

PAM ROSE

“Sacred Song” Track Notes and Comments

“Sacred Song” was not intended to be a religious album. And although I’ve been on a Spiritual journey for the better part of my life, I don’t consider myself a religious person, in the conventional sense of the word. But I’ve always been fascinated about how people connect with whatever it is that they consider “bigger than themselves”, and with how faith and inspiration help so many of us get through the trials and tribulations of being human.

“Sacred Song” is a collection of works that have inspired me through the toughest of times, and helped me celebrate the most joyous of times. To me, each song represents not just an idea, but an archetype.

I’ve always considered the Franz Schubert **“Ave Maria”** to be a prayer. And because, to me, it represents the Mother archetype, for both of these reasons, I chose to make a video related to the Pandemic, using the track of **“Ave Maria”** underneath. To me, this song is a sacred vehicle, and one of the greatest gifts in all musical history.

“Between The Worlds” not only addresses the deep grief of personal loss, but also the suggestion that we may not be as far apart from our departed loved ones as we think. My co-writers Terry Burns and Cathy Majeski started this after the passing of Cathy’s Mom, and then it sat for a while, half finished. After 9/11, we were so touched by the story of Lisa and Todd Beamer, we finished it with them in mind and heart.

“Forevermore” speaks to the archetype of eternal love. My co-writer Kristen Wilkinson suggested that we write a lyric to the Pachelbel Canon in D Major, and “Forevermore” is the result.

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When Terry Burns and Cathy Majeski and I sat down to write that day, we all second guessed writing another “angel” song. But we had all been through such tough times ... Cathy’s husband had died of cancer, my father had passed, and Terry’s mother had as well ... and through each of these stories, represented in each verse, the common thread was the appearance of earthly angels, regular human beings, who performed angelic acts of kindness, and helped us through these difficult times. **“So Many Angels”** makes an appearance in the film “Invisible” (*Best Documentary at Frameline Film Festival*), in which I am a cast member.

“The Offering” reflects on the archetypes of Sacrifice and Compassion, and was inspired by the film “The Passion of the Christ”. Of the many and varied compositions of my collaboration with Gerald O’Brien and Catt Gravitt, this is one of my favorites.

“The Everlasting” is another composition that represents the longing for sacred and eternal love. Chuck Jones and I have a lengthy and joyous collaboration, and we joined Chuck Canon to compose this song.

“Holy Child” represents the archetypes of Joy, Celebration and Unity. “... *here in each other, we can see the Light Divine ...*” pretty much says it all. This is another favorite of my collaboration with Terry Burns and Cathy Majeski.

“One Flesh”, again speaks to the archetype of Unity. My longtime songwriting partner, Chuck Jones, had been reading a work by the Persian poet Hafiz when I came over to write that day. The poem suggests that we are all cut from the same cloth, and that truly, when we fight, there is only one flesh that we can wound.

“Everything” is another composition penned by Terry Burns, Cathy Majeski and myself, and also emphasizes how God/Spirit/The Universe exists in ... Everything.

When I sat down to write with Melissa Manchester, I had no idea what to expect that day, or what we would write. **“Still Myself”** is the archetypal theme of a person lost and separated from themselves, finding their way back home, and took shape beautifully with her brilliant and lyrical magic touch.