

ALIVE AT HOME
SONG LYRICS in album sequence

Blessing

- Donna Hébert

May the Eastern breezes bless you
Lift your spirits, make them fly
May the Southern sun shine on you
Warm your heart and help you try

May the Western waters cleanse you
Washing over all you feel
Northern Earth be yours to stand in
Ground you so you know what's real

Overall be strength and beauty
Food and friends and music fine
Work you love and pleasant duty
Love to make your spirit shine

All of these I wish upon you
Multiply them three times three
Draw a circle all around you
And forever blessed be

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Bee Song

- words by Lui Collins, music by Lui Collins and Anand Nayak

My garden has bee balm and butterfly weed
And dozens more flowers that honeybees need
And the bee balm and all of the rest need the bees
'Cause that's the way life goes around, don't you see?
Oh the beauty of the bee balm, the wonder of the bee

When a bee comes to visit a flower, you see
She drinks up the nectar, as sweet as can be
And she packs lots of pollen upon her bee's knees
As she bumps up against what makes blossoms make seeds
Oh the beauty of the columbine, the wonder of the bee

She hauls pollen and nectar right back to the hive
To become yummy food, 'cause that's how bees survive
Through the long cold winter, and come out alive

To start up again the whole cycle of life
Oh the beauty of forget-me-not, the wonder of the bee

And the hum of the bee sounds like music to me
The honey's as sweet to my tongue as can be
And the seeds and the fruit are delicious to eat
Or else grow into flowers, so lovely to see
Oh the beauty of the wild rose, the wonder of the bee
The beauty of the wild rose, the wonder of the bee

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Baptism of Fire

-Julie Snow

Baptism of fire, I never knew what that meant
But now the flames are rising higher, I guess I haven't seen anything yet
Because it's coming down around me, and I am rising up
Like a phoenix from the ashes, wings across the blue
The only way out is through

Forest of fury, kindling of fear
Oh see how dark the woods have grown, after all these years
And now they're coming down around me, and I am rising up
Like a lily from the shadows, glistening and perfumed
The only way out is through

All the detours taken never lead you home
What a maze you find yourself in, and still alone
Oh you thought it should be easy, so the truth eluded you
The only way out is through

Baptism of fire, all happening within
Elusions burn like tall grass in a wild and reckless wind
And now they're coming down around me, and I am rising up
Like a great bell resurrected, ringing loud and true

All the detours taken never lead you home
What a maze you find yourself in, and still alone
Oh you thought it should be easy, so the truth eluded you
The only way out is through

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Things to Do

- Lui Collins

I got a lot to do this morning, so much on my mind
A restless gnawing in my gut, I know I'm way behind
If I keep pluggin' hard till midnight I'm bound to get ahead
Maybe catch up to where I was when I got out of bed

I gotta finish up this list of things to do
Time waits for no one, so they say, it must be true.

Me? Compulsive? gimme a break, I have to work this way
I got a family to support, I've got to get that raise
I've got to keep my job, you see, though it may drive me berserk
'cause I gotta buy a brand new car so I can get to work

I took a weekend seminar, success was guaranteed
Put method in your madness, you'll have all the time you need
To get organized, keep on track, put all things in their place
Don't know quite where I'm going, but I know I'm making haste

Don't bother me with reason, I got no time to edify
Can't interrupt my train of thought but I can't remember why
It's getting late, one thing more, before I hit the hay
Make a list up for tomorrow, get a jump start on my day

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Shady Grove

- traditional

Cheeks as red as a blooming rose, eyes of the darkest brown
He's the darlin' of my heart, the sweetest little boy in town

Shady Grove, my little love, Shady Grove I say
Shady Grove, my little love, I'm bound to go away

Peaches in the summertime, apples in the fall
If I can't have the one I love, have no love at all

If I was a June apple, hanging from a tree
Every time that little boy pass, take a bite of me

Shady Grove, my little love, Shady Grove I say

Shady Grove, my little love, I'm bound to go away

If I had a needle and thread, fine as I could sew
Sew that little boy to my side, down the road we'd go

I wish I had a banjo string, made of golden twine
Every tune I'd play on her, I'd know that boy was mine

Shady Grove, my little love, Shady Grove I say
Shady Grove, my little love, I'm bound to go away

Shady Grove, my little love, Shady Grove my darlin'
Shady Grove, my little love, I'm going back to Harlan

