

MICHAEL GUY BOWMAN
YOUR MAJESTY

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Music by Michael Guy Bowman

Drums by Bijan Eghtesady

Accordion by Bonnie Maddox (track 8)

Cover / booklet art by Alice Hu



When the future is uncertain it can be easy to romanticize the past. In fairy tales we imagine that the world was once a more beautiful place where magic explained the mysteries of life. The probing tools of science were once the simmering cauldrons of alchemy. We trusted our leaders completely as the righteous defenders of a higher order which placed ourselves at the center of the universe.

We are tempted to return to this mythic era. The epic tales of old generations bewilder us with stories of glorious quests and lives of adventure. All of it seems to be disappearing just beyond the horizon of a new world that has become petrified with frightful complexity. We treasure the artifacts that remain from simpler times, believing in vain that they might unlock hidden entrances to unspoiled realms.

Though the arrow of time pushes us ceaselessly beyond the dominion of our half-remembered past, we hold onto a belief that we are meant for something more than the cold reality we face - too obvious, too impersonal. We imagine this is only a dark age between the reign of two great kingdoms, the next greater than the first. It is a seductive belief, and potentially dangerous.

And yet, occasionally, we must indulge these fantasies. We romanticize the past because we remember once that we were able to romanticize the future. To permit legendary origins is to hope for a destiny beyond our crude surroundings. We have the choice to see life as a brief epitaph or as the unfolding chapters of a grand saga. Which way will you turn?



1. Julia Verne

Long ago we used to lie
Beneath the summer evening sky
The moon and mars and all the stars
Were in our eyes

You made a wish and it came true
But what it was I never knew
Until one night I saw your light
Was up there too

Julia Verne - she's on a journey to the stars
Leaving behind these worldly binds
For something new

Julia Verne - will you return to mend these scars?
I've got to hope, my telescope's
Always on you, on you

I found the note beside the bed
The strangest thing I've ever read
"I've got to go, that's all I know"
Was all it said

So off it went, a loaded gun
To shoot you right around the sun
Are you insane? I can't explain
The things you've done

Julia Verne - she's on a journey to the stars
Leaving behind these worldly binds
For something new

Julia Verne - will you return to mend these scars?
I've got to hope, my telescope's
Always on you, on you
On you

How many nights and days
Since last we parted ways
It must be hard to count them out in space

Lay down your landing gear
You know I'm still right here
Forever wondering why you disappeared

But if I could I'd take a ride
Across the great cosmic divide
And maybe then I'd once again
Be at your side

For if it's true that what you've found
Way out there where there is no sound
Is worth it all, I'll never fall
Back to the ground

Julia Verne - she's on a journey to the stars
Leaving behind these worldly binds
For something new

Julia Verne - will you return to mend these scars?
I've got to hope, my telescope's
Always on you, on you
On you, on you

2. Vampire State

Come one, come all to the midnight ball
There's trouble brewing in the banquet hall
Take a leap through the line and you'll be just fine
I've seen your face all over the unwanted signs

Have a toast to your host who's got the least
He's secretly something of an awful beast
With a bulletproof plan for the also-rans
And an awful lot of time upon his idle hands

Everybody's going on about the end of the world
In fact they seem a little excited
It's a party and your pity's invited
Dinner and dessert provided

Vampire State - home to all the miscreated
Where nightmares are related and dreams annihilated
Vampire State - pierce the moonlight with your steeple
We're not your kind of people anymore

Slow down, look around, take in all the sounds
Your cup ranneth over 'til it nearly drowned
Take a few small sips, leave a few tall tips
And you can keep on dancing when the record skips

Don't you try to sneak out of any exit routes
'Cause the scent that you're dispensing is a sense of doubt
If you show off your back, you're just an easy snack
You must impress upon them that you're always on attack

Everybody keeps talking while their mouths are full
But you know every word they're saying
And you get the feeling you'll be staying
It's an urge you can't resist obeying

Vampire State - where the jawline meets the collar
It's a real hoot & holler of opulence and squalor

Vampire State - rising over the horizon
You'll wish that you'd been wise enough to run

High on that heathen tower, clock strikes the
midnight hour
Down from the belfry comes a cloud of wings
Kaleidoscope of teeth and shadows underneath
Eclipsing all these wretched things

But at the end of the night, if your cards are right
You might get out of there with only just a couple
of bites
Keep your sleeves rolled down when you reach the
ground
And no one else will have to know when you get
back to town

