

# Singing For Mutual Enhancement



*Songs shaping a worldview  
promoting mutually enhancing relationships  
between People and Planet*

Emerging Ecology  
[www.EmergingEcology.org](http://www.EmergingEcology.org)

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# Introduction

This songbook has been compiled by Emerging Ecology in its efforts to promote a worldview based on the understanding that we live an emerging Universe where the major guiding principle of human action centers on creating a mutually enhancing relationship between People and Planet.

This songbook is designed for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century global audience of people who care deeply and are actively involved in shaping the future. The words of the songs in this book have been written and edited to be:

*Ecologically Conscious:* The active role that the human species plays both in learning from and creatively influencing all aspects of Planet Earth are highlighted in these songs.

*Gender Neutral:* Gods and mystical powers are attributed to both genders; human civilization includes all gender orientations.

*Religiously Ecumenical:* No religious tradition is promoted in preference of another; saints, founders and leaders of specific religions are not prioritized.

*Scientifically Responsible:* Natural processes and long-term history are characterized by understandings consistent with the best understandings of contemporary scientific wisdom.

*Transformationally Empowering:* People who are self-consciously engaged in the task of fostering long-term social change are energized by the songs they sing, songs which offer a vitalizing vision and deal with the profound human issues encountered on the journey of social change.

For further information about Emerging Ecology's programs and to find additional materials supporting these perspectives, visit [www.EmergingEcology.org](http://www.EmergingEcology.org). More information about this Songbook and YouTube videos of some of the songs is available on the Public Performances page from the Ongoing Activities menu of the Emerging Ecology website.

For additional information about words originally written by the Ecumenical Institute or the Institute of Cultural Affairs, visit the [Inner Life Collection](#) of the ICA's Social Research Center.

Photos by F. Nelson Stover. Front cover, Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest old-growth trees, 2015; back cover at the one-billion year-old rock face at Pilot Mountain, 2019.

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# Create the New Way

*Tune: Round and Round*

Winds of change are whirling round and round  
And a new world dawns; let everyone take heed.  
Winds of change are whirling round and round  
And they call for all to risk a deed.

All the past is but a steppingstone on the trek into this present day  
But the future cries for something more, cries to all: Create the New Way.  
Winds of change are whirling round and round  
And I choose with those upon the Way.

What shall be, somehow, depends on me  
What I am, have been and now decide to be  
And all those of Way become my we  
And this we becomes the larger me.

We the Way in time have ever been, with our now we march toward yet to be,  
Ever on, to forge the ever-new, building Earth for all history.  
What shall be, somehow, depends on me,  
And I'm one with those upon the Way.

Winds of change are whirling round and round  
And a new world dawns, let everyone take heed.  
Winds of change are whirling round and round  
And they call for all to risk a deed.

All the past is but a steppingstone on the trek into this present day  
But the future cries for something more, cries to all: Create the New Way.  
Winds of change are whirling round and round  
And I choose with those upon the Way.

Words by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, ca. 1975  
Adapted and formatted by F. Nelson Stover, 4/12/2018

## In Common Task

Tune: *Hymn to Joy*

Come all spirits roaming freely, bind your will in common task.  
Stand beneath the gaze of neighbor, ready to obey their trust.  
Take within yourself the burden; peace on Earth goodwill to all.  
All the world is now your parish, every spirit yours to win.

Let the light that fights with darkness, show your rights and everyone's,  
Place your share upon the altar, burn it at the Lord's command.  
Speak with lightening when the shadows blind the eyes of those you love.  
Never let the clouds of winning block the glorious sun above.

Heed the cries that sound your passion, bleed with every struggling one,  
Will that you might live to free them, speak the word the deed be done.  
Launch with those who share the vision to expand Earth's destiny.  
In the life that's born of drowning, sail with friends who wage the sea.

Live your life before the calling to discern the will of God,  
Each one on the globe your sibling, each deserves a chance at life.  
Choose to follow on the ascending; know that alone to be your way.  
Then join hands beyond the border with the saints in bright array.

