

Origin, Lyrics and Concept of
**BRIDGING
WITH
MOTHER**



BY TYAGARAJA WELCH

Origin, Lyrics, and Concept of
BRIDGING
WITH
MOTHER
BY TYAGARAJA WELCH





“Bridging with Mother” is a conceptual nature-art immersion concert for theatre, based on the music of Tyagaraja Welch. The term “Bridging” is a poetic way of describing the definition of the Sanskrit word Yoga, meaning to conjoin, merge, or bridge with that one deems to be Divine. In this case we are claiming “Mother” (Mother Earth, or Mother Water) to be that Divine Source that is worthy of our worship, devotion and service. All of the video and images are genuine and not staged. To create the footage for the show Tyaga spent hours in meditation and Yoga Vinyasa in deeply remote locations of Northern California, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and “The Springs” and Greenbelt of Austin, TX. This theatrical work of art has been in development and creation from the past eight years. The team and partners of Sustainable Humane Earth applied for and were awarded the Nexus Artist Grant, by the City of Austin, to produce this valuable and unique show concept in a local Austin Theatre.

PERFORMANCE VINYASA

*Sequence performed with breath lead
mindfulness with time for pause.*

- ☼ Intro Alaap A Minor
- ☼ Silent Stream
- ☼ Interlude G Minor
- ☼ Cave Dwellers
- ☼ AseXuaL
- ☼ Omkara Interlude Raag Bimpalasi Part 1
- ☼ Soul Searching
- ☼ Lonely Astronaut - Looking for Love
- ☼ Omkara Interlude Raag Bimpalasi Part 2
- ☼ When the Mystery Rests
- ☼ You are Transformed
- ☼ Come out and Play



INTRO ALAAP A MINOR



Scene and Setting:

The majority of the footage in this video sets up the main source of inspiration for Bridging with Mother. Referred to by Tyaga as “The Edge of the World,” cliff then ocean, Mendocino Village is on the coast in Northern California. This single location is the source of a Divine “out-of-body” experience in which Tyaga meditated on the intuitive inner awareness of, what is water, where does the soul come from, and how does it enter Mother Earth.



SILENT STREAM

Scene and Setting:

Originally titled “Bridging with Mother River,” this song and video have already been published to Austin Public Access as part of the Austin Film Society “Producer Program.” The footage in the video mainly comes from what we call, “The Springs,” and Lady Bird Lake, two of Austin’s most beloved nature gathering spaces. In this piece Tyagaraja live reads from his prose poem called, “What is Water.”

What is Water :

Water is what remains when pain is felt... A pain in the heart that brings an emergence of tears. If crying were done near the Ocean, tear drops would return to their home, and therein pain is felt by all who live. That same water remains when joy is felt. So overwhelmed with happiness we cry in grateful spirit. Should this crying happen near a River, like a Mother, the River would accept them with no judgment. What is Water? Water is billions of microscopic entities devouring each other whilst simultaneously giving life. What ever has lived or will live will spring from water. And more than this, life cannot spring forth without desire. Water is Desire, Water wants to live. What is water? Water comes from the Heavens. Rained down from matted locks of a Divine Being who’s blink of an eye is the enveloping of thousands of universes from Supernova to black hole in a single heart beat. Water is rhythm mixed with melody sung by the spinning and warbling of passing time. Water shows the finger print shapes of the trunk of a tree thus showing us Mother Earth’s history, how the rains came, when there was drought, when the Earth reset, when the human beings switched from hate to love, water is my tear falling on the head of a Dove. What is Water?



Water like Air is a formless substance taking the shape of which ever solid surface braces it. Like space dust, billions of microscopic creatures create a unique biology that morphs as it travels across the lower surfaces of Mother Earth. Prana Shakti (energy) like a magnet to the center of the sun keeps us in perfect orbit, in perfect gravity, in perfect Yoga (union) with the Water's ability to churn and froth and spawn life wherever it may place against soil. What is Water? Water is the Holy Elixir of Sacred Bathing. We dip our physical shells in sacred rivers to cleanse the soul of the seeker within. The microbiology finds its way into the scalp of the seekers hair and touches the fontanel sparking the illumination of other worldly knowledge and we now know that Water is Cosmic. Moon and Starlight penetrate the Mother Oceans and Mother Rivers, the Lightening plants seeds of nitrogen into the clouds, and crystallized starlight forms calcite and other sacred stones. Water is sacred gems capable of storing and releasing sacred sound vibrations. What is Water? Water is a Mirror, and in the mirror are voices of teachers. These voices represent water's desire to manifest into form, and carried inside the formed clay-pot-body of the human being there rests a soul, made from water, plasma and starlight. We know not what we are, and we are not listening, even though She is trying to tell us... That we Are Water.



