

Flying Canoe -- Lyrics

All songs written by Neil Björklund, © 1996 (BMI)

The Flying Canoe Flight Crew

Neil BjörklundLead vocals, harmony vocal (Rocks and Razors), acoustic guitar, ashiko drum, Noah's frame drum, Tibetan bells, Japanese wind bell
Allison RickenbaughLead vocal (Rocks and Razors), harmony vocals, tin whistle, bodhran, harmonica, Brazilian whistle, shaker (Kenya Call)
Bruce NewhouseCongas, piano, shakers, harmony vocal (The Longing)
Mark SchneiderElectric basses of all kinds, magic dust (here and there)
Charlie DoggettDrum kit, djembe solo
Kate WhitlockCello
Laura KempHarmony vocal (To the Water)
Mark AlanHarmony vocal (To the Water)

The Longing

Just when you think you're solid in your solitary way • this hunger comes sneakin' in and sweeps all that away • brick by brick it melts your fortress back into clay • and you sink and you slip and you fall back to the ground The earth here is watered by our lovers' tears • While earthen dams we build up to protect us from our fears • Though it may be just a trickle now, it carves canyons over the years • Until you sink and you slip and you fall back to the ground *It's the longing of the raindrop for the sea • It's the longing of the lioness to be free • It's the longing of the stars for each other in the night • It's the longing of the warrior to walk away from the fight • It's the longing of life yet to be • It's the longing of life in me* I tell myself I'm really better off this way • 'Cause life is so much simpler when there's just one part to play • But my heart doesn't give a damn what my mind has to say • So I sink and I slip and I fall back to the ground I used to aim the critic's bow upon that place inside • I shot flaming arrows of anger at a hole I could not hide • Now something I don't understand has shown me another side • and now I see the beauty of this longing

Rocks and Razors

Just like gravity his attention falls to the prettiest face in the room • He says don't get mad at me, 'cause I know all about it, and there's nothing at all I can do • I get hypnotized by the light around their eyes *He's a fool for beauty, and he's a fool for charm • He doesn't know he's fallin' until he comes to harm • He can always see 'em comin', but he can never see 'em go • Rocks and razors all around him, but he doesn't want to know* He seems so blind to me, when I think of everything he overlooks • It seems so unwise to me, to throw out the words for the beauty of the cover of the book • How can you judge a human being on just one look? When will he finally see, that he's on a street where the traffic goes both ways • It won't come easily but maybe some day he'll see that she's caught in the grip of his gaze • When will he realize the price she pays and pays? He doesn't want to see his reflection in the face of reality • Seduced by the fantasy, he keeps looking and looking for someone he never can be • While he is blind to the cage, it will never set him free.

Who's Talking In My Sleep

I'm back in the school I went to thirty years ago around the corner from my childhood home • Everyone else is back in school again too, but now we're all full grown • We're sittin' at these little tiny tables and chairs, waiting for class to begin • No one remembers just who it was that said we all had to come back again *I had that dream again last night • I had that dream again last night • And now it's haunting me, seems like it's taunting me • Making me wonder, making me wonder • Who's talking in my sleep? Who's making this one run so deep? • Who's making this one repeat and repeat? • Who's talking in my sleep?* I just can't seem to break out of the spell enough to ask what's going on here • It must be important cause we all showed up, though why is not at all clear • Do we need to get back to the basics? • Was there something we all missed before? • Why aren't we talkin' about why we're here? • And why am I so sure there's more? Oh summoner, I don't know who you are • I don't know why you called us all back • That's why we're all just sittin' herewaiting, 'cause we can't even figure out that • We're wondering what the hell we're all doing here • We're wondering why you gave us the call • We're hoping you're not planning to just leave us here • Wondering at the point of it all