Words: The Ecumenical Institute ca. 1972  
*Based on the Obedience Chart  
in the New Religious Mode Collection,*  
adapted by F. Nelson Stover, 2019.

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

Vocals by Eileen Howard on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/3mb30mCqstY>

# My Consummation

*Tune: Londonderry Air*

Life beckons me to wonder and humility, to journey into deep reality.  
To live fore'er within the realm of mystery, forever bound in awesome ecstasy.  
Apostasy, the doubt that comes as certainty. I'm seized by dread and vanquished hopelessly.  
And I submit to given, fearful history.  
This perfect love transforms the wonder that is me.

Life beckons me to freedom and lucidity, to be the self that shapes futurity,  
To bear the weight of painful, conscious rhapsody; inventing all that I am doomed to be.  
Morality beyond my own integrity, I stand amidst my fate and destiny,  
And I must ever, always my own conscience be.  
That final judgment dreads the wonder that is me.

Life beckons me to service for humanity, to spend my life as solidarity.  
To be the burdened one, with life's dark tragedy, this suffering world compels my sympathy.  
This Planet Earth, my sole responsibility. The past, the future are for all, I see,  
And I am called beyond my possibility.  
This awesome gift flows through the wonder that is me.

Life beckons me to live complete and joyously, to dwell in showers of blessing, ceaselessly.  
To peace that comes from love of dreadful mystery, in realms of wonder, I will ever be.  
Tranquility, no burden, no hostility. I live in strange, unseen community.  
And death and I do now embrace, eternally:  
My consummation, 'tis the wonder that is me.

Words by the Ecumenical Institute staff, ca. 1970.  
Edited by Elaine and Nelson Stover, 2020.

# We Can All Band Together

*Tune: When the Saints Go Marching In*

Oh! when we start to see the world  
In need of so much care and repair,  
We can all band together  
To make a diff'rence we can share.

Oh! when we all pick up the sign  
To come along and do our share,  
We can all work together  
To make a mark that shows we care.

The forest stands to greet us all  
Majestic poplars, oaks and pine  
We can all stand together  
To make a diff'rence for all time.

The water falls with giant force  
It's clear and cool and feeds us all.  
We can all work together;  
Let's join as one to heed the call.

(Repeat first verse)

Words by: Elaine K. Stover, 2017

# One, Pi, Phi, Me

*Tune: Frère Jacques*

One, pi, phi, me;  
One, pi, phi, me.  
Phi and me,  
One and pi.

We help shape tomorrow;  
We help shape tomorrow.  
One and pi,  
Phi and me.

Words by Nelson and Perdu Stover, 2010

*Editor's Note:* One represents a basic unit of measurement and counting, Pi represents the circumference of a circle with diameter of twice one and Phi represents the diagonal of a pentagon with a base of one. Together, these comprise the foundation for creating the Platonic solids which form the essential building blocks of the natural world.

# Universe Song

*Tune: Three Blind Mice*

We live in the universe,  
We live in the universe.

On the planet earth,  
On the planet earth.

We look for life in the sky so blue  
And down in the ocean for something new,  
Look at the world we have on our hands!

What shall we do?  
What shall we do?

Words by Ecumenical Institute Staff,  
written for the 5<sup>th</sup> City Preschool, 1968

# Rap On Trouble

*Tune: Trouble in River City*

Friends, either you're closing your eyes to a situation you do not wish to acknowledge, Or you are not aware of the caliber of disaster that arises when using a Created Reality as the foundation for your Worldview.

Well, 'ya got trouble, my friend, right here, I say, trouble right here in your fine city.

Why sure I'm an ordained minister. Certainly, mighty proud I say; I'm always mighty proud to say it.

I consider that the hours I spend with a holy book in my hand are golden. Help you cultivate common sense And a cool head and a patient heart.

