As We So Love
SONGS AND CHANTS
Carolyn McDade & Friends

Words and music by Carolyn McDade,
arranged in collaboration with the musicians of instrument and voice.
This project was born of women committed to the creative process.

This Ancient Love

Long before the night was born
from darkness
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady
from fire
Long before She wrapped
her scarlet arm around the hills
there was a love,
this ancient love was born.

Long before the grass spotted green
the bare hillside
Long before a wing unfolded to wind
Long before She wrapped
her long blue arm around the sea
there was a love,
this ancient love was born.

Long before a chain was forged
from the hillside
Long before a voice
uttered freedom's cry
Long before She wrapped
her bleeding arms around a child
there was a love,
this ancient love was born.

Long before the name of a God
was spoken
Long before a cross was nailed
from a tree
Long before She laid her arm of colors
'cross the sky
there was a love,
this ancient love was born.

Wakeful our night,
Slumbers our morning
Stubborn the grass sowing green
wounded hills
As we wrap our healing arms to hold
what her arms held
this ancient love,
this aching love rolls on.

through the moons of late winter '88

Gratitude

Heron lays a wing
a dark and shaggy wing
upon the marshland flying
thus sings her soul,
thus sings her soul
heron living soul

I lay my wing
my soul a shaggy wing
from deep waters rising
thus sings my soul,
thus sings my soul
soul, my living soul

Freedom lays a wing
a long and shaggy wing
and peoples waken rising

thus sings our soul,
thus sings our soul
freedom living soul

Life lays a wing
a loose and shaggy wing
and through creation flying
thus sings the soul,
thus sings the soul
whole and living soul

Blessed the heron
flying in the wind
Blessed the waters that rise
and fall to rise again
Blessed the generations
struggling to be free
For deep though the sorrow,
Shining in the soul
Life lays a wing
shaggy and whole

Blessed: A Litany
BY CAROLYN MCDADE
AND MARY CASEY

Blessed the universe
long unbroken story
spirit in all things

Blessed the Earth dance
born of burning
turning day to night to dawn
around an ancient sun

Blessed the sea and sky –
stars and rain
that wash each soul in reverence
and guide us home

Blessed all who buzz and hiss, talk,
croak and warble –
All who push roots and shout green
Blessed all who pass breath
between them

Blessed all that struggle for their
right to be
- that within each that will not
lie down
- that sings the song its heart
must sing

Blessed the elders who call us deep
Blessed the young who deepen
Blessed the generations who love this
world,
faithful to its wonder

Blessed all who choose to live whole
and free,
grateful among the Blessed

Rivers
FOR THE SISTERS OF HOPE
WHOSE LIVES ARE THE ACT OF HOPE

O rivers gathered of streams
flowing down through the valleys
Rains out of an ancient sea
fall, turning a prophecy,
spring thawing to rush
flowing renews the land.
O Living Waters
Grace washing the soul
Cities stirring and hills verdant
as hope, rumbling through pain
comes reviving the dream again.

Come we a mingling of streams
gathered of generations
Born unto a sacred earth
Dying we shall know rebirth
Faith deep in our lives
freeing a love that frees
O Passion eternal
Ever Burning Flame
O radiant planet whirling on
true to the stars
in a vow
sung in the tongue of earth

Our way to journey among
people cast to the edges
Women shall their fullness be
Laden shall arise, be free
All Blessed we rise
fresh in a fearless dawn
O Bountiful Goodness
truth and mercy shall meet
Live as we must live,
where we must be
faithful and free
to the gospel
of a boundless whole

Go, sisters renewed from this day
Held and holding a promise
O, Wisdom without, within
Shine, freeing our love to bend
with meanings that dream
deep in our common way
Go, Blessings go with you
Dare, though trials abound
This day a reminder that the banks
Bordering streams
'neath the waters abide as one

my love for you I sing
my life to you I bring
my all in all
with you
my sisters of hope

Come, Sisters of Promise
Go, Sisters of Hope
In Earth's Revelation
Breath of Old
breathing anew
as the Love in this life
rolls on

Between Us
SONG FOR MY FRIENDS

For I so love this world I walk with you
- the rounded hill, the field of stone,
a fragile path among the weed
beneath a star
the tumult of the rain
I too have loved
what you shared but could not give,
loved but could not save,
what you embraced
but could not hold
In this moment I love you more
than all our time before

as we walk pliant among the weed
beneath a star
the shining rain -
between us a love
we share and cannot give
embrace and cannot hold
as we love what we alone cannot save
as we save what we alone cannot love
as we love this world
as we so love

Shadow of Your Wing

Stay by me now
That I may feel the shadow of your wing
the shadow of your wing,
the shadow of your wing on mine.

Lay down your load
that I may feel the freedom of your wings,
the freedom of your wings,
the freedom of your wings on mine.

Lay wide your dreams
that I may know
the bound'ry of your love,
the bound'ry of your love,
the bound'ry of your love on mine

Lay down your guard
that I may know
the sorrow that you hold,
the sorrow that you hold,
the sorrow that you hold on mine

Stay by me now
that I may know
the joy that lifts your soul
the joy that lifts your soul
the joy that lifts your soul on mine

Walk by me now
that I may know
the measure of your step
the measure of your step
the measure of your step on mine