

Masked

Performed by Kalaiselvi Grace

Please Hear What I'm Not Saying
by Charles C. Finn

"...
Don't be fooled by the face I wear
For I wear a mask, a thousand masks,
Masks that I'm afraid to take off
And none of them is me.

...
Please listen carefully and try to hear what
I'm not saying,
what I'd like to be able to say,
what for survival I need to say,
but what I can't say.
..."

I have worn masks all my life. Masks to put a smile on my face, to face the world each day, to shield my fragile self, to hide the ugly scars, to just live.... But can I function without a mask? Can you?

Song: Nalladhor Veenai Seidhen

"Made a good Veena, will I throw it for waste?

Please tell me oh goddess Shiva Sakthi - you have created me with this bright wisdom.

Will you give me strength, to live my life useful to this world?

Oh Goddess please tell me, or will you let me become a burden to this earth on which I stand upon.

Please give me a body which can sing in praise of you even when it is hurt with burnt.

Give me a faultless mind, and a life that will light up every day.

I asked for a steady confidence, and do you have any objection in granting me this."

Sung by Illaiyaraaja and Mano
Composed by Illaiyaraaja
Lyrics by Mahakavi Barathiyar

Hope Floats

Performed by Denise Mordeno Agular

When Nature speaks through flood, is it deliberate or is it just a response?

When a person is daunted with illness as a way of death, is it really the end or just the beginning?

When does water flow significantly and become essential in one's life?

Song translation:

If it's with God, if it's with justice & tomorrow; If it's with hope, if the change

is right: That's my lasting belief. Oh my beloved, reveal yourself to me now so we can rewrite our story.

Painting by Oscar Floirendo
Song written by Mozart Pastrano
Composed by Robert Alico

The Kite

Performed by Jyothirmayi Kurup

An idea inspired from Unnayi Warriar's Nalacharitham Attakkatha.

The life journey of King Nala and the phases he goes through are the key elements of this piece. It is about "the loss of appearance, the loss of status, loss of dignity, the loss of name, the loss of everything which identifies and signifies a person ...", as Ramesh Varma puts it.

Sometimes external factors and circumstances have such an impact on our lives as to reshape and reform it. Transform it; as with King Nala's life.

But whatever happens on the outside, the inside remains the same. Like a kite carried by changing winds, driven to different directions and down various paths. However the kite itself inheres; firm and ready to be flown just about anywhere. That which happens around you, which you face is but momentary. The inner you, the real you does not change. Does it?

D Major, Three Parts for One Actor, Lp1

Performed by Pedro Simoni Talavera

It is the Dream
of a Warrior
a Goblin
and a Lover.

May your soul get drunk.

Notes: English translation of the Goblin's speech will be heard during the black outs.

The Lover

Come, O sorcerer!
A Dawn that has a beautiful glow,
when it comes it ask for love.

If you love me as a good man,
kiss here this strings of pearls,
this little mouth of cherries.

Ecosystem in My Head

Performed by Lina Yu

Perhaps they say it all
Perhaps they say nothing at all

Perhaps everything lies in the beholder
Who knows what lies on the other shore

Maybe they have never met
Maybe they knew each other since birth
So when were they born?
No one ever knows for sure

Perhaps you'll recognise some of them
Perhaps you'll meet them for the very first time
Make your way into this ecosystem
Where they thrive, or maybe, not at all

Watch out: Tuscans Approaching! Poetic view of a Tuscan girl on her people

Performed by Giorgia Tsolaki Ciampi

"If I had to do a portrait of the Tuscans, I would do it with lean colours. And perhaps I wouldn't use oil paints, although the oil in Tuscany is good: I would rather use a drypoint. I would etch the oval shape of their faces with a single stroke from temple to chin, without uncertainties, regrets nor smudges. I would make the lips thin, as true Florentine painters do, taut and closed. The eyes would be looking sideways without turning the head, in the Etruscan manner. They would have slender wrists, bony hands with long thread-like fingers. Wide chest, but not muscle-bound, and the same goes for the arms, long and hard, round in the shoulders, but sharp at the elbows: because elbows in Tuscany are not used, like in the rest of Italy, to make the sign of the cross, but to elbow each other in the stomach."

From Maledetti Toscani by Italian Tuscan writer Curzio Malaparte (1898 - 1957)

Hunger's Journey (Thoughts Along the River)

Performed by Shakeel Ahmmad

When hunger bites me with its sharp teeth
I see the food come alive
I see my face in it
I hallucinate

sometimes nothing can stop starvation
without money, we will starve
with money, we can still starve
having no time, we will starve
have time? we can still starve
exotic food? inedible
familiar food? not eatable

sometimes we starve in a hot and dirty place, sometimes we starve in clean and cold place
sometimes having many choices means having no choice at all.