

The Singing Hill

by Dorothy Cameron

The men in dark suits
With endless disputes
Sit in the marble temple
In the shining edifice
Built upon the hill.

They are the elders
Of the present day tribe,
Quite unaware that aeons ago
The hill was sacred
And magic was there.

For once it was the Singing Hill,
The hill which sang the Earth Song
At the meeting of the ley-lines
And the crossing of the song-lines
In the centre of the Hills of the Circling.

The song of the Earth was the women's
song.
They were the tribal elders then
Who knew of the Mysteries,
Who drew down the moon
And nurtured the Earth and its singing.

Unknown to the dark suits
Shouting within,
The women are returning
To the Centre of the Circling
Reclaiming their own songs.

Circling the fountain in the shining edifice,
Circling the pyramid of the thrusting dome,
They return to their own
And the chanting is beginning,
The humming has begun.

With the passing of the seasons
Music from the Singing Hill
Will transcend the voices
Of the dark suits
Shouting their abuse.

New tribal elders,
The re-emerging Daughters,
Will awaken Gaia
And the shouting will be stilled.
The healing of the planet will begin.

Gaia's woman-energy
Will link the endless Cosmos
With the light of inner knowledge
And a reverence for the Earth.

And the daughters of a different Dreaming
Will recover the mystery,
Rediscover the harmony,
Of the Centre of the Circling
Around the Singing Hill.

Music by Glenda Cloughley

Read by Senator Jo Vallentine in her
Valedictory Speech, 19 December 1991

See www.chorusofwomen.org for
The Singing Hill video

THE CHORUS TODAY

MUSICAL DIRECTION

Johanna McBride with Meg Rigby

SINGERS

Adele Stevens Glenda Cloughley
Janet Kay Janet Salisbury
Johanna McBride Meg Rigby
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THE WOMEN'S CHARTER FOR CHANGE

A 30-year-old political prophecy about harmony in Parliament House comes to pass today with the launch of the ***Women's Climate Congress Charter for Change***.

The Charter is an urgent call to action from the hearts of women. It sets out pathways to secure the climate and build long-term planetary and human wellbeing for future generations with gender-balanced, inclusive governance and long-term cultural and systemic change.

Hundreds of women, in all our diversity, have contributed to the Charter. Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum have taken part in Women's Climate Congress events and supported us to present the Charter in the Members' Hall today.

For this launch, we are very excited to be joining with A Chorus of Women to reenact the circle of Canberra women who met around the Pool of Reflection with former WA senator Jo Vallentine in 1990-1991.

Like us, those women hummed and meditated to support the quest for wisdom in Australian democracy and harmony between people and Earth. The gatherings inspired visionary Canberra artist and prehistorian Dorothy Cameron to write The Singing Hill. Last year, Canberra's Chorus of Women created a video of 'The Singing Hill' story with Jo Vallentine reading the poem. This has been a central and moving feature at WCC National Congress of Women events.

We present the Charter today to support and encourage the women, and all members and senators of the 47th Parliament, to bring harmony, collaboration, compassion and kindness towards each other, all life and the living Earth, which supports us all.

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