Christmas Day in the Morning
Trad., arr. Sue Richards
Celtic Harp - Sue Richards
Bodhrán - Myron Bretholz
This tune is associated with Friedemann Stickle, a German sailor who was shipwrecked on Unst, in the Shetland Islands, in the 1770s. Stickle remained in Shetland, where he became a famous fiddler, and was paid to play this tune every year at Christmastime in the Hall of Buness in Unst. Stickle’s great-great grandson, John Stickle, was still playing the tune into the 1950s. The Shetland fiddler, collector, and teacher Tom Anderson thought that Friedemann had composed the tune, but Patrick Shuldham-Shaw, the folklorist who collected the tune from John Stickle, believed it was older than Friedemann’s day.

Song of Solstice

Song of solstice
Words and music by Jennifer Cutting,
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Choral vocals arranged by Jennifer Cutting and Betsy Fulford Miller
Vocal and Concertina - John Roberts
Vocal - Tony Barrand
Button Accordian - Jennifer Cutting
Fiddle - Steve Hickman
Fiddle, Nyckelharpa - Bruce Sagan
Recorders - John Guillory
Double Bass - Charlie Pilzer
Choral vocals - singers from Washington Revels: Helen Fields, Joanna Franco Marsh, Cheryl Lane, Jennifer Greene, Susan Hall Lewis, Gillian Penn, Marc Lewis, Mike Matheson, Milan Pavich, Mike Platt, Michael Lewallen, Greg Lewis, Will Wurzel, and Elizabeth Miller (Music Director, Washington Revels)
Jennifer wrote this song because she could not find one that spoke to certain ideas, which many cultures have reflected on at the Winter Solstice since ancient times. For one, that the Solstice is a turning point, a magical gateway through which we pass into the season of the Sun’s rebirth. For another, that as we give thanks for the returning Sun, we should give equal thanks to the season of cold and dark for all it has taught us, as a time of reflection, incubation, and gestation. Finally, that at this season we should gather together in fellowship, to raise our spirits and sing back the sun.

Jim Voorhees of the Foggy Bottom Morris Men has written a wonderful dance to this song, which the men now perform each year on the Winter Solstice.

‘Tis the gateway of the year;
Shortest day and darkest hour;
Praises as our newborn Sun
Journeys back to its full power,
CHORUS
Raise the song of Solstice high,
Through the wind and weather;
Welcome Yule with frost and fire
And sing we all together!

Blessed be the darkness deep;
All we learned there well worth knowing.
As below, the seeds’ long sleep
Nourished hope for springtide’s growing,
CHORUS

Troubles of the old year past
Burning in the oaken fire,
Making way for greater gifts;
Glowing with our hearts’ desire,
CHORUS

Merry meet and merry part,
Merry meet again,
Strangers only at the start,
Now are friends until the end, and
Raise the song of Solstice high,
Through the wind and weather;
Welcome Yule with frost and fire
And sing we all together! (repeat)

People, Look East

Trad., arr. John Guillory and Jennifer Cutting
Vocals - Christine Noyes
Recorders - John Guillory
Lute - John Albertson
Piano Accordian - Jennifer Cutting
Oboe - Karen Moses
Dumbeck, Tombak, Daf, Riqq, Zils - Steve Bloom
Bodhrán - Myron Bretholz
Double Bass - Charlie Pilzer
Harmony vocals - Lisa Moscatiello, Betsy Fulford Miller, Jennifer Cutting
The traditional melody of this song comes from a French carol in the Besançon dialect, entitled “Chantans, Bargies, Noué, Noué.” Sir John Stainer
(1840-1901) traced the tune to a Besançon publication of 1717, and it probably originated in the 17th century. The words are modern. They were written by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), and first published in The Oxford Book of Carols (1928). Best known in her day as a children’s author, Farjeon is better known today as the lyricist responsible for “Morning Has Broken,” which she wrote, to a traditional Gaelic melody, for the 1931 edition of the book Songs of Praise, and which was a major pop hit for Cat Stevens in 1972.

