

Life Seasons Liner Notes

Life Seasons
Richard Shulman

1. **Life Seasons** - 5:00 - vocal feat. Paula Hanke
2. **Summer Solstice** - 4:40 - trio
3. **Summer Night** - 4:02 - trio
4. **Bohemian Summer** - 4:13 vocal quartet
5. **Pre-Autumn** - 5:13 - trio
6. **Sweet Autumn** - 4:33 trio
7. **Spinning into Winter** - 3:30 vocal feat. Wendy Jones
8. **Winter Solstice** - 3:39 - solo piano
9. **Velvet Shoes** - 3:22 - vocal quartet
10. **Winter Solstice Dream** - 9:52 - spoken word feat. Wendy Jones
11. **Hope for Spring** - 5:20 - trio
12. **Early Spring** - 5:36 - trio
13. **The Fairy of Mystery Blue** - 3:14 vocal quartet

Total time 1:03:00

All music composed by Richard Shulman
Lyrics/Words by Brenda Lee Morrison tracks 1,4,13,
Paula Jeanine Bennett track 7,
Elinor Wylie track 9, Ron Young, track 10.
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Personnel:

Richard Shulman - piano, all compositions and arrangements
Zack Page - bass on all except #8,10, 13.
Rick Dilling - drums on all except #8,10,13.
Wendy Jones - soprano #4,7,9,10,13 and flute on #7
Paula Hanke - alto #1,4,9,13.
Sherman Hoover - tenor #4,9,13.
Bob Bencze - bass/baritone #4,9,13.
Ron Clearfield - cello #1,7

(UPC code)
723867202829

From the Composer

Every season has its own flavor and when we have had the opportunity to live enough of Life's Seasons, something can develop in a person. A greater willingness to listen both to one's inner wisdom as well as to people in our lives can develop. A greater appreciation of love and beauty can blossom. A deeper understanding of what it takes to keep on keeping on to bring something valuable to the world, small or grand, can come most painfully to the awareness. And yet, that something valuable shines ever brighter to one whose eyes can see and ears can hear.

I am grateful to my friends and collaborators who have brought this musical expression of love and beauty to life; engineer, piano tuner, lyricists, instrumentalists and vocalists, and to the Source of Inspiration which has guided me with the details and the broader choices.

When my trio recorded "Waltzing out of Town" I brought twenty original tunes to the two-day session. Later, listening back to the tracks, I realized first, that I had at least 1 & 1/2 albums of good material and second, that six of the songs were about the seasons. I already had three vocal songs about the seasons begging to be recorded so I wrote two more vocal pieces and another instrumental to complete a sense of going around the year's flavors, and a final song which expresses the depth of love possible in sharing life over many years.

About the Music

1. Life Seasons - An anniversary song remembering a lifetime of love, featuring Paula Hanke - vocals and Ron Clearfield - cello. Lyrics by Brenda Lee Morrison.

2. Summer Solstice - A mellow tune to open the laziest season (Trio).

3. Summer Night - Nothing like a jazz samba for a Summer party (Trio).

4. Bohemian Summer - An imaginary Summer gathering (Vocal Quartet).
Lyrics by Brenda Lee Morrison.

5. Pre-Autumn - A wistful ballad saying goodbye to Summer and hello to Autumn (Trio).

6. Sweet Autumn - The cooler air and abundant colors bring a new energy (Trio).

7. Spinning into Winter - A flurry of activity transitions us from Fall to Winter, featuring Wendy Jones - vocals and Ron Clearfield - cello. Lyrics by Paula Jeanine Bennet.

8. Winter Solstice - We pause for a moment at the darkest time of the year - the time of inner light (Solo Piano).

9. **Velvet Shoes** - The delight of quietly walking in the snow (Vocal Quartet). Lyrics (poem) by Elinor Wylie.

10. **Winter Solstice Dream** *Keepers of the Light* - A spoken word archetypal journey seeking a harbinger of Spring in the depths of Winter, with Wendy Jones and Richard Shulman. Ron Young wrote these words as they are here upon awakening from a dream.

11. **Hope for Spring** - The inner knowing that abundant life will return (Trio).

12. **Early Spring** - The land is waking up! (Trio).

13. **The Fairy of Mystery Blue** *Springtime Blessings* - All expands into aliveness with help from the fairies (Vocal Quartet).

Recording, mixing and mastering at Seclusion Hill Music by Phil Ludwig,
SeclusionHillMusic.com

Piano tuning by Trip, PianoPerfect.com

Art direction by Brenda Lee Morrison

Graphic design by Susannah Haskell

Photo of Richard by Frank Zipperer www.fzippererphoto.com

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Lyrics

Velvet Shoes

Lyrics Elinor Wylie

Let us walk in the white snow in a soundless space,
With footsteps quiet and slow, at a tranquil pace,
Under veils of white lace.

I shall go shod in silk silk and you in wool,

White as a white cow's milk milk more beautiful,
Than the breast of a gull.

We shall walk through the still-town in a windless peace,
We shall step upon the white down upon silver fleece,
Upon softer than these,

We shall walk in velvet shoes, wherever we go
Silence will fall like dew on white silence below
We shall walk in the snow.

The Fairy of Mystery Blue **Lyrics Brenda Lee Morrison**

A Fairy appeared today
Bringing her blessings from far away,
Springtime Blessings,

I'm the Fairy of Mystery Blue,
I help make your dreams come true,
Let me share my wish for you,

Share your wish for me?

The willow trees begin to dance
Swaying let's give love a chance
Come sit by me and share romance,
Share romance, Share romance,
Take a chance.
Birds singing in their nests,
Orange robins puff up their breasts,
They fly to my windowsill,
Perched above the daffodils,
Whistling along with the whippoorwills,
Whistling whippoorwills!

