Cindy Kallet 2



1. LISTEN, I THINK THE RAIN'S COME Kallet. BMI

This was written years ago in Vermont. One of the verses refers to a conversation concerning the existence of life beyond our galaxy.

Listen, I think the rain's come And the fire leaves me crying; Lost here on a mountain And these days they're all but flying.

Listen, I hear the thunder Come rumbling up to this dark morning; I've got words to say and ways to feel, But they come without any warning.

See how the earth is turning me. When will I get to come 'round again? See how the earth she's a-burning me. One way to show things, but more ways to hide them.

Fly down the hill as the rain soaks in, Crash of the waves on the island sea. How many times do I have to try To feel most like I want to be?

The seas rose high; the stars are life Somewhere beyond these skies, she said. We're gonna be strong, we're gonna be kind When life's a little too mad. Listen, I think the rain's come And the fire brings the morning; I've got words to say and ways to feel, But they leave without any warning.

2. WHEN I WAS NOW

Kallet, BMI Lisa subtitled this "Between a Rock and a Hard Place."

When I was younger, older, I was less foolish, less wise; I wouldn't have done the things I do now, Would I?

I came to your door a beggar, Full of ice and lies; I should have known I was on such foreign ground By the look in your eyes.

When I was...

I ask too much, you ask nothing, It's either rejection or too close a tie. I find it so hard to see that You don't need me... Why?

When I was...

You're just too kind, too hurtful;

Down this rough, uncertain line. You're the salt air of the east wind Down this rough, uncertain line.

You're the days of feeling doubtful; You're the icy road in spring. You're these cool mornings of late summer; You're what the island's bound to bring. You're the months of feeling doubtful; You're what the island's bound to bring.

You're my windshift 'round the island; You're my hot and hazy sun. You're the one I've looked for in others In this long, hard run. You're this windshift 'round the island In this long, hard run.

8. MARBLEHEAD NECK

© Steven Green

A gem written by Steven Green of Brattleboro, Vermont. Ellen Epstein and Michael Cicone join me here, with Ellen singing the lead.

Meself and me brother, And sometimes another, To Marblehead Neck by the ocean we'd go. To the great rocks and breakers We'd wear our old sneakers And watch the cold foamers as white as the snow. Now, we needed no reason, Nor the warm summer season To forsake the city all for the North Shore. Indeed, I remember One night in December When cold winter winds made the oceans to roar.

Now, boys for adventure Will do many strange things, Not caring for weather nor time of the day. For us, 'twas the ocean And the great sweeping motion, The rocks on the shore and the cold foaming spray.

9. GOING FOR THE GOLD Kallet, BMI

This was written around the time of the 1980 Olympics.

Going for the gold; Going for the line. If I told you what I've been thinking all day, It would wonder your mind.

Climbing for the top; Reaching for the end. If I asked you just to try and understand these times, Would you let us begin again? I'm either drowned or dry. It's too hard, too easy To simply say goodbye.

When I was...

You're just too kind, too hurtful; I'm either drowned or dry. I find it so hard to see that You don't need me.

3. MYSTIC AUREOLE

Kallet, BMI

I have met many inspiring people at the two Mystic Sea Music Festivals I've been to. This tune resembles one of them. You'll probably recognize him.

4. TRYING TIMES

Kallet, BMI

This started out as a poem. I didn't know quite what to do with it until the guitar settled in one day. I finished it just around the time of Reagan's election, and the third verse seemed particularly appropriate.

Sometimes, years later, a song turns out to be for someone in particular. This one's for Bill.

Trying times came to my door; Go be brave ones, let them in. All the sorrows we have borne Will rise and ride on the morning wind. I'll fill my pockets with grains of gold; I don't mind the rain and cold.

Once the fields were autumn wild And the child had only time. She was given the power of all the gods; They said all the world was mine to find. I'd fill my pockets with grains of gold; I didn't mind the rain and cold.