**Voici la Noel** [Christmas Eve is Here]

Trad., arr. Sue Richards and Jennifer Cutting

Celtic Harp - Sue Richards
Glockenspiel - Jennifer Cutting

An instrumental version of a French song, which was published in the very first volume of the venerable French folklore journal Revue des Traditions Populaires in 1886. It is a traditional singing-game for older children, and its theme is not really Christmas, but courting and marriage. The narrator recounts the gifts her boyfriend will bring her when he returns from Paris, including “the fiancée’s bouquet.” This song was sung in France at Christmas, but also on Toussaint (All Hallows, an ancient seasonal festival in France), and St.-Jean (St. John’s Day, which falls within 3 days of the Summer Solstice). The association between courting and these prehistoric turning points of the year is common in folklore, and reflects a universal recognition that humans and the earth both have their seasons of fertility.

**Quelle est cette odeur agréable?** [What is that Fragrance?]

Trad., arr. Jennifer Cutting and Lisa Moscatiello

The melody of this song has been used for a number of French carols. It most likely originated in France during the 17th century, and has been known in England since at least 1728, when John Gay used a variant for the drinking song “Fill Every Glass” in The Beggar’s Opera. Nowadays, English translations of the text are popular, but we prefer the French original, especially when it is sung so gloriously by Lisa Moscatiello. While similar carols mention the music and the light emanating from the Christ child, this one is unusual for especially mentioning the baby’s fragrance, which is unparalleled by all the flowers of spring.

**Green Man**

Words and music by Jennifer Cutting, © 2010 Once and Future Songs, ASCAP

Choral vocals arranged by Jennifer Cutting and Betsy Fulford Miller

Vocal - Steve Winick
Fiddle - Steve Hickman
Soprano Recorder - John Guillery
Bouzouki, Acoustic and Electric Guitars - Zan McLeod
Great Highland Bagpipes - Tim Carey
Bass - Rico Petruccelli
Drums - Daniel Schwartz
Bodhrán - Myron Bretholz
Hand Drums: KVA (Djembe - Ariana Lightningstorm, Tigre Cruz, and David Landis; Dumbek - Diana Sunday)

Choral vocals: men from Washington Revels: (Greg Lewis, Marc Lewis, Mike Matheson, Milan Pavich, Will Wurzel, Mike Platt, Michael Lewallen)

Jennifer wrote this song about the wisdom of the Divine Masculine – nurturer and protector of all wild places – and about Nature’s wisdom, which knows that there is no death, only transformation. “Green Man” is a name originally given to a pageant character in late medieval England, who dressed in leaves and symbolized wilderness. It was later also applied to carvings of a face made of leaves, or surrounded by leaves, which adorn medieval churches. The Green Man is often thought of today as a spirit of spring and summer. However, midwinter has its own miraculous foliage, including holly, ivy and pine, which remain green while everything else is dead. In one of the Green Man’s most compelling medieval appearances, the poem Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, he is clearly a winter spirit. Jennifer wrote this melody to a Highland bagpipe scale, and made it simple enough to sing unaccompanied, or at a drum circle. “Green Man” is dedicated to the Beneficent Order of the Greenman (BOG). Singer and BOG Brother Steve Winick marches with the Order and leads this song. Find out more about the BOG Brothers at www.bogbrothers.org

Deep within this sacred place
Green Man, King of the Wood
Outlines of an ancient face
Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One

Spirit of the living leaves
Green Man, King of the Wood
In his heart all Nature breathes
Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One

**CHORUS**

Green Man, bless this wood
Oak and ash and thorn…in Green Man’s brotherhood
All will be reborn…all will be reborn

Man may build his castles tall
Green Man, King of the Wood
Time and tide will see them fall
Greenman, Wild Man, Wise One
Thrusting up through crumbling walls
Green Man, King of the Wood
Vines and ivy conquer all
Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
CHORUS
Once bright holly Christmas Day
Green Man, King of the Wood
Now a flowering branch of May
Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
Soon Midsummer's sheltering shade
Green Man, King of the Wood
Turns to autumn's fiery blaze
Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
CHORUS (2x)
Green Man, bless this wood
Oak and ash and thorn...in Green Man's brotherhood
All will be reborn...All will be reborn...re-born

Fall, leaves, fall
Poem by Emily Brontë (1818-1848)
Music by Jennifer Cutting.
© 2010 Once and Future Songs, ASCAP
Vocals - Annie Haslam
Keyboard, Samples - Jennifer Cutting
Recorder, Whistle, Sordune - Scott Reiss
Electric Guitar, Drums - John Jennings
Bouzouki - Zan McLeod
Bass - Rico Petruccelli