Everybody looks different in the light of the day
At the masquerade's adjourning
But when the midnight oil is burning
You know that you will be returning

Vampire State - climb the hundred-story talon
A crimson Irwin Allen exploding by the gallon
Vampire State - calling all the anti-saviors
Be on your worst behavior at the

Vampire State - dreaded fang as high as mountains
An oozing scarlet fountain a billion served and
counting
Vampire State - where the wounds are freshly severed
You'll wish that you had never heard its name



3. Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

He stood on the top of the hill
He said "This isn't a drill - I'm gone"
"I'm headed up to the dome"

He put his life on his back
And headed out at the crack of dawn
To make himself right at home

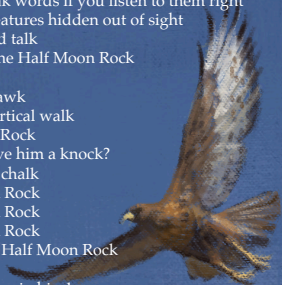
Out where the river shimmers in the night
And the stars speak words if you listen to them right
The crazy little creatures hidden out of sight
They come out and talk
To the Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

It's him and the hawk
Hauling up the vertical walk
Of the Half Moon Rock
Why don't you give him a knock?
Follow the trail of chalk
Up the Half Moon Rock
Up the Half Moon Rock
Up the Half Moon Rock
The Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

He sewed the leaves in his dress
And if it was hot even less he wore
And sometimes nothing at all
The hawk was all that he had
And if he was lonely or sad, he'd roar
And echo through the canyon walls

And the mountain lion came running to the sound
While the whole hog herd would gather all around
The comfortable bugs all living in the ground
Would raise a few stalks
For the Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

It's him and the hawk
Hauling up the vertical walk
Of the Half Moon Rock



Why don't you give him a knock?
Follow the trail of chalk
Up the Half Moon Rock
Up the Half Moon Rock
Up the Half Moon Rock
The Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

He's got the ink on his hands
The beetles lend him a gland
For the testament he scrawls inside his cave

He carves it out with a tooth
He's on a mission for truth
In a world he does not know if he can save

And he thinks he might be leaving
But he isn't ready yet
'Cause under every stone is a spirit to be met, oh yeah

And when he'd finally rest
There with the hawk in his nest, he'd pause
And think about who he was

Out in the world all alone
His life completely his own, his laws
Only written in the things he does

But if the buffalo bunch could stand the monsoon
And the choir of crickets could learn to sing in tune
Could the prince of the primates rise pretty soon
And find his own flock?
Oh the Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

It's him and the hawk
Hauling up the vertical walk
Of the Half Moon Rock
Why don't you give him a knock?
Follow the trail of chalk
Up the Half Moon Rock
Up the Half Moon Rock
Up the Half Moon Rock
The Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

4. Oracle

Oracle awaken
Tell me where to go
The course of life has taken
Everything I know

Show me a tomorrow
Free from all the sorrow
I will beg and borrow
Anything it takes to make it so

Oracle astound me
Tell me what's to come
The world all around me
Leaves my body numb

Show me a horizon
I can fix my eyes on
Destiny, it lies on
Distant shores beyond where I came from

Oracle imbue me
Purpose for my soul
Something's running through me
I cannot control

Read the constellations
Share your observations
I could conquer nations
If you'd only show me, oracle

5. Breakers of Dawn

Dawn calls to you
Rakes its ragged claws across the eastern sky
Day bursting through
All at once you're certain of the reason why

The night and its terrible kingdom has finally gone
The nail of the crimson horizon has fallen upon
The breakers of dawn
The breakers of dawn

Steel razors climb
Scatter 'cross the borderlines of no-man's-land
Cruel winds of time
Move the mounds of sacred grounds and shifting sands