I sometimes wish that I could make The world in orbit cease. I think "All these noble powers of thought and reason And it all comes down to this?" I'll fill my pockets with grains of gold; I don't mind the rain and cold.

I take the view from sun and stars, But the hopeless seems to blind. Someday I'll learn to take with grace The sweet, the bitter, the light and line. I'll fill my pockets with grains of gold; I won't mind the rain and cold.

When the winter's deep in ice And the ice has numbed the pain, We'll drive the glaciers down the coast; They'll scour the mountains, we'll try again. I'll fill my pockets with grains of gold; I don't mind the cold.

5. TIME CAME DOWN

Kallet, BMI Written for a friend who decided he wouldn't fight in the Vietnam war.

Time came down and brought me roses, Hyacinths and dandelions. I roamed the woods and the fields of clover And thought of you from time to time. Spruce and pine the forest cover, And I think of you from time to time.

The moon came down and gave me sleeping, Dreams of life amidst these wars. Spring came and the mountains melted And flowed down to these rocky shores. Ice and blood the mountains wept And flowed down to these fragile shores.

The fog rolled in and carried silence; Up on the rocks the air was still. Winds have blown these ages to us; You have chosen not to kill. Salt of tears and sand from ashes; We can choose now what we feel.

The sun rose high, I heard with wonder As the silences gave way to sound.

Underneath the mountain maple I heard your singing all around. Brown leaves and rough wood so cool to climb in, And I could feel your singing all around.

Time came down and brought me roses, Hyacinths and dandelions. I roamed the woods and the fields of clover And thought of you from time to time. Spruce and pine the forest cover, And I think of you from time to time.

6. WOLF'S LULLABY *Kallet, BMI* A goodbye present to a friend.

7. STEAMBOAT TO THE MAINLAND *Kallet, BMI*

As the title suggests, this was written while crossing Vineyard Sound on the ferry, traveling in the wrong direction.

You're my windshift 'round the island; You're my hot and hazy sun. You're the one I've looked for in others In this long, hard run. You're my windshift 'round the island In this long, hard run. You're the salt air of the east wind; You're the oil soaking into pine. You're the dreams I had of living Diving for the deep; Trying for the wide. Going cross-current into the wind; Running against the tide. Going for the gold; Going for time...

10. IF I SING

Kallet, BMI

In the spring of 1982, three members of the Boston-based singing group "Northern Harmony" performed a French song written in 1360 entitled "Se Je Chant" (If I Sing). The translation in the program notes by the director, David Gay, read: "If I sing less than usual of my beloved, it is for the love of my falcons, so good at hunting by the river. Let us go, gentle comrades, the birds are down there." There were several aspects of this that caught my mind, so I lifted it and placed it in this song. The verse that refers to the bombs was written as the bombing began in Lebanon. I was sure it would be out of date by now.

If I sing less than usual of my beloved, It is not for the slighting of him. It is for the love of my falcons, So good at hunting by the river. Let us go, gentle comrades; The birds are down there. If I sing less than usual of my true friends, It is not for the slighting of them. It is for the love of our others, Bombed to fire in their cities. Let us go, gentle comrades; What are we doing?

If I sing less than usual of my island, It is not for the slighting of it. It is for the love of my planet, A stone in the universe. Let us go now, but, this time, Look from the sky.

If I sing less than usual of my brothers, It is not for the slighting of them. It is to strengthen my sisters And young ones growing. Let us go now, and, this time, Give all a home.

If I sing less than usual of my beloved, It is not for the slighting of him. It is for the love of my falcons, So good at hunting by the river. Let us go, gentle comrades; The birds are down there.

11. TAKE ME TO THE MOON *Kallet, BMI* This was a hard one to write. It rested, partial-

The mountains range from west to east; The leaves sound like rain. You ask me if I'm happy here And I ask myself the same. Fast down the mountain in the morning, All orange, and cold, and sky. Come, hold on tight, let's turn to the wind; Let's see if we can fly.

