

Maritimes. "Now those big corporation-boats are midwater-fishing, even in the spawning grounds: we never did that. When we were fishing herring, they stood half a chance." — Frank Wiley, Maine fisherman. "If a storm breaks off a stem of kelp, it'll be growing back in seven days. Do you know what the bottom looks like after half a ton of otter trawl has gone over it? If it's rock, it's polished bare. If it's sand or mud, it looks like the moon. That's no habitat for any species." — Gary Cook, New Brunswick fisherman.

#### OCEAN STATION BRAVO

Words and music ©1999 Bob Zentz  
Gordon — Spanish guitar

*This is from Bob's days in the Coast Guard. The vessel he was on had experimental speakers in the water — I suppose because you never know whom you're going to be talking to out there.*

#### THE BRANDY TREE

©1967 Gordon Bok, BMI  
Gordon — Vocal and Spanish guitar  
Women's chorus; These are the women who came to speak Captive Water: poets, painters, farmers, teachers, therapists, mothers, folks you'll find in your community, too — fine uncommon people. I got most of this song from a small otter who used to hang out in the same woods I did many years ago. Many folks have asked me about the name of the song: I was never sure of what that word was, (Bandy Tree, Bundy Tee?) nor do I think it matters. I've come to think of it as a place inside ourselves where, once we've been there, we know how to find it again.

#### THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

Words ©1993 Valentine Doyle  
Music ©1994 Gordon Bok, BMI  
Gordon — 12-string guitar

*When Valentine sent me these words, I didn't know she had also written a tune, so I worked this one out for it. Valentine says, "This is a song for all the creatures of the world, at the moment of their leaving it. My version is for a guardian spirit in New England, where all the creatures in it live or have lived, except the bighorn sheep, which I couldn't resist. If your region has a bird or beast I've left out, or you need a verse for a prairie or desert, feel free to add one."*

#### SHERRY'S SONG

Words ©1981 Sherry MacMahon  
Music ©2007 Gordon Bok  
Kat Logan: vocal and keyboard

*Gordon: vocal and Viol da Gamba  
Sherry is an old friend from Colorado Springs who finds the loveliest ways to tell her friends how she feels about them. She sent this poem to me many years ago, and I made the tune so I could share it with more people. I've known Kat Logan for quite a few years, but never had much of a chance to sing with her until she and her husband Jim Loney moved nearby last year. Since then, they've become a welcomed part of the musical community here.*

Song lyrics and additional information available at [www.timberheadmusic.com](http://www.timberheadmusic.com)

## Gordon Bok

with The Quasimodal Chorus,  
Carol Rohl, Kat Logan and  
Women's chorus

## Other Eyes



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1. Bold Reynolds 4:57
  2. The Bird Rock 3:28
  3. The Seals 2:51
  4. Captive Water 3:15
  5. The Beaches of Lukannon 3:29
  6. Sarabande's Story 4:13
  7. Gulls in the Morning 3:48
  8. The Maiden Hind 3:58
  9. Spell to Bring Lost Creatures Home 3:21
  10. The Net 4:42
  11. Herring Croon—The Last Verse 1:16
  12. Ocean Station Bravo 4:02
  13. The Brandy Tree 3:04
  14. The Shepherd's Call 6:12
  15. Sherry's Song 5:11
- Total time: 58:38



Gordon Bok

Other Eyes

THD CD17

# Other Eyes

Gordon Bok



### BOLD REYNOLDS

Words and music ©1991 Dave Toy

Gordon – 12-string guitar

*Every life deserves a song. I learned this from Martyn Wyndham-Read, a wonderful British singer and carrier of great songs.*

### THE BIRD ROCK

Words and music ©2000 (written in 1982)

Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – 12-string “Bell” guitar

*My friend Molly Schauffler once sang me the Norwegian song Moken (“Gulls”), and we realized our childhoods had one great gift in common. Fortunate we were, to grow up among adults who felt the privilege of living in this good land. I used some of the ideas from that song, but in the end I had to make up my own. I add a phrase from her song (“there where all the gulls are”) at the end.*

### THE SEALS

Poem ©1935 L.A.G. Strong (1896–1958)

Music and arrangement ©1995 Gordon Bok

The Quasimodal Chorus

*Many of us coastal folks have been entertained by (and have entertained) the local seal populations. They do respond to human voices and some human instruments. Here the Chorus has helped me pass on the feeling that L.A.G. Strong’s poem captured so well.*