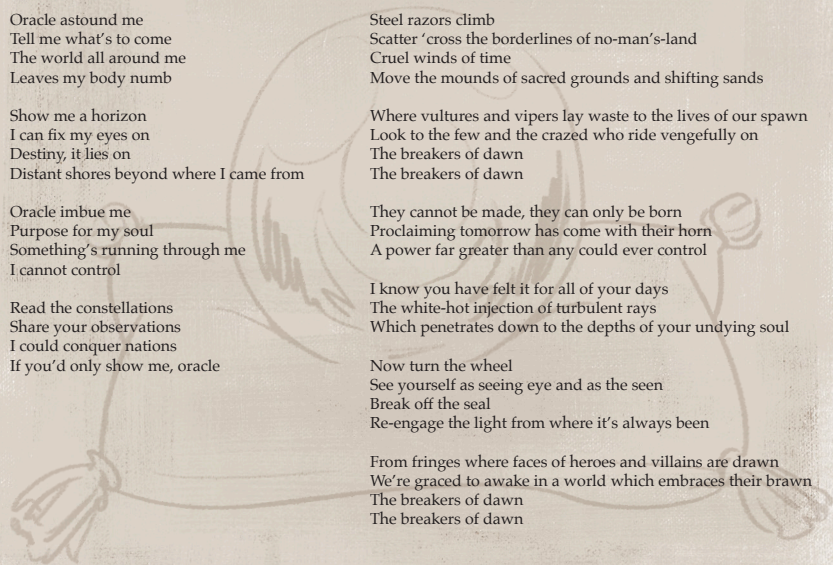
Where vultures and vipers lay waste to the lives of our spawn
Look to the few and the crazed who ride vengefully on
The breakers of dawn
The breakers of dawn

They cannot be made, they can only be born
Proclaiming tomorrow has come with their horn
A power far greater than any could ever control

I know you have felt it for all of your days
The white-hot injection of turbulent rays
Which penetrates down to the depths of your undying soul

Now turn the wheel
See yourself as seeing eye and as the seen
Break off the seal
Re-engage the light from where it's always been

From fringes where faces of heroes and villains are drawn
We're graced to awake in a world which embraces their brawn
The breakers of dawn
The breakers of dawn



6. Your Majesty

Every corner of the city's lined with shadows
Every stranger in the street averts their eyes
All the people locked away behind the windows
They're all waiting for a hero to arise

All the men remember days when they were stronger
Every woman hides a dagger in her gown
But you won't cover up your faces any longer
On the day when I come riding into town

So put a light on in your window
Put your face against the glass
Don't you know that I'm your hero?
Won't you whistle when I pass?
I'll move a mountain if you just rely on me
I'll be the one you want to call "Your Majesty"

Every year it comes with trials and tribulations
And all the answers are revealed to next to none
But I recall a time of grand imaginations
Long before you learned to say "it can't be done"

There is a storm to come that none alone can weather
But if you'd like to learn I'll gladly show you how
And in the days ahead we all will band together
For your liberator walks among you now

So raise a banner from the tower
When you open up the gate
Don't you know this is your hour?
I have come to bear the weight
I swear I'll set your body and your spirit free
I'll be the one you want to call "Your Majesty"

Now is the reckoning of wretches and the meek
For the champion that you seek is at your door
I'll rectify a world of impotence and rage
And not only for an age but evermore

In times of trouble we are torn in all directions
You may be dazzled by the roads you travel down
Do not beleaguer in the burden of selection
You'll be lighter when you learn to lay your crown

I've heard the wailing of your city in the distance
I know the strain you must endure to still believe
But I could steer a steady course with your assistance
Toward the things that only power can achieve

So now awaken from your slumber
Wipe the worry from your brow
Don't know I've got your number?
Can't you hear me calling now?
I'll make you one with wonders none before could see
I'll be the one you want to call "Your Majesty"
I'll be the one you beg to call "Your Majesty"
I'll be the one you dare to call "Your Majesty"

7. When We Take The Sky

There's love in the air
And I'm taking you there tonight
So let's hang like a key
Flying fancy and free from a kite
The morning edition and trusted magicians
Say all the conditions are right
So up we'll be travellin' where they're unravellin'
Jupiter's javelin smite

Climb up to the clouds
We're the few and the proud here tonight
(Tonight, tonight, tonight)
Indulging a dream
Like the smoke and the steam taking flight
(In flight, in flight, in flight)
The evening papers can peer through the vapors
Which cover our capers from sight
(From sight, from sight, from sight)
Where static explodes from our five-finger nodes
Into plasmatic roads made of light
(Of light, of light, of light, hey!)