Bird Song

- traditional

Hi! says the blackbird sitting on a chair
Once I courted a lady fair
She proved fickle and turned her back
And ever since then I'm dressed in black

Hi! says the blue-jay as she flew
If I was a young girl I'd have two
If one proved fickle and chanced for to go
I'd have a new string for my bow

Hi! says the little leather winged bat
I will tell you the reason that
The reason that I fly in the night
Is because I lost my heart's delight

Hi! says the woodpecker sitting on a fence
Once I courted a handsome finch
She proved fickle and from me fled
And ever since then my head's been red

Susquehanna

- Lui Collins

It was a beautiful spring day in 2000, and I was en route to the northern midwest for a concert tour. I was headed across the Southern Tier Expressway in the southwest corner of New York state, and I needed a break. I was in that stretch of Rt 17 where it parallels the Susquehanna River, and I'd had my eye on

it for a few miles. I pulled off the road into a rest area, and got out my banjo, thinking I'd play awhile. Sitting on top of a picnic table, I had a clear view of the river over the top of the chain link fence that separated rest area from river. In the light of the late afternoon slanty sun, I watched the snow-melt-filled river rolling past me as I played. The tune wrote itself.

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Farmers' Market A to Z

- Lui Collins

There's Apples, Breads, and Crispy Carrots, Delicatas, Eggs and Eggplants
Friends to play with on the hill, Goat cheese with all sorts of Herbs
Honey, creamed and in the comb, the ice cream truck out by the road
Jams and Jellies, Kale and Leeks, Musicians playing old-time tunes

Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me
Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me

There's Nuts and Onions, Peaches and Quince, Radicchio and Rutabagas
Squash and Turnips, Tomatillos, Unimagined kinds of Veggies
Wagons loaded to the brim with pumpkins extraordinary
Yummy Yams and Zucchini, a feast for friends and family

Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me
Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me

There's Aromatic Anadama, grass-fed Beef raised by my neighbor
Cornflowers, Dahlias, Echinacea, Fresh Goat milk and Herbal Iced tea
A Jack-o-lantern grinning by a basket full of crisp Kohlrabi
Lambswool fleece and hats and Mittens, soft and thick and warm and wooly

Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me
Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me

There's a Never-ending, Overflowing Ocean of Organic Produce
Queues of folks chat as they await a Raspberry Smoothie To Their Taste
A Universe of Vegetation, a Wonderment, an exclamation
Yowza! Those are dazzling Zinnias, a feast for the eyes, the rest goes in ya!

Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me
Oh come, oh come, oh come, oh come to the farmers' market with me

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Two Kids

- Anais Mitchell

My daddy's house is the safest of houses
He sealed up the windows so no air gets in
And there's plenty of Campbell's and beers in the basement
In case we can't get to the store or something
My daddy told me some people hate us
They even hate me, and I'm just a kid
I asked how come, but he didn't answer
So I started thinking it was something I did
Ooh ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh

(phonetic Arabic)
shdowa, yumma,
leish gateiti ash-shibabeetch
hum tihimeina ad-dowa
la noor shifna, wa la howa
lil-yom la amis, la owal amis
ma shafut 'eyooni ash-shamis
baalek t'ully as-sout
baalek tibatl al bab
tigoo lina chinna bi hubbis
Ooh ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh

(English translation)
Why, Mother
Why did you cover up all the windows
Also we cannot see the sunshine
We don't see the light
and no air
not today, not yesterday
not before yesterday
we haven't seen the eyes of the sun
Keep your voice down
Keep the door closed
You say that we are like in a prison

I have a bed with a Superman blanket
He's not afraid of the dark like me
Sometimes I can't fall asleep like I'm s'posed to
I'm thinking 'bout something I saw on TV
There was this house in a field full of houses
It was the bad guys livin' in there
I saw this kid looking out from the window
He didn't look bad, he only looked scared
Ooh ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh

Step Into the Water

- Lui Collins

Step into the water, feel the current swirling 'round
Step into the water, feel the power nearly pull me down
Step into the water, feel the river running strong
Let the waters bring me home where I belong

Seated on this cushion of moss 'neath a rhododendron tree
Tucked beneath her branches in a womb of reverie
The creek flows fast and muddy, and the bed is rocky and wild
But the water calls me in, "Come and join me for awhile."

Step into the water, feel the current swirling 'round...

One foot then the other, it's a tentative approach
With both feet on the bottom I think I can hold my own
But as I lift a foot to step ahead the force grabs onto me
Still I'm drawn to the deep of the middle, where the current's flowing free

Step into the water, feel the current swirling 'round...

