

## **HIGH HOPES (2012) – BRADFORD WOMEN SINGERS**

### **LYRICS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE SONGS**

#### **Bandiera Rossa (The Red Flag)**

*Italian workers' movement song, based on traditional melodies and written by Carlo Tuzzi in 1908.*

Avanti o popolo, alla riscossa  
Bandiera rossa, bandiera rossa  
Avanti o popolo, alla riscossa  
Bandiera rossa trionferà.

Bandiera rossa la trionferà  
Bandiera rossa la trionferà  
Bandiera rossa la trionferà  
Evviva il socialismo e la libertà!

#### **Boundaries**

*From the protests against nuclear weapons at RAF Molesworth in the 1980s. Bradford Women Singers members demonstrated there, and at many other military bases.*

You say this land is out of bounds  
Our lives and our futures are out of our hands  
This land is not yours to put boundaries around  
We'll grow and get stronger, our voices resound

#### **High Hopes**

*by Paolo Nutini (2009) arr. Bradford Women Singers*

My hopes are high but my eyes can't believe what they see,  
Give me something to believe, give me something to believe

I got lucky in life, I've had plenty to eat  
And I saw this world as one big pool of opportunity  
But there's too much mind corruption,  
Too little remedy (or that's how it seems to me)  
We need a moral education  
To set the young minds free...

So let us change what we can and accept what we can't  
Impart some of the wisdom of that tried and tested woman  
There's no harm in being wrong you know,  
In fact to me, it's common ground  
So take that feather from you cap sir,  
And pass that feather around...

### **Love Shakes Me**

*Words by the wonderful feminist peace activist Barbara Deming 1917-84 (in 'A Humming Under My Feet, 1974) set to music by women at Greenham Common, arr. Bradford Women Singers*

Love shakes me,  
Love has its hand upon me and with  
Obstinate motion  
Unmakes what I am.  
It circles its seven times round me  
I am down.  
Who says that love has gentle ways?  
Awakened out of all order,  
I'm fire air earth water!

### **Poison/Electricity**

*by the Fallout Marching Band, a great street activist band which supported many anti-nuclear demonstrations in the early 1980s*

Poison falling in the rain, shut them down, shut them down  
Nuclear power is to blame, shut them down, shut them down  
From reactors every day, radiation leaks away  
Future generations pay, shut them down, shut them down

Sun, wind and water are plentiful, and they're free  
So why do we need to use nuclear energy  
Do you ever suspect, when you think electric,  
The power that you pay for fuels nuclear war  
Switch on the light, pay the bills, but don't forget electricity kills

### **Raven Girl**

*Song by Richard Fariña 1965, arr. The Unthanks and Bradford Women Singers  
We are not exactly sure what this song means, but love its spirit and power.*

So roam away you raven girl, and roam away from me  
And find the typhoon in the sky and find the howling sea

So beat your wild and roving wings, and toss your raven head  
And sing your mad and joyful song and leave me with the dead

The night's a cold and barren place, the darkness seldom lies  
So roam away to find yourself, and face the stormy skies

### **Courage**

*by Rose May Dance and Starhawk 1987, arr. Bradford Women Singers*

If we have courage, we shall be healers  
Like the sun, we shall rise  
We are alive as the earth is alive  
We have the power to fight for our freedom

## **The Women Gather**

*by Carol Lynn Maillard 2003, arr. Bradford Women Singers*

*From Sweet Honey in the Rock, who have inspired us throughout our singing and political careers.*

He was her only child, her baby boy  
She was his second daughter, her father's pride and joy  
Somebody's brother, mother, best friend, sister lover  
Maybe an A1 student, running, hiding, taking cover

The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living,  
The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living  
The women gather

People say, "Not in this neighborhood!  
It doesn't happen here!  
Our kids have everything,  
What do we have to fear?"  
But what about the ones who say, "This happens every day;  
Drugs and violence take our children.  
How much more death can come our way?"

The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living,  
The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living,  
The women gather

Don't you know?  
Some bullets find their targets  
Bombs can take you right on cue  
Some in the hands of babies  
Or officials and their crew  
Claimed the brother had a gun  
She fit the profile in my book  
Running, hiding, taking cover, didn't take the time to look  
Somebody's mother, brother, best friend, sister, lover

The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living,  
The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living  
The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living,  
The women gather crying tears that fill a million oceans  
It doesn't matter where you're living  
It doesn't matter  
It doesn't matter  
It doesn't matter where you're living

## **Refugee**

*by Sandy O and Pat Humphries (2004), arr. Bradford Women Singers*

*We learned this from Sandy and Pat of Emma's Revolution - two inspiring American political singer-songwriters. We sing it to honour our refugee forebears as well as women seeking safety, today.*

Women in search of safety, children in need of food  
Struggling for survival, so I am a refugee  
Women of hope and courage living through poverty  
Fleeing from war and terror,

I am a teacher, I am a worker, I am a woman  
And I am a refugee  
I am a mother, I am a daughter, I am a sister,  
And I am a refugee

Fighting for education, speaking my native tongue  
Practising my religion, so I am a refugee  
Powerful and resilient seeing my people through  
Sharing my truth and wisdom, so I am a refugee

I am a speaker, I am a dancer, I am a singer  
And I am a refugee  
I am a writer, I am a doctor, I am a fighter  
And I am a refugee

Women will come together, sharing our destinies  
Led by intuition, no longer a refugee  
Women of strength and beauty driven by faith and heart  
Moving our people forward, no longer a refugee

I am a builder, I am a seeker, I am a dreamer  
And I am a refugee  
I am a leader, I am a healer, I am the future  
And I am a refugee

Hear my voice!