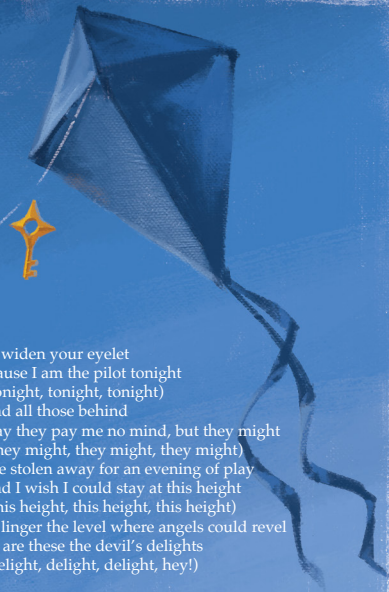
What a thing to behold
We'll be way up high
When we take the sky

We've ridden the wheel
That hangs at our heels tonight
(Tonight, tonight, tonight)
There's dozens around
Who are holding the ground very tight
(Very tight, very tight, very tight)
But cool are the cats who'll be hanging their hats
Way up here where the bats couldn't bite
(Couldn't bite, couldn't bite, couldn't bite)
Few mortals would dare to the mischief we share
In the throes of such hair-raising frights
(Such frights, such frights, such frights)

So widen your eyelet
'Cause I am the pilot tonight
(Tonight, tonight, tonight)
And all those behind
May they pay me no mind, but they might
(They might, they might, they might)
I've stolen away for an evening of play
And I wish I could stay at this height
(This height, this height, this height)
To linger the level where angels could revel
Or are these the devil's delights
(Delight, delight, delight, hey!)

What a thing to behold
We'll be way up high
When we take the sky

At last we're descending
We're reaching the ending tonight
You're shook to your tail
And your lips are so pale, nearly white
Let's go get some rest, it is all for the best
If the atmosphere's guests are polite
Again we could treasure a night of such pleasure
So long as the measure is slight



8. Overboard

Gentlemen, listen right now as I speak
I fear that this ship of ours has sprung a leak
The sea, she is coming to take us an inch at a time

It's roaring in faster than buckets can fill
I fear it's a matter of minutes until
From belly to mast we'll be deeper than any can climb

And all of this now with the shore plain in sight
We might make it yet if the load could be light
But what sort of life do you think we'll afford
If we have to throw all that we have overboard?

The gold in our coffers is weighing us down
We shan't spend a cent if we're certain to drown
And none can come with you at all in the life after this

So gather your treasures and cast them away
And if you are swift then I hope and I pray
We won't soon be up to our eyes in a watery kiss

And if one among you at all hesitates
Remind them this is for the lives of their mates
But what sort of life do you think we'll afford
If we have to throw all that we have overboard?

See now the spoils in motion
Straight to the heart of the ocean
Down in the drink, every glimmering piece
You watch as they sink while the waters increase
Just slow enough to renew life's intolerable lease

At last we arrive clinging onto the sails
And leap to the dock when it finally fails
The ship where we spent seven months as we circled
the globe

The price that we paid sure is awfully steep
Behind us the trail that shines in the deep
Could only be seen by an angler's most luminant lobe

We came as we left now with only our lives
The glory is gone but the story survives
So what sort of life do you think we'll afford
Now we've had to throw all that we have overboard?

Yes what sort of life do you think we'll afford
Now we've had to throw all that we have overboard?



9. Venus Fly

Little fly, don't you die so easy
I know you only live a day
Weathered by the winds so high and breezy
Don't you let this evening slip away

Little legs hatch from eggs each morning
Silhouettes hardly ever change
Stomach begs the musky dregs adorning
For a taste of something new and strange

Oh, open up your eyes
Can't you see you're falling for the Venus Fly?
Oh, won't you tell me why
You keep living like you're never gonna die?

Little speck, don't you wreck your wingspan
The beating of which gives to you your name
Keep in check below your neck for things can
So easily be plucked upon your frame

Spiders crawling forest walls you've thwarted
You circumvent the snatch of froggy tongue
The birds who call from perches tall you've shorted
But on this fang you let yourself be hung?

Oh, open up your eyes
Can't you see you're falling for the Venus Fly?
Oh, won't you tell me why
You keep living like you're never gonna die?

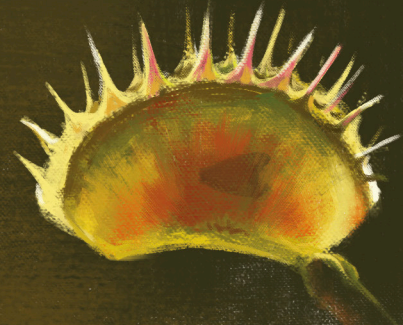
Never gonna die
Don't you know that it's a lie?
You were only passing by for a try, another high,
Now the jaws will never pry

"Come and play," you hear it say so sweetly
Nothing else had ever been so bold
But where you lay it's had its way discreetly
With all the rest who never grew so old

The same disease that lures the bees to pollen
Pulls you where no free thing should involve
In the squeeze of this the tease you've fallen
Now to feel your body be dissolved

Oh, open up your eyes
Can't you see you're falling for the Venus Fly?
Oh, won't you tell me why
You keep living like you're never gonna die?