J'ever try to build the long-range future for yourself and the Planet in the context of an Emerging Universe?

But just as I say, it takes judgement, brains, and maturity to participate in shaping tomorrow, I say that any boob, can blindly follow The conventional wisdom of the crowd.

And they call that Sloth. The first big step on the road To the depths of a degraday –

I say, first, its blind acceptance of Facebook posts, then unquestioningly believing a talk radio host.

An' the next thing 'ya know, your friend is shouting out hate speech from a microphone. And list'nin to some big out-a-town Jasper. Hearin' him brag about national identity. Not a fully integral global reality, no! But a community where everybody just fends for themselves!

Like to be told you have to fit into some preordained mold? Make your blood boil? Well, I should say.

Now, friends, lem'me tell you what I mean. 'Ya got one, two, three, four, five, six, seven days in a story. Days that have no correlation with scientific fact or your daily experience with a capital "E"; and that rhymes with "C" and that stands for Created Reality!

And all week long your fine city's Youth'll be frittern away, I say your young men'll be frittern! Frittern away their noontime, suppertime, chore time too!

Wait'n for someone to give them a job; Never mind gittin' a good education Or protecting the nature's bounties or empowering the developing world.

Never mind using renewable resources 'Til your children are caught with an energy crisis on a cold winter's night and that's trouble, Oh, yes we got lots and lots a' trouble.

I'm thinkin' of the kids in the hoodies, Shirt-tail young ones, playin' their video games for hours after school.

'Ya got trouble, folks, right here in your fine city. Trouble with a capital "T" and that rhymes with "C" and that stands for Created Reality!

Now, I know all you folks are the right kinda parents. I'm gonna be perfectly frank. Would ya like to know what kinda conversation goes on while they're loafin' in their living rooms?

They're posting on Twitter, fussing with Snapchat, playing video games with fast acting fingers!

And braggin' all about how they're gonna cover  
up their trails with high-level security settings.

One dark night, they leave their bedrooms,  
Headin' for the march on Main Street!  
Pharisaic men and convention bound women!  
And rabble-rousing, shameless music  
That'll grab your son and your daughter  
With the arms of an ancient tribal instinct!  
Mass-staria!

Friends, a Created Reality is a reduced  
foundation!

**People:**

Trouble, oh we got trouble,  
Right here in our fine city!  
With a capital "T"  
That rhymes with "C"  
And that stands for Created Reality,  
That stands for Created Reality.

We've surely got trouble!  
Right here in our fine city, right here!  
Gotta figger out a way to give the young ones  
possibilities after school!

Trouble, trouble, trouble, trouble, trouble...

**Rapper:**

Mothers of this great city!  
Heed the warning before it's too late!  
Watch for the tell-tale signs of corruption!

The moment your son leaves the house,  
does he meet up with people who are just like  
himself? Is there a vaping device tucked in his  
backpack? A sleazy magazine hidden under his  
mattress?

Is he starting to repeat phrases from  
conservative news channels?

Are certain words creeping into his  
conversation? Words like 'L.O.L.' and 'just tell  
me what to do'?

Well, if so my friends,  
'Ya got trouble,  
Right here in your fine city!  
With a capital "T"  
And that rhymes with "C"  
And that stands for Created Reality.

We've surely got trouble!  
Right here in our fine city!

Remember the Maine, Plymouth Rock and the  
Golden Rule!

Oh, we've got trouble. We're in terrible,  
terrible trouble. That story with the seven  
numbered days is a misleading narrative!

Oh yes, we got trouble, trouble, trouble!  
With a "T"! Gotta rhyme it with "C"!  
And that stands for Created Reality!!!

Original music and lyrics by Merideth Wilson for  
"The Music Man"

Revised words by F. Nelson Stover, 2018 –  
Produced by Emerging Ecology on YouTube at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AObXwHU2lpg>

# The Universe's Fourteen Billion Years

*Tune: The 12 Days of Christmas*

At the beginning of time

The Universe came to be  
In a Primal Flaring Forth.

