

Singing for action on climate change and in support of the Arctic 30

London
16 November 2013

We are people from Raised Voices and
other political choirs.

1 BELLA CIAO (A)

Traditional. Arr. Ian Stirling.

Environment version: Raised Voices.

Oh we are singing to save the Arctic
O bella ciao...

It's time to free the 30 prisoners
Free the Arctic 30 now!

Oh we are singing for cleaner atmosphere
Oh bella...

No greenhouse gases, carbon emissions
A different energy right now.

Oh we are hearing, the warning of the earth
Oh bella...
She speaks in hurricanes, she speaks in drought
and flood
We have to heed these signs right now.

Oh we are singing to save the Arctic
O bella ciao...
It's time to free the 30 prisoners
Free the Arctic 30 now!

2 RIVER CHAT (E to G)

River, river, where do you flow
With your water the colour of tea?
Golden red in your sandy bed
Do you flow to the wide green sea?

No said the river, I flow inland
Sink down deep among the rocks and the sand
Under the gidgee and the mulga tree
Where the desert people can drink me.

|: Earth belongs to all,
She belongs to no-one,
She belongs to herself. :|
(Repeat multiple times and add harmonies)

1	BELLA CIAO (A).....	1
2	RIVER CHAT (E to G).....	1
3	LIFE ON EARTH (C to A b).....	1
4	ONE SONG (D).....	1
5	SEVEN GENERATIONS (B b to C).....	2
6	TAR SANDS (B b).....	2
7	PACHAMAMA (MOTHER EARTH) (F).....	2
8	SLEEPWALKERS ALL (E b).....	2
9	MOTHER EARTH (C to F).....	3
10	NOT GOING ON A JET PLANE (F # to G).....	3
11	BLOWING IN THE WIND (G, low part: C).....	3
12	OIL IN THE WATER.....	3
13	CARBON NEUTRAL SOCIETY (C).....	4

3 LIFE ON EARTH (C to A b)

*Words Cynthia Cockburn, Tune Ros Brown,
Arr. Morag Carmichael (Raised Voices)*

They manufacture poisons
And get rich while nature dies
There's money in emissions that
Pollute the sheltering skies

Chorus 1:

But believe us when we say
There's a greater wealth today
When a million million people
Advocate for life on Earth
When a million million voices
Speak as one.

There's knowledge in the think-tanks
That the politicians buy
Intelligence isn't what it seems
Statistics also lie

Chorus 2:

But believe us when we say
There's a wisdom here today
When a million million people...

There's power in the nation state
There's power in the gun
There's power in the boardrooms
Where destructive deals are done

Chorus 3:

But believe us when we say
There's a different power today
When a million million people...

4 ONE SONG (D)

One song, one dance
One world, one chance (x 5) (x3)

5 SEVEN GENERATIONS (B ♪ to C)

(based on the Great Law of the Iroquois)
Morag Carmichael (Raised Voices)

A:
 Seven generations hence, Is where we look to
 Seven generations hence, We need to bear in mind in
 all we do

(x4)

[Top part 3rd and 4th times: Long view, big picture]

B:
 Will the earth flourish, and all her creatures?
 Will the earth nourish? Will the people thrive?

(x3)

[Top part 2nd and 3rd times:

Earth flourish, and all her creatures
 Earth nourish. Will the people thrive?]

C:
 Take the long far-seeing view,
 Bear in mind the bigger picture,
 For the future of the people
 And the many strands of the web of life.
 (x2)

[Middle part both times:

(pause) Take the long far-seeing view,
 Bigger picture
 For the future of the people
 And the many strands of the web of life
 the web of life.]

D:
 [Middle and bottom parts]
 Seven generations hence,
 Is where we look to
 Seven generations hence,
 We need to bear in mind in all we do
 (x 2)

6 TAR SANDS (B ♪)

Words: Morag Carmichael (Raised Voices)
(the tune of Daisy, Daisy)

Tar sands, tar sands
 What a calamity
 Massive pollution
 Waste and toxicity
 Ancestral lands and forests
 Despoiled by greed for oil
 Extracting tar to run my car
 Causes global catastrophe.

7 PACHAMAMA (MOTHER EARTH) (F)

Morag Carmichael (Raised Voices)
Starts & ends with Hopi chant, contains Cree proverb.

|: Hey yanna ho yanna, hey yan yan :| (x 2)

|: The earth is our mother.

We will take care of her. :| (x 2)

|: Hey hanna ho yanna, hey yan yan :| (x 2)

(Pachamama)

Pachamama, Pachamama (x2)

(Pachamama)

The earth is bleeding, the earth is dying,

It's time stop the devastation.

We cannot (---) eat money

(We cannot)

We cannot drink oil.

(Pachamama)

The corporations, they worship profit,

Their greed is boundless, where will it end?

We cannot (---) eat money

(We cannot)

We cannot drink oil.

(Leave the oil in the ground)

Leave it under the ocean.

(Leave the oil in the ground...)

Only when the last tree has died,

And the last river been poisoned,

And the last fish been caught,

Will we realise, we cannot (---) eat money.

|: Leave the oil in the ground
 Keep the woodlands and forests.

Let the mountains be,

It's time for nurture and healing now :| (x2)

(Pachamama)

Pachamama, Pachamama (x 2)

Hey yanna ho yanna, hey yan yan
 (x 4, fading on 3rd and 4th)

8 SLEEPWALKERS ALL (E ♪)

(Round, sing as three parts)

Sleepwalkers all

No / more delusion

Planet Earth is sounding

Our wake up call

9 MOTHER EARTH (C to F)

Frankie Armstrong.