### CAPTIVE WATER

*Bottlenose Dolphin — For Brother Bob*

©1999 Gordon Bok

Women’s chorus: Beth Alma, Mary Bok, Fiona Hall, Meikle Hall, Mary Ann Hensel, Ellie Libby, Lois Lyman, Selkie O’Mira, Susan Shaw, Holly Torsey and Lynn Travis  
*I’ve had a 20-year conversation with Bob Zentz about taking other species out of their habitats — “stealing them to the sky.” Perhaps our persistent preoccupation of alien abduction is a reflection of our own history. Think about the dolphins in the Mediterranean lying like logs on the surface. Think about the mass strandings on so many coasts. Think about the degradation of their soundscape from ships and US Government sonar bombing. Think about the degradation of their habitat with oil and acid water and over-fishing. These are not stupid beings; we are not listening.*

### THE BEACHES OF LUKANNON

Poem © Rudyard Kipling (1865–1935)

Music ©1980 Bob Zentz

Gordon – 12-string guitar

*Lukannon (Lucannon) was once one of the greatest seal rookeries in the world; it’s in the Aleutian Islands. Gooverooska is an old Russian word for kittiwake (a small seabird). Kipling wrote this late in the nineteenth century.*

These years I feel that many of us are retreating from the world (poor old bunged-up world we’ve pounded on so long) retreating electronically, mechanically, physically, drowning it out with our entertainment, insulating ourselves from it with our machines and noise and the gloves on our hands and minds.

But before I have to leave this lovely rolling ball, I will keep singing my self from my horizon in to the center of it, as far as I can go. And I will welcome anyone who wants to come along — this is a job that can use a lot of company.

After 70 years of staving around this kind land, I know our homeland is never going to survive our sojourn here if we don’t learn to hear with other ears, look through other eyes. Bless all the other song-makers who know and sing that truth, and have shared it with us.

Love on us all, now, under the wind.

— Gordon

Recorded by Bruce Boege, Limin Music, Northport, Maine and Michael Reeves, Thomaston, Maine

Additional recording by Rick Crampton, Northport, Maine

Mastered by Bruce Boege

Mixed by Bruce Boege, Gordon Bok and Anne Dodson

Produced by Gordon Bok and Anne Dodson

Front cover painting by Kat Logan

Programming by Carol Rohl

Graphic design by Ken Gross

A special thanks to Kathy Pease

“Bell” 12-string by Apollonio and Bok

All other 12-strings by Apollonio

Spanish guitar by Pinkham

### SARABANDE’S STORY

Words and music ©1993 Valentine Doyle

Gordon – 12-string guitar

*Valentine once had the opportunity to bring a small sailing vessel across the Atlantic with a friend. They ran into the usual obligatory storm, and also something I’ve never heard anyone else describe: a river of fish in the ocean. Both of these are told here as seen through the boat’s eyes.*

### GULLS IN THE MORNING

©1987 Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – Spanish guitar

*“House-sitting” in the winter mornings on the old schooner Stephen Taber I would sit on the companion ladder (where the first heat from the old woodstove would reach me) and watch the gulls soaring against the mountain. They’re great fliers. I made this tune for my friend Peter Platenius, who first enchanted me with music from his native Peru and Bolivia on the guitar.*

### THE MAIDEN HIND

Words: traditional Danish

Music and arrangement ©2009 Gordon Bok

Gordon – vocal and Viol da Gamba

Carol – vocal

*This song speaks from a time when we were much more closely connected to the other animals, who have been—and still are—our best teachers of the ways to live in this world.*

### SPELL TO BRING LOST CREATURES

HOME

Poem: Kathleen Raine (1908–2003) © 2009

The Literary Estate of Kathleen Raine, from “The Collected Works of Kathleen Raine,” Golgonooza Press, 2000.

Music ©1990 Dick Swain

Gordon – 12-string guitar

*Dick Swain found this haunting poem by one of England’s great poets, and made this magical setting for it.*

### THE NET

Words ©1946 Douglas Stewart (1913–1985)

Music ©1984 John Broomhall

Gordon – 12-string “Bell” guitar

*I learned this song from the eerily calm singing of our friend Penny Davies from Stanthorpe, Australia, and adapted her husband Roger Ilot’s arrangement to the “Bell”. A gurnet is an odd fish with the usual compliment of fins, but two pectoral fin-like legs, with which it “walks” across the bottom.*

### HERRING CROON — The Last Verse

©2009 Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – 12-string “Bell” guitar

*You can hear the original song (which I wrote in 1965) on “Herrings in the Bay” — THD-CD14. Some fishermen I know have said that the last time the herring fishery was sustainable was when we were weir-seining, the way we learned from the Native Americans. Some still fish that way in the Canadian*



Gordon Bok

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