Standing in this deepest place, my life is under siege
I gather strength to ground myself and open to receive
There is a power in the water, and I can take it in
There's a wisdom in the universe carried on the wind

Step into the water, feel the current swirling 'round...

Later in a northern pond, the voice again I hear
A summons to immerse myself and swim out past my fear
My body glides in fluid grace, a mermaid in this inland sea
I swim back over years and years as I move with strength and ease

Step into the water, feel the current swirling 'round...

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Mystery Play

- Lui Collins

Lately my thoughts have been caught up in winding
'Round a question that's tickling the back of my mind:
Out of billions of souls on Earth at one time
Why are some drawn together while the rest pass on by?

This is not about partnering, marriage, and such
Please don't offer the moon, I've been there enough
I'm not waxing romantic, and I trust you won't start
For I will not give lightly a piece of my heart. Yet

You remind me of someone I'd like to know
I am drawn to you, sure as one hand to another
Were we lovers or family some long life ago?
You remind me of someone I'd like to know.

Walking beside you, our steps match in rhythm
I laugh at your jokes, and you laugh at mine
We're two ends of a magnet, determined to meet
You're a soft comfy chair I settle into with ease.

Another lifetime I'd have fallen in love with you
Swept away by my feelings, ashamed and confused
But just now it's enough to be walking with you
Let the mystery play as it will.

And when we're apart, I'll not pine for you
An occasional phone call or an email will do
To remind me you're there, and ever my friend
And once in a blue moon, I may see you again

Another lifetime I may fall in love

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Once in a Very Blue Moon

- Patrick Alger and Eugene Albert Levine

I found your letter in my mailbox today
You were just checking if I was okay
And if I miss you, well you know what they say

Just once, in a very blue moon
Just once in a very blue moon
Just once, in a very blue moon
And I feel one coming on soon

No need to tell me you'd like to be friends
And help me get back on my feet again
And if I miss you, well it's just now and then

Just once, in a very blue moon...

There's a blue moon shining
When I am reminded of all we've been through
Such a blue moon shining
Does it ever shine down on you?

You act as if it never hurt you at all
Like I'm the only one who's getting up from a fall
Don't you remember, can't you recall?

Just once, in a very blue moon...

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Ballad of the White Seal Maid

- poem by Jane Yolen / music by Lui Collins

There's a fisherman sitting alone on the land
His hands are his craft, his boat is his art
A fisherman sitting alone on the land
A rock, a hard rock in his heart

There's a Selchie maid swimming alone in the bay
Her eyes are the seal's, her heart is the sea
A Selchie maid swimming alone in the bay
A pure white seal maiden is she

She comes to the shore and she sheds her sealskin
She dances on sand, dances under the moon
Her hair falls in waves down upon her white skin
And only the seals hear the tune

Then standing, the fisherman takes her sealskin
Staking his claim to a wife from the sea
He raises his hand, holding up the white skin
Says, "Now you must come home with me."

Oh, weeping she goes and still weeping, she stays
Her hands are her craft, her babes are her art
A year, and a year, and a year more she stays
A rock, a cold rock, in her heart

But what is this hid in the fisherman's bag
It smells of the ocean, it feels like the sea
A bonny white sealskin closed up in the bag
And "Never a tear more!" cries she

"Goodbye to the house and goodbye to the shore
Goodbye to the babes that I never could claim
But never a thought to the man left on shore
For Selchie's my nature and name."

She puts on the skin and dives back in the sea
The fisherman's cry falls on water-deaf ears
She swims in her sealskin away out to sea
And the fisherman drowns in his tears.

poem ©1982 Neptune Rising, music ©1984 Lui Collins, Molly Gamblin Music/BMI

Saudade

- Lui Collins

Pode falar em português das coisas do coração
Pode falar de saudade, tristeza, alegria
Em inglês não pode cantar de verdade
Estó aqui nas lembranças, cantando tão sozinha

Eu gostaria de ficar agora com você
Gostaria de dizer das palavras tão bellinhas
Mas eu estó sozinha, tão cheia de saudade
Como o meu coração é cheia de amor

In the language of Brazil, the language of the heart
One can speak of one's joy, or of sadness, or yearning
In our language there is no such sweet abundance
I am left in my memories, singing so alone

How I yearn to be with you to share this moment
How I yearn to speak these words of beauty
Here am I alone, so filled with longing
As my heart is filled, is filled with love