## **Trouble**

*We adapted Ry Cooder's version of Trouble, you can't fool me, written by Frederick Knight & Aaron Varnell (1979)*

Trouble you can't fool me, I see you behind that tree  
Trouble you can't fool me, trying to get the ups on me  
Trouble you can't fool me, I see you behind that tree  
You want to jump on me

Work hard for living, wonder just who gets paid  
But it sure beats stealing for a year and a day  
Like to see a little sunshine, just to guide my way  
Like to have a little peace of mind  
That's why I wanna say..

Trouble you can't fool me (etc.)

Trouble taught me a lesson, I never will forget  
Like he took my lover, he ain't brought her back yet  
I had to find me another just to take her place  
And I sure do love her, that's why I'm gonna say

Trouble you can't fool me (etc.)

Trouble came a-knocking right upon my door  
Trouble brought me a baby, best I ever saw  
She likes to get up early, likes to play all day  
But I sure do love her, I say we're doing ok

Trouble you can't fool me (etc.)

... You want to jump on,  
Ain't gonna jump on,  
Won't let you jump on me

### **Prayer**

*By Y.M. Barnwell 1994, arr. Bradford Women Singers  
Another Sweet Honey In the Rock song*

Lord, Must I do unto others before they do unto me  
Must I arm myself  
to protect myself from harm and injury?  
Well, that is not the lesson  
that I learned on my mother's knee  
when she told me to  
"Do unto others, only what you'd have them do unto you".

### **Walking into Battle**

*Chumbawamba 2006*

*The Chumbas, also based in West Yorkshire, are one of many groups we've been proud to share a stage with over the years. We are increasingly frustrated by people who use religion to justify war.*

A new crusade to the holy land  
Walking into battle with the lord  
An army of men under my command  
Fight the good fight here at home  
Send those men to kingdom come

Take my aim with a higher will  
Trust my lord to hold me still  
Say amen and shoot to kill  
Walking into battle with the lord

With open arms on judgement day  
Teach the children how to pray  
Faithful blind, we all believe  
I was taught by Adam, but I blame it on Eve

All my words in kindness came, your souls in  
mercy to reclaim  
Cleanse this world of sin and shame  
Walking into battle with the lord

Holy father, mother tongue  
Manna from heaven, right from wrong  
Take my place on the witness stand  
Trigger finger, praying hands

When two men meet on the field of war  
They both ask, 'what are we fighting for  
And haven't we heard it all before?',  
Walking into battle with the lord

## **Justice**

*by Toshi Reagon 1990, arr. Bradford Women Singers*

Ask her and she'll tell you why  
We've got the stuff falling from the sky  
Birds can still go way up high  
But it's a struggle for them to fly  
Till the day we sacrifice  
All the greed of the humankind  
We are making war with the force  
That's got the power to change the course

And the cool wind cries for justice  
And the cold rain cries for justice

Nature tries to give us signs  
Of the way we fall behind  
Listen to her words, or  
She'll come knocking at your door  
Every day we go outside  
Always complaints of things that ain't right  
Maybe it's too bright, or maybe it's too wet  
You'd better stop crying, or take what you get

And the cool wind cries for justice  
And the cold rain cries for justice  
And the sun does shine for justice  
And we all must fight for justice

I don't know  
Why we treat each other so  
When it's clear, to stay outside  
We need each other, we need each other to survive  
We need each other, we need each other to survive

She gave us all that we need  
To get along with other breeds  
Still some try to manipulate  
We'd better stop before it's too late  
Till the day we sacrifice  
All the breed of humankind  
We are making war with the force  
She's got the power to change the course

And the cool wind cries for justice  
And the cold rain cries for justice  
And the sun does shine for justice  
And we all must fight for justice

You'd better learn to treat her right  
She make the fire fall from the sky  
You'd better learn

## **Windy and Rainy**

*Words and tune by Farina Jaeger, arr. Jane Coker*

When it's windy and rainy and cold outside - Sing with me

## **Girl's Best Friend**

*By Annie Blindell, arr. Bradford Women Singers*

I live my life in a world of men  
And I dig for diamonds now and then  
But it's a lie when they say that I  
Think diamonds are a girl's best friend  
  
*'Cos a girl's best friend is her best friend  
Let's fill our glasses once again  
And raise them to all the women who  
Came here tonight with their best friend*

My friend I've known since I was small  
When arm in arm we bunked off school

We were always late for that double date  
With boys we can't recall at all

When she gets lost in misery  
I take her home and I give her tea  
It's no big deal, I know the way she feels  
And I know she'd do the same for me

My friend and I lead separate lives  
As women, we have many ties  
Our children grow, lovers come and go  
But our best friends keep dropping by