

MICHAEL GUY BOWMAN  
**YOUR MAJESTY**

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Music by Michael Guy Bowman

Drums by Bijan Eghtesady

Accordion by Bonnie Maddox (track 8)

Cover / booklet art by Alice Hu



When the future is uncertain it can be easy to romanticize the past. In fairy tales we imagine that the world was once a more beautiful place where magic explained the mysteries of life. The probing tools of science were once the simmering cauldrons of alchemy. We trusted our leaders completely as the righteous defenders of a higher order which placed ourselves at the center of the universe.

We are tempted to return to this mythic era. The epic tales of old generations bewilder us with stories of glorious quests and lives of adventure. All of it seems to be disappearing just beyond the horizon of a new world that has become petrified with frightful complexity. We treasure the artifacts that remain from simpler times, believing in vain that they might unlock hidden entrances to unspoiled realms.

Though the arrow of time pushes us ceaselessly beyond the dominion of our half-remembered past, we hold onto a belief that we are meant for something more than the cold reality we face - too obvious, too impersonal. We imagine this is only a dark age between the reign of two great kingdoms, the next greater than the first. It is a seductive belief, and potentially dangerous.

And yet, occasionally, we must indulge these fantasies. We romanticize the past because we remember once that we were able to romanticize the future. To permit legendary origins is to hope for a destiny beyond our crude surroundings. We have the choice to see life as a brief epitaph or as the unfolding chapters of a grand saga. Which way will you turn?



## 1. Julia Verne

Long ago we used to lie  
Beneath the summer evening sky  
The moon and mars and all the stars  
Were in our eyes

You made a wish and it came true  
But what it was I never knew  
Until one night I saw your light  
Was up there too

Julia Verne - she's on a journey to the stars  
Leaving behind these worldly binds  
For something new

Julia Verne - will you return to mend these scars?  
I've got to hope, my telescope's  
Always on you, on you

I found the note beside the bed  
The strangest thing I've ever read  
"I've got to go, that's all I know"  
Was all it said

So off it went, a loaded gun  
To shoot you right around the sun  
Are you insane? I can't explain  
The things you've done

Julia Verne - she's on a journey to the stars  
Leaving behind these worldly binds  
For something new

Julia Verne - will you return to mend these scars?  
I've got to hope, my telescope's  
Always on you, on you  
On you

How many nights and days  
Since last we parted ways  
It must be hard to count them out in space

Lay down your landing gear  
You know I'm still right here  
Forever wondering why you disappeared

But if I could I'd take a ride  
Across the great cosmic divide  
And maybe then I'd once again  
Be at your side

For if it's true that what you've found  
Way out there where there is no sound  
Is worth it all, I'll never fall  
Back to the ground

Julia Verne - she's on a journey to the stars  
Leaving behind these worldly binds  
For something new

Julia Verne - will you return to mend these scars?  
I've got to hope, my telescope's  
Always on you, on you  
On you, on you

## 2. Vampire State

Come one, come all to the midnight ball  
There's trouble brewing in the banquet hall  
Take a leap through the line and you'll be just fine  
I've seen your face all over the unwanted signs

Have a toast to your host who's got the least  
He's secretly something of an awful beast  
With a bulletproof plan for the also-rans  
And an awful lot of time upon his idle hands

Everybody's going on about the end of the world  
In fact they seem a little excited  
It's a party and your pity's invited  
Dinner and dessert provided

Vampire State - home to all the miscreated  
Where nightmares are related and dreams annihilated  
Vampire State - pierce the moonlight with your steeple  
We're not your kind of people anymore

Slow down, look around, take in all the sounds  
Your cup ranmeth over 'til it nearly drowned  
Take a few small sips, leave a few tall tips  
And you can keep on dancing when the record skips

Don't you try to sneak out of any exit routes  
'Cause the scent that you're dispensing is a sense of doubt  
If you show off your back, you're just an easy snack  
You must impress upon them that you're always on attack

Everybody keeps talking while their mouths are full  
But you know every word they're saying  
And you get the feeling you'll be staying  
It's an urge you can't resist obeying

Vampire State - where the jawline meets the collar  
It's a real hoot & holler of opulence and squalor

Vampire State - rising over the horizon  
You'll wish that you'd been wise enough to run

High on that heathen tower, clock strikes the midnight hour  
Down from the belfry comes a cloud of wings  
Kaleidoscope of teeth and shadows underneath  
Eclipsing all these wretched things

But at the end of the night, if your cards are right  
You might get out of there with only just a couple of bites  
Keep your sleeves rolled down when you reach the ground  
And no one else will have to know when you get back to town

Everybody looks different in the light of the day  
At the masquerade's adjourning  
But when the midnight oil is burning  
You know that you will be returning