Emily Brontë’s poem “Fall, Leaves, Fall” is the poet’s outright reveling in the death and decay of winter that others dread. It was not published in her lifetime, but preserved in a handwritten manuscript, dated 1837. Jennifer wrote a stately melody for Brontë’s poem, and created a symphonic arrangement that is at once lushly romantic and darkly Gothic, to echo the feeling of Brontë’s words. English vocalist Annie Haslam’s soaring high notes will be familiar from her work with the seminal progressive rock band Renaissance. This was the final recording session of the late Scott Reiss, a world-renowned recorder virtuoso, and a founder of the Folger Consort and Hesperus.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night’s decay
Ushers in a dreamier day.

In the bleak midwinter
Poem by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934), arr. Jennifer Cutting
Vocals, whistle - Lisa Moscatiello
Celtic Harp - Sue Richards
Violin - Cheryl Hurwitz
Organ - Jennifer Cutting

Originally a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti, this piece remained unpublished until the posthumous 1904 edition of her Poetic Works. Shortly thereafter, Gustav Holst set it to music as a Christmas carol, and the setting was published in The English Hymnal (1906). Holst’s melody has a quiet majesty that perfectly suits the stark, pure snowscape of Rossetti’s first verse, and the simple, tender sentiment of her last.

Time to remember the poor
Late-19th-century English broadside; text and music adapted and arranged by Jennifer Cutting.
© 2010 Once and Future Songs, ASCAP
Vocals - Lisa Moscatiello
Acoustic and Electric Guitars - Al Petteway
Keyboard, Samples - Jennifer Cutting
Bass - Rico Petruccelli
Drums - Juan Dudley

In the 1990s, Hungry For Music founder Jeff Campbell asked Jennifer to record a winter song for a holiday compilation CD. While Jennifer was assisting a researcher in the Library of Congress’s American Folklife Center Archive, the book she was holding, Frank Kidson’s Traditional Tunes (1891), fell open to the song “Time to Remember the Poor.” Although she felt that the tune Kidson collected was inappropriately jaunty for the solemn text, she knew this song was “the one.” She slowed down the tempo, changed the meter, eliminated the tune’s chromatic flourishes, and conflated several texts. Her eerie, dystopian sound canvas complements the foreboding lyrics. To evoke the themes of this Victorian broadside (charity is expected of all morally upright people, and death is the great leveler), Jennifer envisioned a kind of Gothic/steampunk/psychedelia fusion, and persuaded Grammy-winning acoustic fingerstyle guitarist Al Petteway to pick up the electric guitar.
“Baloo, Lammy” is a 16th-century Scottish cradle song about the baby Jesus. The words were originally published as “Ane Sang of the birth of Christ with the tune Balulalaw” in James, John, and Robert Wedderburn’s Ane Compendius Buik of Godly and Spirituall Sangis (1567). The title suggests that most readers were expected to know the tune, perhaps as a secular lullaby.

This day to you is born ane child
Of Marie meik and Virgin mild
That blissit bairn bening and kind
Sall you rejoyce baith hart and mind.
Baloo, Lammy, Balulalow.

The ancient Celts saw the passing of time as cyclical, and represented it by a circle or wheel. This song speaks of the human life stages of birth, growth, decline, and death, as echoed in the four seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter), and the solstices and equinoxes that herald them. Together, these represent the Celtic Wheel of the Year. Jennifer penned this lyric in the depths of a brutal January to reassure herself and others that the Wheel was bound to turn, and the Sun would return to warm the world.

In summer, we dream of the harvest,
In winter, we dream of the spring;
In darkness, we dream of the sunlight
Painting the sheen on the dragonfly’s wing.

Youthful, we dream of adventure,
Restless to start on the Quest;
Flying the heights of ambition,
Aching with pride to be seen with the best.

Wondering, we dream of the answer,
Stranded, we dream of the tide;
Breathless we wait the arrival
Of the kiss that will waken the slumbering bride.

CHORUS
Spin all your dreams on the Wheel of the Year,
Summer will come ’round again;
Open your eyes and it’s already here,
Freeing the fire that runs in our veins.

When Jesus brought His light to Earth,
A star shone in the East
And Wise Men journeyed from afar
To hail the Prince of Peace.

When Moses brought His light to Earth,
In desert, water from the rock;
In wilderness, sweet bread.