Never gonna die
Don't you know that it's a lie?
You were only passing by for a try, another high,
Now the jaws will never pry



10. Merry-Go-Round

There is an ivory horse
Upon a platinum post
Down at the bumper car breaks
Of the roller coast

Where all the riders go on
In an exotic parade
You were there long ago
While the organ played

And although you aren't sure when
You know you will be there again

Upon the merry-go-round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round

Out of the strollers they rise
Up to the saddles they crawl
To seize the world by the reins
Standing ten feet tall

I saw the mayor and his wife
Wearing their funny old hats
Sat in the carriage behind
With a herd of cats

And they rose to the sound of the pipe
Which blows a peppermint stripe

Upon the merry-go-round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)

Ah
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)
Ah
Merry-go-round

Many a person's lost in the crowd of faces
But up on your horse you're the star of the rodeo
Many a year you'll wonder just where your place is
But when you're there in the round you're certainly
bound to know

For when the lights flicker off
And all the riders depart
They are sure to return
When the new day starts

And though the faces have changed
It's still the same bumpy ride
You've seen it all before
And from every side

And it calls you to climb up the stairs
Where it all still waits for you there

Upon the merry-go-round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)

Ah
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)
Ah
Merry-go-round

11. Charity Bizarre

Oh, here it goes - they're all in rows
All the madames and mademoiselles
Decked to the nines and hanging signs
From the cupboards and carousels
The old bric-a-brac is out on bail
But you know as I that what's for sale
Is more than what's above the bar

Charity Bizarre
That's all you are
You steal their hearts
But you never take it far
Charity Bizarre

Oh, look at that - the tails and spats
They are lining around the block
A tip of the brim and you know him
He's aware what you have in stock
It's all for a very worthy cause
And last that I heard there were no laws
On doors getting left ajar

Charity Bizarre
That's all you are
You steal their hearts
But you never take it far
Charity Bizarre

The wives and widows play so posh
But this is not the Sunday wash
The price is high but the talk is free
Underneath the canopy
The lines we keep so clean and clear
Are just a little jagged here
Where dollars line the lips of mason jars

What have we here? The auctioneer
Strikes the podium gavel down
Out goes the maid and marmalade
With the newcomer in this town

The school on the hill will lay its stone
But lest that the rest should leave alone
I'm sure that two will share a car

Charity Bizarre
That's all you are
You steal their hearts
But you never take it far
Charity Bizarre

Charity Bizarre
That's all you are
You steal their hearts
But you never take it far
Charity Bizarre
Charity Bizarre



12. Mister Mirror

I have a secret power
That lets me change my face
Every bone in my body
Is replaced

I've been the baker with his heavy hands
I've been the soldier in a foreign land
I've been every kind of person so very many times
I'm not sure who I was when this began

I'm a copy, I'm a clone
I have no face of my own
And the mask I wear before you
Hides a fool who's all alone
You can call me Mister Mirror
Though I might not be a man
For the life that I am living
Is forever secondhand

Secondhand
Won't you please understand?

Oh it's a wild transformation
To move inside another person's skin
Still I remain in isolation
For the faces never fill the space within

But if you'd like to see it
It isn't hard to do
Just reach over here and touch me
I'll be you

Won't you let me draw you nearer
See yourself a little clearer
In the eyes of Mister Mirror
History's greatest disappearer

Bring to me the mouth and nose
The tensed brow, the fidget toes
The rib that aches, the heart that knows
The love and hate a lifetime chose

I'll taste the sweet and bitter upon your tongue
I'll choke the smoke and glitter that glaze your lungs
I shall know you as no other ever has or ever will
Though I know that you could never do the same

I'm a copy, I'm a clone
I have no face of my own
And the mask I wear before you
Hides a fool who's all alone
You can call me Mister Mirror
Though I might not be a man
For the life that I am living
Is forever secondhand

Secondhand
Won't you please understand?

I'm a copy, I'm a clone
I have no face of my own
And the mask I wear before you
Hides a fool who's all alone
You can call me Mister Mirror
Though I might not be a man
For the life that I am living
Is forever secondhand

Secondhand

So if you'd like to see it
You know what to do
Just reach over here and touch me

Oh, won't you please just reach over here
And touch me