In the first billion years,

The Universe formed into  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the second billion years,

The Universe formed into  
Great Galactic Clouds;  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the third billion years,

The Universe burst into  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the fourth billion years,

Some stars erupted into  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the fifth billion years,

The Universe settled onto  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the sixth billion years,

Around the Universe  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the seventh billion years

Around the Universe  
Some Galaxies Collide;  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the eighth billion years,

Within the Milky Way  
Tiamat Explodes;  
Some Galaxies Collide;  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the ninth billion years

Within the Milky Way  
Our Sun ignites  
Tiamat Explodes;  
Some Galaxies Collide;  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded Hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the tenth billion years  
On the Planet Earth  
Life bursts forth,  
Our Sun ignites  
Tiamat Explodes;  
Some Galaxies Collide;  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great galactic clouds,  
Bonded hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the eleventh billion years  
On the Planet Earth  
Cells capture sunlight  
Life bursts forth,  
Our Sun ignites  
Tiamat explodes,  
Some Galaxies Collide;  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

In the twelfth billion years  
On the Planet Earth  
Life breathes oxygen;  
Cells capture sunlight  
Life bursts forth,  
Our Sun ignites  
Tiamat Explodes,  
Some Galaxies Collide;  
More Supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild Supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great Galactic Clouds,  
Bonded hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

Now, after thirteen billion years,  
On the Planet Earth,  
We all help shape tomorrow.  
Life breathes oxygen;  
Cells capture sunlight  
Life bursts forth,  
Our Sun ignites  
Tiamat explodes,  
Some galaxies collide;  
More supernovae;  
Five Golden Rules;  
Wild supernovae;  
Brilliant dazzling stars;  
Great galactic clouds,  
Bonded hydrogen  
From a primal flaring forth.

### The Universe's Five Golden Rules

1. The dynamics of development are the same throughout the Universe. (The Cosmogenetic Principle)
2. Cosmogenesis is organized by Communion.
3. Cosmogenesis is ordered by Differentiation.
4. Cosmogenesis is structured by Autopoiesis.
5. Each Element of the Present participates in shaping the Not Yet. (The Participatory Principle)

Lyrics based on *The Universe Story*  
by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry.

Words by F. Nelson Stover, April 22, 2018  
Tune: old English or French carol

## Uwharrie Mountain Legacy

(Variation on a traditional song with new words by Lynda Cock and Rudy Gordh. A rendition by Rudy Gordh is [available on YouTube](#). Words to the traditional song are on page 92 of the "Rise Again Songbook" by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson. A version of "I was Born About 10,000 Years Ago", by Elvis Presley, is freely available on YouTube.)

I was born about 10,000 years ago.  
There ain't nothing in this world that I don't know.  
I saw Peter, Paul and Moses playing Ring Around the Roses  
And I'll whup the guy who says it isn't so.

I took a trip to the North Carolina Uwharries.  
While there saw a covered bridge and a quarry.  
Saw many things so old  
Rhyolite, arrowheads and gold.  
Felt I was on a safari.

I saw volcanoes venting their steam.  
Tectonic plates moving in between.  
One went down, one went up  
Creating the Appalachian bump.  
I'd swear that's exactly what I'd seen.

I saw when Greensboro came upon the scene.  
Way before the area got so very green.  
It was on its way to glory,  
But that's another story.  
I hope you understand what I mean.

The Rockies were not too far behind.  
John Denver not yet to pen a rhyme.  
He didn't know the history  
Of the mountains and their mystery,  
But he would come to learn it all in time.

The Uwharrie is a living, breathing entity.  
It needs our care and constant energy.  
A landfill it is not,  
It's a precious sacred spot.  
We now shape it for our future legacy.

I took a trip to the North Carolina Uwharries.  
While there saw a covered bridge and a quarry.  
A landfill it is not  
It's a precious sacred spot.  
We now shape it for our future legacy.