My Champion

No matter what I did she always liked it, she'd say "I'm so proud of you, my grandson" • She said it with her eyes, she said it with her hands, she said it in the way that she'd light up when we'd come by *She was my champion, my rock • She was my champion, my rock • And most of what I know about true love, I learned from my Grandma* Now I thank God she never knew about the hell that I went through • Because I'm sure if she'd found out, it would have pierced her heart through • She was the one who gave me what I needed to pull through • She let me know no matter what, that I was okay too When Grandma died I didn't know that she had touched me so • And when she died I didn't know that I would miss her so • Five years had come and gone when I finally sang good-bye • And after all those years the tears that had been bottled up inside • Came down like a waterfall Someday I hope I too will climb some of the mountains that she climbed • Someday I hope I too will find some of the light that made her shine

Crossing Big Water

You are the butterfly I must keep setting free • It's the only way, the only way that I can see • Through the blood and through the darkness • Where your tangled wings must be • Trying to fly out of that doorway • Where you ran into me On a dusty street in Mexico • It wasn't like I knew • How I kept running and running off into the sunset with you • So it took a little anger, and it took a little pain • It took a little bit of coming home to the rain *You got me crossing big water • You got me looking for the light • You got me noticing that the key was in my hand • You got me waking in the night • You got me finding down inside me • What I never knew was there • I'm trying to dig down deeper to where • There's water to spare* You know it wasn't any accident, the crossing of our paths • But I really gotta question • The sense of timing these Gods seem to have • And is it any wonder, that love would shake this ground • 'Til the refuse of doubt is scattered • And the truth underneath is found? I shake my head in disbelief • At how my feet would turn and run • At every sign of uncertainty • And every thought of being undone • You know it isn't what I really need • that I keep asking for • And the waiting can be such misery • when there's something that you're longing for.

Kenya Call

White Boy in Africa? Did Kenya call my name? • I still don't know what got into me--what got me on that plane • Or how I leapt that canyon that had stopped me all those years • Deep water flowing in the shadow of my fear *I didn't come 8,000 miles to live on just the same • I didn't come 8,000 miles to live on just the same • I didn't come 8,000 miles to live on just the same* Your invitation shocked me--collision of two worlds • I tried to push away the truth, but it persistently unfurled • My body and my mind did all they could to keep me home • But there was just no pushin' away that voice, that said "boy you got to go" *Lions under the yellow fever tree • Crocodile in the cool, wet stream • Leopard wakes and she looks up at me • Zebras scatter and the antelope flee* Black and shining faces all around me all day long • Mine's the only white one--something I had never known • I know that I'm a guest here, I'm in someone else's home • I found something in just being here that I'll be taking home

To The Water

I go to the water, to the water to see , to see my reflection, who I've come to be • I go to the water, to the water to drink, my soul's satisfaction, only water can bring • I go to the water, to the water to dive, to arc from the high rocks while closing my eyes • I go to the water, to the water to bathe, to wash my eyes clean in the pools of cool rain • I go to the water, to the water to die, it's there I find freedom and wings to the sky • I go to the water, to the water for life, like a seed in the ashes that grows toward the light • I came from the water, from the water to see, to see my reflection, who I've come to be

Father of Grief

The patriarch has fallen by the work of his own hand • He's pulled the family rug out from beneath you • Your furniture lies scattered and broken on the floor • Now there's a knocking at the door you fear to answer He's left you now to wonder did his trigger finger lie? • Did he really want to die? • Or was his mind poisoned by the pills they said would help • To lift the weight that had pinned him where he fell *Father of grief, in the faces of the moon • He'll find you every time • and then he'll call you down into the well • his reflection's in the water way down there • and you'll think you've felt it all until he comes to call • for more tears when you thought you'd given them all* Family ties once bound him--they couldn't hold him anymore • He had one foot out the door, already • Grasping at deliverance from his lonely one-man hell • It was either the punchcard, the bottle or the bullet A certain phrase, a certain walk, a certain smell--and there he is • But memory's sweet smile only lasts a little while • Because the aching of the emptiness where he's

supposed to be • Seems like a hunger that will never set you free • All the things you wished you'd done and said • And those you'd now take back • They come rushing in around you like the tide • Like cold and salty water washing sand around your feet • The waves run back to the sea