When Moses brought His light to Earth,
His tribe from bondage led.
In desert, water from the rock;
In wilderness, sweet bread.

When We all brought Our light to Earth,
We loved and lost, yet loved again;
And learned from our mistakes.

CHORUS
So let us sing each other’s names
To light the winter’s dark;
And may Our light grow brighter still
With each new year we mark.

When The Prophet brought His light to Earth,
He reconciled His foes,
When four clans raised the Black Stone high
Upon His holy cloak.

CHORUS
When The Buddha brought His light to Earth,
He saw beyond love and hate;
He said, “to end all suffering,
Each mind must be awake.”

CHORUS
When The Lady brought Her light to Earth,
She took us to Her breast;
Each fin and feather, hoof and horn
By Her were brightly blessed.

CHORUS
When The Buddha brought His light to Earth,
To end all suffering,
Each mind must be awake.

CHORUS
When The Lady brought Her light to Earth,
She took us to Her breast;
Each fin and feather, hoof and horn
By Her were brightly blessed.

CHORUS
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When four clans raised the Black Stone high
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CHORUS
When The Prophet brought His light to Earth,
He saw beyond love and hate;
He said, “to end all suffering,
Each mind must be awake.”

CHORUS
When The Lady brought Her light to Earth,
She took us to Her breast;
Each fin and feather, hoof and horn
By Her were brightly blessed.
Thirsty, we dream of the vineyard,
Sweet with the juice of the ripening fruit.
Withered, we dream of the greening,
Weary, we dream of relief;
Shivering, we dream of the sunshine,
Warming the face of each strawberry leaf.

CHORUS

Nodding, we dream of our young loves,
Of kisses bestowed in the rain;
How rivers once frozen were melting,
Freeing the fire that ran in our veins.

CHORUS (2x)

In summer, we dream of the harvest,
In winter, we dream of the spring;
In darkness, we dream of the sunlight
Painting the sheen on the dragonfly’s wing;
Painting the sheen on each dragonfly wing…

Produced by Jennifer Cutting

("Fall, Leaves, Fall," produced by Jennifer Cutting and Blake Althen; "Light the Winter’s Dark," produced by Coope, Boyes, and Simpson with Neil Ferguson.)

Recorded and Mixed by Frank Marchand at Airshow Takoma

("Fall, Leaves, Fall" recorded by Glenn Barratt at MorningStar (Spring House, PA); Eamon Loftus at C & C Studios (Sterling, VA); Larry Kolota at SunSign Studios (Takoma Park, MD); and Blake Althen at Human Factor ( Arlington, VA).


“Time to Remember the Poor” recorded by Don Zientara at Inner Ear (Arlington, VA). Additional tracks recorded by Blake Althen at Human Factor (Arlington, VA).

“Song of Solstice” recorded by Gantt Kushner at Gizmo (Silver Spring, MD) and Alan Stockwell at Soundesign (Brattleboro, VT). Additional tracking at Airshow Takoma.

“Bah, Humbug” audio and video recording by Jeff Gruber at Blue House Productions (Silver Spring and Kensington, MD).

Mastered by Charlie Pilzer at Airshow Takoma

Executive Producer for “Quelle est cette odeur agréable” – Scott Miller
Executive Producer for “Green Man” – Stephen D. Winick

Layout and design by Dan Schuman at Lawrence Marie, Inc. (McLean, VA)

Special thanks to Charlie Pilzer and Frank Marchant at Airshow Takoma for wise counsel, tough love, superhuman patience, and always going above and beyond the call of duty in the pursuit of quality…But most of all, for bringing a great recording studio to our home town of Takoma Park, Maryland.

To Lisa Moscatello and Rico Petruccelli: what a joy it has been to make music with you for over two decades…here’s to many more! To all the great musical souls whose light and love grace these songs…Thank you for believing in my work, sharing your gifts, and co-creating this album. Bringing this music to life with you is what I live for!

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Other recordings by Jennifer Cutting:

HIGH TEA – The New St. George Folk Era 1415CD
OCEAN: Songs for the Night Sea Journey – Jennifer Cutting’s OCEAN Orchestra SunSign CD2004

For more information on Jennifer Cutting, her group OCEAN, and her production company SunSign, go to: www.jennifercutting.com and www.oceanorchestra.com