**Zoe Putnam**

**Desert Song**

This is a timeless land

A land of secrets not quite heard

A land of history

Once known, now blurred

A land where the sun beats down

On ancient forested hills

A land of mountain deserts

A land of inhuman wills

A land of stone like clay

That echoes with the beat

Of its shapers tools

A land of extremes; of cold, of heat

This is a land where my brothers serenade me

With dark feathers and jarring cries

Where the land itself holds you prisoner

A land that shows you the impossible, then bids you—try

A land where the silence of the desert,

The earth rises up and sings

Where even the creatures bound to the earth

Suddenly take flight with wings

This land has wrapped its arms around me

A friend parted for far too long

It taught me of the past; of those who walk where I now step

It welcomed me in that timeless song

It said this is a timeless land

A land of ancient secrets not quite heard

A land of history

Once known, now blurred

This land reached into my soul

It grabbed on tight, and will never let go

It hailed me in with a knowing smile

And said in my heart, welcome home