INTERLUDE G MINOR



Scene and Setting:

The footage in this piece has been added since the time Sustainable Humane Earth had received the grant. Knowing that some of the footage would become part of the art piece, Tyaga filmed images specifically for Bridging with Mother on their recent family pilgrimage to Odisha, India. The footage showcases the ocean coast of Odisha and the famous Konark Temple (the Sun Temple). Tyagaraja and Gunjen Mittal perform a portion of Talasana Vinyasa as a way of bowing, or giving surrender to the water and other elements on stage, also to showcase how Yogic Breathing is superimposed over the Yogic Movements in Vinyasa, as there is a constant Oceanic Breath sound subdued in the recorded track.



CAVE DWELLERS



Scene and Setting:

Cave Dwellers was mainly shot in two remote locations in Northern California... Black Sands Beach near Patrick's Point, and locations along the coast near Mendocino CA. There are repeated images of the cliff coastal shot, and also from "Silent Stream," similar images deep in the woods near a spring outside Yosemite National Park. Both these locations, as well as Black Sands are used multiple times as a way of connecting story lines in the esoteric themes of the songs, and to give homage to the major sources of inspiration for this entire work of art. Cave Dwellers has also been published as a stand alone piece to Austin Public Access as part of Austin Film Society.



ASEXUAL



Scene and Setting:

There are two steady bits of footage overlaid on top of each other. One is a still shot of the Mendocino coast from the “ice-plant-beds” that hug the coast line. The other is Tyaga driving in the ancient Redwood forest that lines the coast going north/south from Mendocino. The overlay shots on top of those two shots are mostly kaleidoscope images of underwater sea anemones, sea palm, and other ocean plants and creatures that give an other-worldly or non-human feel to the video accentuating the theme of the lyrics, de-evolving from Humans to AseXuaL creatures.





Lyrics:

AseXua

I stop I need tuning
Turn to the Moon my one and only Lover
And it's coming and there's nothing left for us to do now.
We won't stop
We're intruding
Turn to the Sun your one and only Blessing
And it's coming
And it means so much more what we do now
Is and open mind enough at all
Simplify A-sexuaL
If all our minds are polluted
Then yell out loud and no one hears
She won't stop
She's improving
Arrogant to think we're a danger
And It's coming
She's taking all controls on Her own now.

Meaning of the Song

1st verse is my perspective, 2nd verse is humans in general, 3rd verse is Mother Earth perspective. It's like a science fiction story, in which the Mother Earth begins to see the human beings as a virus, and rather than wiping us all out, SHE turns us into asexual creatures. The line "if all our minds are polluted, yell out loud and no one hears," is referring to a mass of views and opinions spouted online that are turning our minds and decisions to mush, so much so that you "yell out loud and no one hears.")

OMKARA INTERLUDE RAAG BIMPALASI PART 1



Scene and Setting:

In Patanjali Yoga Sutra it is said that Chanting Om is a non-religious Pranayama (Life force control technique) that grants the meditator with a Divine, Godly, and blissful repose. As a way of even more subtle... even more deeply intrenching one in Divine Vibrations, Omkara Interlude is designed for simplicity in focusing on the healing powers of Om vibrations. The footage of “Part 1” comes from Austin’s “Greenbelt.” The opening image shows the greenbelt as it looks when completely bone dry, and then blends into a full pool as it was in early February 2024 when the region had a good rain. The track is set to the Classical Indian Raaga - Bimpalasi - which has been known in some traditions to bring Monsoon Rains, or is sung during Monsoon season.



SOUL SEARCHING

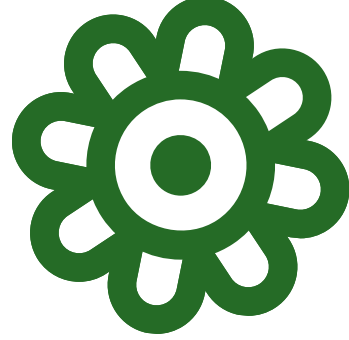


Scene and Setting:

In fall of 2023 Tyaga attended an annual silent initiation retreat with his Kriya Mantra Yoga Lineage. After the Divine Meditation Retreat, and before Tyaga journeyed home to Texas, he drove toward the coast of Northern California, yet again, to Mendocino. This video opens with drive shots taken during the foggy early morning hours before sunrise on the hour long drive from Willits to Mendocino California. Tyaga was one of very few cars on the road that early in the morning, and the fog was so dense windshield wipers were used as if it were raining. Tyaga put the camera down once he reached closer to the roads along the coast. Out of the corner of his eye to the left he saw the tail end of some large creature that looked like a huge buck or deer. He stopped and looked left to meet the creature eye to eye. He slowly reached for his camera and the Divine Being leaped over ferns and bound heavily into the dark-dense Redwood forest. The sound and movement was so large it was frightening to behold. Upon later explaining the “darshan” or holy viewing to his dear friend Max Meyers (a local to the region, and legendary Permaculture Designer) Tyaga learned that what he saw was a “Rosevelt Elk.” The energy of this rare sighting is commemorated in the footage of Soul Searching.

Lyrics: Soul Searching

Soul searching for the light within me
Seers speak and dream
White is the Moon
I worship you
Goddess of Cool Light
Some say that could be
One's best destiny
Enquire the Whole Truth
Give me all your Suffering
Yes we're all born in Mystery
Alright, I can take it.



Look at me, look right at me
The only God you see

The Sun shines bright whether we look or not
Enquire the Whole Truth

(Meaning of Song: 1st line is self explanatory. "Seers speak and dream," refers to the Ancient Sapta Rishis residing in the Orion Constellation, speak means Vachaka or to verbally chant Sanskrit Mantra. Then we immediately go into Moon Goddess worship, what it feels like (based on Sanskrit Wisdom teachings) and that "one's best destiny," is to live a life to Enquire the God Principle or the Whole Truth. When one does this and sheds one's own identity and attachment it grants lots of momentum and Divine Energy. You feel like a server or a Sevaite (one who offers Seva, service without the need or want for return.). You recognize that all suffering in this life is part of the "mystery" that we are born

into. You feel surrendered and strong enough to withstand the pressure of weighing the suffering of the world. This is also the role of the artist. I'm not implying look at me, that I am a God.

I'm referring to Praxyata Devata or the "only God we can see with our naked eye... the sun." The Sun God shines bright whether you see it or not, this is referring to the devotee, who truly "sees" God.)

LONELY ASTRONAUT - LOOKING FOR LOVE

Scene and Setting:

Because of the lyrical content, most of the shots in Lonely Astronaut are Tyaga walking, meditating and performing Yoga Vinyasa completely alone. Like a lonely wonderer looking for “Divine Love.” Blended images of remote Southern California beaches are wide and long enough to grant the participant with the feeling of lonely expanse and spacious solitude.

Lyrics:

Lonely Astronaut - Looking for Love

Lonely astronaut
Where've you been today
Is there something more you've to say?
Lonely Astronaut
You seem just like me
Is there something more we'll do?
Lonely astronaut flying nowhere faster
Will we ever find our way?
Lonely Astronaut
Grow your hair out long
Learn to love one another
Lonely Astronaut
Flying nowhere faster
Will we ever find Love?
If there ever was a chance that's all eviscerated now
If we want a fresh start these walls come crumbling
down
Finally somewhere deep inside... this soul learns how
To really Love...

Meaning of the Song



Lonely Astronaut is obviously the human with all our curiosity and opinions, and busy attitudes. “Flying nowhere faster,” is in reference to how much rush and activity the human churns and leaves no time for stillness. “Grow your hair out long” is referring to hippies or nature lovers... The 2nd part of the song is the message given to the current human astronaut. “If there ever was a chance,” referring to a chance of real integration with Mother Earth and correction of our current dilemma. “Want a fresh start...walls come crumbling,” is obviously the current systems and structures that have colonized our minds and usurped the true meaning of life need to fall away so a new light of awakening can begin. And “somewhere deep inside the soul,” with all the previous structures of thought crumbled, the soul realizes its true nature, thus how to “Really Love.” And through all the misguided energy, and wrong decisions of the past, were in reality, efforts to discover real love and connection. And we do need connection that’s what makes us human. This is why the dance concept is two humans, desperately struggling and reaching towards each other.)



OMKARA INTERLUDE RAAG BIMPALASI PART 2

Scene and Setting:

The video for this piece is swirling with multiple images of the Avenue of the Giants Redwoods, Meditations in the Grand Canyon, and previous points of inspiration already showcased. The music is almost identical to Part 1 although Tyaga sings more clearly the scales of Raag Bimpalasi in the form of “A-kara” for this version, and the sound of the Conch can be clearly heard, which in an ancient Indian indigenous tradition, is a sacred form of calling Om through the use of the 7 layered ocean shell to signal there is a Divine Being approaching.