Ah Ah Ah Ah

The willow trees begin to dance
Swaying let's give love a chance

Come sit by me and share romance,
Share romance, Share romance,
Take a chance.

Green frogs are peeping wake up from your sleeping
Come play with me in the fairy light,
Dragonflies zipping by flirting with butterflies
Can you come out to play?

Where the rivers flow,
And fire-fly embers glow,
I remember you from long ago,

Here's what I have to say,
Start living your life today,
Let yesterday fade away,
Wash yourself in the morning dew,

Receive the love I have,
Receive the love I have,
Receive the love I have, for you,
Receive the love I have, for you,

Springtime blessings, Springtime blessings,
Springtime blessings, Spring!

Bohemian Summer
Lyrics Brenda Lee Morrison

In the fields of Summer gold
Stories are often retold,
Of artists who paint in shades of light
From early morn to dark of night,

Beneath the bough of shaded green
They paint the vision unseen,
Taking us into realms unknown

Where thoughts of bliss are sown,

Bohemian Summer is always remembered
We come here to celebrate love,
A place where lovers embrace one another
Under the velvet starlight cover, Ahh

We will gather here once more
On this familiar shore to be
part of Bohemian lore,

Far beyond the saffron Sun
A journey has begun,
A cast of souls have dared to come
Returning to the One,

Their lips will be wet from berry wine
Seduced by jasmine and honeysuckle vine,
We will lay in a field where poppies sway
Where we can dream our cares away,

Bohemian Summer is always remembered
We come here to celebrate love,
A place where lovers embrace one another
Under the velvet starlight cover Ahh

We will gather here once more
On this familiar shore to be
part of Bohemian lore,

Young maidens gather flowers to
Pass away the hours
Strolling fields without a care
Breathing in the Summer air,

Here we feel free again
washed in her summer rain,
Wandering on a sacred path
How long can this last?

Oh to gather at Summer Solstice and
Sit beneath the Sycamore,

Couples recalling the bliss of their first kiss
Sharing tales of love and Bohemian lore

Dancing under the Summer Moon
It ends all too soon
Dancing under the Summer Moon
It ends all too soon
Dancing under the Summer Moon
It ends all too soon.

Life Seasons

Lyrics Brenda Lee Morrison

Life seasons come and go,
We've each learned ebb and flow,
Somehow we grew together,
I will love you forever,

What happened to the time
Tell me again where did it go,
We were young in our prime,
Living life in the flow

In the stillness of early dawn
I lie here and watch you stir and yawn,
I remember our first night together
When I promised to love you forever

Postcard memories take me back
To our first kiss beneath the lilac
Where our paths entwined each other
To when I took you to be my lover

Our soul light of life reaches across moonlight beaches
Opening our book of ages flipping over yellowed pages

In the stillness of early dawn
I lie here and watch you stir and yawn,
I remember our first night together
When I promised to love you forever

I want to stroll again with you
Beneath a sky of Summer blue
To travel back to innocence of
Why I fell in love with you.

Spinning into Winter
Lyrics Paula Jeanine Bennett

Special Grace Patterns Blessed
Forward Motion, Gentlest test,

Both eyes open Easy dance,
Love in motion, circumstance,

Forward motion,
The time digs in and eases forward
The season of hope and new success,
Action!

Spinning into Winter,
With the warmth of Fall,
The newness of the morning,
Time will tell it all.
Winter!

Winter Solstice Dream: *Keepers of the Light*
Words - Ron Young

I.
In the night air frozen into winter stillness
Held silent by the stand-ing trees
Standing in a sacred circle in the snow
We are three.

We have crossed through snow laden
Mountains and vast plateaus

Moonlight reflecting off of the snow
Illumes the unseen Sacred Road
We walk in silence.

We are seeking the Sacred Vine
The Sacred Vine stretching upward
We are seeking the sign that from the Germ of God
Life is born again

We are knowers of the vastness
Unmarked without any trace or sign
It is here.

II.

Standing in a sacred circle in the snow
Knowingly and with memory primeval
We take the ancient hoe and reach down
Through a meter of snow at long oblique angles
To touch the earth so as not to disturb
The Sacred Vine the Germ from God

We reach another meter into the soil
A meter down to take out all obstructions
A meter down to clear the way
For the Sacred One within to grow

Tenderly we take the rocks out one by one
Each radiant in a rainbow of life -
Everything is living
Beneath the soil
Deep within
The roots are clear to grow

In the white reflection of moon and snow
We are reaching with bare hands
Down centimeter by centimeter
As if looking into a lake to see if the bottom is there

III.

The hope for the bright spring green vine
The signal that all is not lost

makes an image that appears and vanishes
The green vine is not here
It is not reaching upward to greet us

Worried that the vine is not growing
Worried that the light is not reaching down
Worried that the life is not living
Worried that the soul is not breathing

Our desperation grows
In sorrow profound we continue
Our tears melting the snow

And now a shadow of green that does not disappear
A luminous beacon comes from within
Opening us to the inner most sanctum

The Vine glows Its Sacred Life

Dressed in humility
Bowing in adoration
We receive the blessing
And then gently with reverence
Hurriedly lest it be harmed
We enclose the Sacred One
Within Its Revelation of Beingness

IV.

Beneath the snow
Beneath the breath of the world
Beneath the sorrows and the prayers of the heart
Beneath the seen and the unseen layers
Of the Great Mystery

The Sacred One is growing within

We wait with infinite patience
With ecstatic joy
For this New Life

Spring is coming