Inside of Me

I want to look away, or turn away or walk away or fly away • I want to get out of here, if I could just disappear • Then I wouldn't have to hear that maybe you see me the way that I do • *The house is on fire, and I can't seem to find a way out* • *Every way that I try to run takes me right back where I was* • *Facing my fear, I can't escape--it's inside of me* • I point the finger now, and I say he's the one, and I say she's the one and I say they're the ones • They made me feel this way, I didn't have a say, the hurt won't go away and now somebody's gonna pay • *Now I'm armed and I'm ready to fight, but my enemy's not here* • *I come out swinging to protect myself, but the blows come back to me* • *Facing my foes, can't beat 'em down--they're inside of me* • Hold out my empty hand, feel my aching heart, the walls begin to fall, a child is screaming and I am weeping • And when I feel so small, it is so hard to call out for someone who could be here to free me, really free me • *There's a longing deep inside of me for a love that seems so far* • *Seems I keep checking to see if it's safe to give myself away* • *Looking for love, so hard to find--it's inside of me* • What if I don't look away, what if I don't turn away, what if I don't walk away, what if I don't fly away? • *The house is on fire, and I can't seem to find a way out* • *Every way that I try to run takes me right back where I was* • *Facing my fear, I can't escape* • *Facing my foes, can't beat 'em down* • *Looking for love, so hard to find--it's inside of me.*

No Matter What You Do (for Brandt and Bonnie)

She's the river on your mountain, she's the cougar in your trees • Like a soaring bird she's drawn to you across the seas • She holds you like the forest holds the meadow and the stream • She wants to shine like the moon in your darkest dream • She knows what she has wanted--to share her joy and pain • *No matter if the storms and the rains come, she's there for you* • *No matter what you do, she's there for you* • There's a fire deep inside of him that burns just for you • And a longing like the wave for the shore • He knows you like the stars know the darkness of the night • And like the dawning of the sun he brings you light • He knows what he has wanted--to share his joy and pain • *No matter if the storms and the rains come, he's there for you* • *No matter what you do, he's there for you* • It's a circle, it's a dance, it's a mystery • It's a flight to the edge and the upper ledge • For a bigger view where you both can see • Through the window, through the doorway, it's a mirror don't you know • *And you don't know what is coming, but together you know you're gonna go* • From the meeting of your eyes to the touching of your hands • To the joining of your lives that you choose and choose and choose and choose • Sometimes you move together, sometimes you move apart • But you're never really separated, you're in each other's hearts • Awakened from your dreaming you can see what you have made • *And you don't know what is coming, but together you know you're gonna go* • *You know you're gonna go, you know you're gonna go*

Night Walk

The leaves turn brown and the frost falls on the ground • The earth spins round and the night falls on the town • Are you near me? Are you near me now? Are you near me? • I watch the moon as it rises through the clouds • I watch my breath as I say the words out loud • Can you hear me? Can you hear me now? Can you hear me? • *I aim myself like an arrow in the dark* • *I aim myself like an arrow in the dark* • *I aim myself like an arrow in the dark* • *At a target I can't see* • *At a target I can't see* • *At a target I can't see* • The streetlights shine from the pavement in the rain • The bells clang and the whistle blows for the train • Can you see me? Can you see me now? Can you see me? • I watch the road and I wonder where it leads • I take each step hesitating, afraid to bleed • Are you with me? Are you with me now? Are you with me?

Traveller

I found a God in my suitcase • It's not the usual kind • It isn't a father or mother or savior I know • It hasn't any name • It hasn't any words • Out in the forest, in the silence, all alone • *Before you can answer me, before you can ask me I go* • *Before you can answer me, before you can ask me I go* • Your name is an echo • My heart is the heat • Your voice is the song of a bird in the snow • Your breath is a flame • My eyes are the nighttime • Your hands are the whispering workers that know • I choose my direction • It's not the usual one • The voice from the well says to leave the medication behind • The valley is empty • The day ends in red • I'll soar with the song, and I'll dance with the one that I wed