Pode falar em português das coisas do coração
Pode falar de saudade, tristeza, alegria
Estó aqui nas lembranças, cantando tão sozinha
Como o meu coração é cheia de amor
Como o meu coração é cheia de amor

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Eu Não Existo Sem Você / If Not For Loving You

- Antonio Carlos Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes / English lyrics by Harry Becker

Eu sei e você sabe, já que a vida quis assim
Que nada nesse mundo levará você de mim
Eu sei e você sabe, que a distância não existe
Que todo grande amor só é bem grande se for triste
Por isso, meu amor, não tenha medo de sofrer
Que todos os caminhos me encaminham pra você

Assim como oceano só é belo com luar
Assim como a canção só tem razão se se cantar
Assim como uma nuvem só acontece se chover
Assim como o poeta só é grande se sofrer
Assim como viver sem ter amor não é viver
Não há você sem mim, eu não existo sem você

My darling know this love of ours was always meant to be
I was always meant for you, as you were meant for me
Know while we may be apart the sadness that we feel
Is just the heartache lovers share when love is true and real
But in your sadness know there is no cause for you to cry
For every road I travel leads me closer to your side

How lovely is the moonlight, but how lovely would it be
If not for its reflection in the dark and lonely sea
And how would rain fall from the sky to make the flowers grow
Is it not the dark and gloomy clouds that make it so
Great poems would ne'er be penned, if heartache, poets never knew
And I would not be singing now if not for loving you

Não há você sem mim, eu não existo sem você

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English lyrics ©Harry Becker

Blessed

- Lui Collins

You have given me the melody as it poured forth from my heart
You have blessed me with the meter as it beat through my veins
As I walk with You and listen, Your words come to me
Oh blessed are we this day.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Oh blessed are we this day.

Rain so gently falls to soak the earth, life bursts forth from the seed
Roots go stretching down to draw their strength from the soil
Upward grows the plant always reaching toward the hot, beating sun
Oh blessed are we this day.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

You grace us with Your wisdom, love bursts forth from our hearts
We plant our feet upon the earth to draw our strength
Open wide our arms reaching toward the sky, we're flooded with light
Oh blessed are we this day.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

May we walk within Your melody as it pours forth from our hearts
May we step within the meter as it beats through our veins
Open wide our ears and listening, hear Your words spoken clearly
Blessed are we this day.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Oh blessed are we
Oh blessed are we this day.

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Blue Boat Home

- Lyrics by Peter Mayer
- hymn HYFRYDOL by Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1811-1877)

Though below me I feel no motion
Standing on these mountains and plains
Far away from the rolling ocean
Still my dry land heart can say

I've been sailing all my life now
Never harbor nor port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the earth is my blue boat home

Sun, my sail, and moon, my rudder
As I ply the starry sea
Leaning over the edge in wonder
Casting questions into the deep

Drifting here with my ship's companions
All we kindred pilgrim souls
Making our way by the lights of the heavens
In our beautiful blue boat home

I give thanks to the waves upholding me
Hail the great winds urging me on
Greet the infinite sea before me
Sing the sky my sailor's song

I was born upon the fathoms
Never harbor nor port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the earth is my blue boat home

Lyrics by Peter Mayer copyright 2002 www.petermayer.net

Wildflower Song

- Lúí Collins

Too many times I've fallen for a bold flirtatious smile
My emotions had a way of breaking loose and running wild
Till recently I reined them in behind a casual front
I'm older now and wiser, not so quick to fall in love ...

Why did I waken this morning with a song inside my head?
And why the smile upon my lips, the lift in every step?
And why when I walked among summer wildflowers of widest range of hue
Were all the colors brightened by the memory of you?

Love for all its newborn joy may later take its toll
For expectations not quite met may finally come to boil
For all the pleasures gained in love, I've been too often burned
I've sworn to live alone and keep the distance I have learned

Then why did I waken this morning with a song inside my head?...

Last night you warmed my kitchen with the crinkle of your eye
You brought my home a comfort it has missed for a long time
And though I'm scared of letting down the barriers inside
Already you have touched my heart to melt away the ice

And so I woke this morning with a song inside my head
And with a smile upon my lips, a lift in every step
And then when I walked among summer wildflowers of widest range of hue
The colors all grew brighter with the memory of you.

And so I woke this morning with a song inside my head
And with a smile upon my lips, a lift in every step
And now when I walk among summer wildflowers of widest range of hue
The colors all grow brighter with the memory of you.

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