WHEN THE MYSTERY RESTS

Scene and Setting:

This is a turning point in the show heading toward the final concept. When the Mystery Rests and You are Transformed even share lyrical content. Images from the coastal cliff of Mendocino and walking through the glass like sounds of Black Sands in Northern California are repeated through this video. The decision to add the lyrics overlaid on the video was made to enhance the impact of the simple and profound statements.



Lyrics:

When the Mystery Rest

So you've calmed the beast again
Just when the Mystery rests
A feeling apart from good intent
One that goes even farther past death
When we're finished with courage and regret (breath)
We'll be placed where we no we'll do our best

The Light is rising above the Crest.
Now we are transforming
Only Love Itself
Can Breathe in every Cell
No more Mystery...

Meaning of the Song

“calmed the beast,” would be like saying tame the demons. And I mentioned you’ve calmed them just “when the mystery rests.” Meaning seeing the essential Tattwa or principal manifestation of creation grants one a liberated, steady and even feeling of contentment through vast knowledge gained under heart-mind expanding experiences. I mention a feeling that goes father past death, as if connected to an infinite reality. “When we’re finished with courage and regret (breath) means when we’re finished with the will to live and reincarnate as a soul in a body again and again. “We’ll be place where we know we’ll do our best,” means when we reincarnate if our deeds in the previous life where benevolent, then in this life, your soul will already seek for the Higher Truth. “The Light rising above the crest.” Is literally the sun on the horizon and figuratively is light appearing in the kutasta (tip of the third eye space), and that is what one sees in this higher state of altered consciousness. The last lines are talking about how Pranayama is another way of transforming and cleansing the cells to experience liberation, there where the Mystery of Life Rest because of deep understanding of what it all really is...)



YOU ARE TRANSFORMED

Scene and Setting:

The shot opens up on a different angle and location of Mendocino headwaters in Northern California. The lyrics say, “to the isles of Ever,” literally referring to the spirit of this sacred place. The video has images of The Greenbelt in Austin Texas as well as Vinyasa Krama for Talasana and Meditation shots from the Grand Canyon.



Lyrics:

You are Transformed

I feel too much
I'm beating the ground
I'm crying for Love
Where are You now!

Start to listen
Open your Heart
It's your own prison
You've built it like art
And you're feeling too much
Walk with me to the isles of Ever
Unfolding this Mystery
Stand by me and we'll empty all this Suffering...
Start to listen
Give it your all
Life's worth living
With all that you are!



THE CO-CREATORS OF BRIDGING WITH MOTHER

GUNJEN MITTAL



Gunjen Mittal is Indian-American who currently serves as a Program Coordinator specifically addressing intersecting issues presented within the Asian Pacific Islander populations with a social justice lens. Her previous professional experience includes directly serving victims and survivors of trauma, domestic/sexual violence and human trafficking for over 12 years. She has worked on systems-level advocacy centering immigrants, migrants, refugees and other BIPOC communities. Gunjen has been an artist and dancer since childhood. She's also an eco-feminist, a healing justice advocate and also serves her community as a Trauma-Sensitive Yoga Therapist/Holistic Wellness Consultant, Ayurvedic Practitioner, and an organic gardener. She is initiated in and has been studying the Himalayan Kriya meditation system, Vinyasa Krama and tantric sciences all based in Sanskrit heritage for the past 10 years. Gunjen and her partner, Tyagaraja, (as well as their 7 year old daughter, Sriya) are the owners of a socially/ecologically responsible and justice-oriented permaculture business called Sustainable Humane Earth (or SHE) which they operate out of Austin and Houston Texas.

TYAGARAJA WELCH



Tyagaraja Welch lives through a Trinity of Worlds, Music/Art/Theatre, Sanskrit based Yogic Living, and Permaculture Design (Regenerative Farming). Each of these worlds blend together to form Tyaga's music and artistic expression. Tyagaraja has been a live performer from early teenage years, attended St. Thomas University for the Theatre program, and has self produced his own live performances ever since and into the present. Tyaga is the principal songwriter for the Austin band Light Wheel, has created the Wholistic Permaculture Company Sustainable Humane Earth, and is very proud of his Regenerative Farm's newest health/ wellness product - "Texas Turmeric." Tyagaraja Welch is the concept creator of Bridging with Mother, including writing and performing all the music.



sustainable humane earth