I am the soil that harbours the seed
I am the crop the good soil yields

Chorus:

Remember I give you birth,
Remember Mother Earth.

I am the woods, the forest, the trees,
I give the buds, take back the leaves...

I am the rain, the rivers, the sea,
All creatures born must drink of me...

I have been here since time was new
But now I fear what YOUR time may do...

You plunder me for coal and for oil
Leaving me scarred, leaving me spoiled...

You clear the forests, uproot the trees
Poison the air, pollute the seas...

Pure air, pure rain, for millions of years
Now on the wind come acid tears...

Why can't you hear, why can't you see?
You kill yourselves if you kill me...

10 NOT GOING ON A JET PLANE (F# to G)

(tune of Leaving on a jet plane)

Words: Stephanie Irvine (RV)

The Arctic's melting, and that's a fact
The sea is rising, it's time to act
Hey, we're fiddling while the planet burns
The climate's changing, don't let us down
It's getting hotter, don't fool around
Cut emissions while the earth still turns

Chorus:

Let's use up less energy
Let's promote efficiency
Save the ozone in the atmosphere
NOT leaving on a jet plane
It's cleaner now to take the train
Cheap flights will cost us dear

Switch off the lights, the TV too
Simple things we all can do
Insulate and turn the heating down
Governments must regulate
Change the laws, it's not too late
Make polluters pay more, Cameron.

Chorus

11 BLOWING IN THE WIND (G, low part: C)

Original: Bob Dylan; Adapt. by: Morag Carmichael (RV)

How many roads must we humans walk down,
Till we know we are one humankind?
(Yes and) how many ice caps will melt to the sea?
How many lands will be drowned?
(Yes and) how many deep sea wells will leak oil,
before they are forever banned?
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind. (x 2)

How many years can a mountain exist,
before it's blasted to the ground?
(Yes and) how many years can forest people exist
before their trees are cut down?
(Yes and) how many planets will we need to survive,
unless we turn things around?
The answer.....

How many times do we need to look up,
before we can see the sky?
(Yes and) how many ears must one person have,
before they can hear people cry?
(Yes and) how many deaths will it take till we know that
too many people have died?
The answer....

12 OIL IN THE WATER

Words: Shell Out Sounds

Chorus:

Oil in the water,
Oil in the water children,
Oil in the water
Shell's gonna trouble the water.

Who's that yonder dressed in red?
Oil in the water
Must be the woman whose crops are dead,
Shell's gone and burnt the delta.
(Chorus)

Who's that young girl dressed in blue?
Down in the water
Tar sands oil is soaking her through
Shell's gone and poisoned the water.
(Chorus)

Who's that young boy dressed in white?
Down by the water
Watching an Arctic rig go by
Shell's gonna spill in the water
(Chorus)

13 CARBON NEUTRAL SOCIETY (C)

1. How many types of local fruit and veg
In a carbon neutral society?

Here's all the places we can grow our food
In a carbon neutral society:

Apple trees along the street, window boxes full of
wheat,

Beans in the back green, peas in the park.

Oh, there's a busy local market, full of local food

In a carbon neutral society.

2. How many types of transport do we have
In a carbon neutral society?

Here's all the ways that we can get about

In a carbon neutral society:

Bicycles for all to share, public transport everywhere,

Cars running on clean e-nergy.

Oh, there are bike paths and bus lanes and dancing in
the street

In a carbon neutral society.

3. How many ways of making energy
In a carbon neutral society?

Here's how we make all the power that we need

In a carbon neutral society:

Windmills turning on the hill, solar power for when it's
still,

Geo-thermal heating, hy-dro schemes,

Oh, we are cosy and warm in our insulated homes

In a carbon neutral society.

Global Day of Action

Arctic 30

The Arctic 30 have now been imprisoned for over eight weeks. That's eight weeks of being locked in a cell, without access to their families and friends, deprived of their freedom.

Yet the company that has the power to help set them free - Shell - remains silent.

Today, we are taking our outcry straight to them in a global day of action to free the Arctic 30; in support of Greenpeace groups around the country.

Shell's role

Shell publicly claimed that it had "nothing to do with the events in Russia, zero point zero percent". But that's not quite true. Shell is directly involved with Russian energy giant Gazprom, which played a critical role in the arrest and detention of the Arctic 30. The two companies are on the brink of signing an all-important deal. If this deal goes ahead, the two companies will embark on an Arctic oil rush that could be worth half a trillion dollars.

Today's protest

Let's show Shell we won't let them stand idly by while 30 people are imprisoned for a peaceful protest. Today, we are going to as many Shell petrol stations across the UK as possible to demand that they use their influence with Gazprom to help get the Arctic 30 released.

Shell risks being damaged by associating with a company that uses brutal tactics to silence peaceful protests.

POLITICAL SINGING IN LONDON

There is a long tradition of political music in Britain, including many individual singer-songwriters, choirs and bands. Political and community choirs from across the country meet regularly in 'Street Choirs Festivals'. New songs emerge in response to changing times.

Five London political choirs rehearse regularly and welcome new members, mostly without auditions. All have an international repertoire of progressive songs, with (variously) social justice, anti-racist, feminist / anti-sexist, environmental and anti-war content. We sing at meetings, demonstrations and other events.

RAISED VOICES

Raised Voices is a political choir based in North London.

We sing for peace, justice and the environment, against militarism, capitalism, racism and sexism. We also sing to raise money for various campaigns, at political events and on demonstrations, often with other choirs, as well as at festivals and at parties.

We practice on Thursdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at the Doreen Bazell Centre, off Pancras Rd, NW1

To find out more, visit www.raised-voices.org.uk or Email us at <info@raised-voices.org.uk>