14. WALKING ON THE CLOUDS WITH YOU (Only Spring)

Kallet, BMI

Some people claim that I more often walk "in the clouds" than "on the clouds;" however, because of the nature of clouds, the "on" gives one the option of doing either. These particular clouds are cirro-cumulus ones that rise above the Connecticut River. "Only Spring" has something to do with words on a card in some bar.

15. I DON'T HAVE TO...

Kallet. BMI

Written when I was sixteen, this song expresses some of the concerns I had at the time, as well as some I still have.

I don't have to feel your hand to know you're there, And I don't have to hear your words to know you care. And, if I seem so sad so many times, It's 'cause there are kind of sad things on my mind, And I will come around in time.

They don't have to drop their bombs to prove they're strong, And they don't have to tell us lies to hide the wrong, And, if they think that fighting makes a man, Well, they'd better take a look again, And stop the killing while they can.

You don't have to wreck your mind to have some fun, And you don't have to say you're here, I know you're on the run, And, if you think that hiding is good to do, Well, you know, I once thought so, too, But now it's all up to you. You don't have to bow your head before the rain, And you don't have to hide your face and deny the pain, 'Cause, if there are times when you don't know what to do, If you hide it will only hurt you, When maybe someone can help you through.

(repeat first verse)

ly completed, for a number of months until, one night, after seeing a film concerning women and pornography, I finished it.

Take me to the moon, the moon, Nameland of weightless, feel no pain. I ask for nothing, nothing, But it's too much all the same.

Hold me around you, 'round you; Gather me close and let me cry. I give you no way now, way now, Of ever knowing why.

Show me a river, river, That wanders through mountains, weaves through seas. I'll show you an ocean, ocean, Than sings equal, strong, and free.

What is the cause of, reason For all of this violence, all this pain? You say it's born in us; no — I say we're taught the game. Take me to the land, the land Where riddles are forests and answers trees. The damage to freedom, freedom, Is this constant aim to please.

Maybe we'll go now, go now; Hold on together, be one's home. But always there's one thing, something That leaves me quite alone.

Take me to the moon, the moon, Nameland of weightless, feel no pain. I ask for nothing, nothing, But it's too much all... Take me to the moon, the moon; I'm landing on the moon...

12. WHO DO YOU THINK

Kallet, BMI Written one rainy Vineyard night while anxiously awaiting someone's return.

The rain fell on the mountain, The moon fell on the sea. I went down to Wasque's borders And was buried by the sea. I ain't too old to pass this way; I ain't too young to go. Just who do you think, you think I am, And how do you think you know?

In the fasting silence, Along the fears of old Passion, lies, and violence, Enough to grow you cold. That side of human fortune I don't want to know no more. I've paid my dues to these sorrows; I don't need to fight your wars. Wings and storms have brought us here; Fire burns in our eyes. All these months of ice and stone Are but a day passed by. It'd be easy to stand and swear that I will Never trust anyone; It'd be easy to think that you'd leave me again, Though you say you've changed your mind.

The rain fell on the mountain, The moon fell on the sea. I went down to Wasque's borders And was buried by the sea. I ain't too old to pass this way; I ain't too young to go. Just who do you think, you think I am, And how do you think you know?

13. MOUNTAINS RANGE Kallet, BMI

It seems as though our reasons for staying in places, or moving, or just thinking about either, continue to change as the balance shifts among other friends, work, and the land or water we call home. The questions are always there.

The mountains range from west to east; The leaves sound like rain. You ask me if I'm happy here And I ask myself the same. Fast down the mountain in the morning, All orange, and cold, and sky. I want to say yes, heart clear and strong, Without need to qualify.

I sometimes think I just can't allow Myself to feel joy. How can it work, I ask again, When it didn't work before? It's a mountain climb in the afternoon, All purple, clouds, and sun. Sometimes you're one of an imagined more; Most times you're the only one.

Well, is it friends, or where you live, Or is it what you do? I took seeds sown in island ground And I planted them in you. But when the geese honked over, I lay and cried, Feeling some love left behind. The tide comes and steals away my dreams, Though you grow on my mind.

