jeremy Howard Beck

Matt Franko, Black Ribbon

MUSIC EDITORS

Alex Williamson

Amelia Mader

Tanya Orlov

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

Proto-Indo-European: Matthew Hohensee,

Andrew M Byrd

Turkish: Ahmet Abbasoğlu

Bulgarian: Penka Kouneva, Kalina Barova

Xhosa: Kanyi Maqubela and Vuyelwa Maqubela

Mongolian: Nominjin

Portuguese: Ana Luisa Gouveia Caldeira

Sanskrit: Shiv Subramaniam, Roopa Mahadevan

Ancient Greek: Rodney Merrill, Stephen Daitz

Old Norse: Steinar Kristoffersen

Lango: Daniel Odongo and Chris Kiagiri

Tibetan: Professor Roger R. Jackson, Liam A. Brannelly

Inuit: Liam A. Brannelly, Lawrence Millman

Phonetic Pronunciations: Grainne Ward

PACKAGE DESIGN

Dyna Kau

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