The valley reaches north to south; The hawks bomb 'round the bend. There's not much shelter against these rocks From the waves of mountain wind. But it's clearer now than it's been before And you're dearer now, and more. Come, hold on tight, let's turn to the wind; Let's see if we can soar. AIN'T NO TIME (Take Me Down) *Kallet, BMI* Written years ago while playing around in a C tuning.

Take me down to the water's edge; Hold me close, my darling. This ain't no time to say goodbye, But one of us is always leaving.

Ride me out on the water — cool! Your voice so clear — you're laughing! I dreamed you on the street last night, And we thought that we would marry.

You called me up to say you loved me And that I'm stuck in on your mind, But days go by and still you can't come over; I'm lost last in line.

Take me down to the water's edge; Hold me close, my darling. This ain't no time to say goodbye, But one of us is always going.

Come look, lying in the evening sand, A shell shines orange and gleaming. How can you bring me such joy And feel no heartbreak leaving?

Well, maybe we'll ride, and maybe we'll fly, Maybe we'll walk to the mountains. Look, it's a star, it's an eagle, it's you! Soaring circles around them.

Ride me out on the water — cool! I love your voice — you're laughing! I dreamed you on the street last night, And we thought that we would marry.

Take me down to the water's edge; Hold me close, my darling. This ain't no time to say goodbye.

17. COME AWAY TO SEA Kallet, BMI
Another mushy one, with possible, but not mandatory, boat-body connections.

Come away to sea, my dear; I've got a ship made of the finest wood. Seasoned well, she's got a strong, sound hull. Come away to sea.

Come away to sea, my dear; I sewed the sails strong from head, foot, to clew. She'd sail the earth many times for you. Come away to sea. Come away to sea, my dear; I've got songs to say, things I cannot tell. It's hard to know what is right to feel. Come away to sea.

Come away to sea, my dear; Oh, the tides are running and the moon is new. I'd find lands and oceans to share with you. Come away to sea.

Cindy Kallet

Recorded by Sandy Paton Digital master by Robin Paton Photograph by Alison Shaw. Graphics by Sandy Paton, assisted by Walter Schwarz

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Cindy Kallet 2

It happens now and then, of course. A friend says "Listen to this" and plays a new record, or someone with unannounced talent invites you to a performance, or you go to yet another workshop at yet another festival — and all of a sudden you're sitting up

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Cindy is joined on "Marblehead Neck" by Ellen Epstein and Michael Cicone. On "If I Sing" by Ellen Epstein and Lisa Kallet. straight, ears wide open, little tympanic membranes vibrating ecstatically.

I suppose it can happen for instrumental devotees, too, but it happens for me with voices and, if I'm lucky, the thoughts they articulate.

Notes on folk-type albums often include a highly subjective description of The First Time Ever I Heard... Far be it from me to trample tradition. Women's Songs Workshop, Folk-Legacy Festival, March 1980. Several fine performances, several familiar performers. And then Cindy starts "Working on Wings to Fly" (the title song of her first Folk-Legacy recording — CD-83). Sharp intake of breath, quick straightening in my chair, careful hard listening — and the hope that she'd be willing to bring her music to my radio show.

Cindy has visited the show a couple of times now, and I've gone out to several of her performances, and I still sit up straight when I hear her.

Here's Cindy's second recording. It differs from her first in some fundamental ways: fewer easy-chorus songs, stronger expressions of state-of-the-world vision, more instrumentals, the choice of a non-Kallet song ("Marblehead Neck"), some slightly more complex melodies.

But the significant aspects of her work are constant: the intelligence that informs the writing and composing, the skill and feeling in the instrumental work, and especially that warm and expressive voice.

The voice drew me into Cindy's songs. A lot of them became favorites, and several of those favorites are here.

Susan Forbes Hansen — Sunday Night Folk Festival — WHUS — Storrs, CT.

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"Marblehead Neck"

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