Vampire State - climb the hundred-story talon  
A crimson Irwin Allen exploding by the gallon  
Vampire State - calling all the anti-saviors  
Be on your worst behavior at the

Vampire State - dreaded fang as high as mountains  
An oozing scarlet fountain a billion served and counting  
Vampire State - where the wounds are freshly severed  
You'll wish that you had never heard its name



### 3. Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

He stood on the top of the hill  
He said "This isn't a drill - I'm gone"  
"I'm headed up to the dome"

He put his life on his back  
And headed out at the crack of dawn  
To make himself right at home

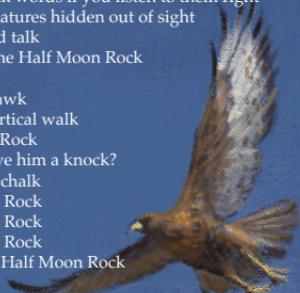
Out where the river shimmers in the night  
And the stars speak words if you listen to them right  
The crazy little creatures hidden out of sight  
They come out and talk  
To the Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

It's him and the hawk  
Hauling up the vertical walk  
Of the Half Moon Rock  
Why don't you give him a knock?  
Follow the trail of chalk  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
The Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

He sewed the leaves in his dress  
And if it was hot even less he wore  
And sometimes nothing at all  
The hawk was all that he had  
And if he was lonely or sad, he'd roar  
And echo through the canyon walls

And the mountain lion came running to the sound  
While the whole hog herd would gather all around  
The comfortable bugs all living in the ground  
Would raise a few stalks  
For the Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

It's him and the hawk  
Hauling up the vertical walk  
Of the Half Moon Rock



Why don't you give him a knock?  
Follow the trail of chalk  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
The Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

He's got the ink on his hands  
The beetles lend him a gland  
For the testament he scrawls inside his cave

He carves it out with a tooth  
He's on a mission for truth  
In a world he does not know if he can save

And he thinks he might be leaving  
But he isn't ready yet  
'Cause under every stone is a spirit to be met, oh yeah

And when he'd finally rest  
There with the hawk in his nest, he'd pause  
And think about who he was

Out in the world all alone  
His life completely his own, his laws  
Only written in the things he does

But if the buffalo bunch could stand the monsoon  
And the choir of crickets could learn to sing in tune  
Could the prince of the primates rise pretty soon  
And find his own flock?  
Oh the Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

It's him and the hawk  
Hauling up the vertical walk  
Of the Half Moon Rock  
Why don't you give him a knock?  
Follow the trail of chalk  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
Up the Half Moon Rock  
The Hermit of the Half Moon Rock

### 4. Oracle

Oracle awaken  
Tell me where to go  
The course of life has taken  
Everything I know

Show me a tomorrow  
Free from all the sorrow  
I will beg and borrow  
Anything it takes to make it so

Oracle astound me  
Tell me what's to come  
The world all around me  
Leaves my body numb

Show me a horizon  
I can fix my eyes on  
Destiny, it lies on  
Distant shores beyond where I came from

Oracle imbue me  
Purpose for my soul  
Something's running through me  
I cannot control

Read the constellations  
Share your observations  
I could conquer nations  
If you'd only show me, oracle

I know you have felt it for all of your days  
The white-hot injection of turbulent rays  
Which penetrates down to the depths of your undying soul

Now turn the wheel  
See yourself as seeing eye and as the seen  
Break off the seal  
Re-engage the light from where it's always been

From fringes where faces of heroes and villains are drawn  
We're graced to awake in a world which embraces their brawn  
The breakers of dawn  
The breakers of dawn

### 5. Breakers of Dawn

Dawn calls to you  
Rakes its ragged claws across the eastern sky  
Day bursting through  
All at once you're certain of the reason why

The night and its terrible kingdom has finally gone  
The nail of the crimson horizon has fallen upon  
The breakers of dawn  
The breakers of dawn

Steel razors climb  
Scatter 'cross the borderlines of no-man's-land  
Cruel winds of time  
Move the mounds of sacred grounds and shifting sands

Where vultures and vipers lay waste to the lives of our spawn  
Look to the few and the crazed who ride vengefully on  
The breakers of dawn  
The breakers of dawn

They cannot be made, they can only be born  
Proclaiming tomorrow has come with their horn  
A power far greater than any could ever control

I know you have felt it for all of your days  
The white-hot injection of turbulent rays  
Which penetrates down to the depths of your undying soul

Now turn the wheel  
See yourself as seeing eye and as the seen  
Break off the seal  
Re-engage the light from where it's always been

From fringes where faces of heroes and villains are drawn  
We're graced to awake in a world which embraces their brawn  
The breakers of dawn  
The breakers of dawn

## 6. Your Majesty

Every corner of the city's lined with shadows  
Every stranger in the street averts their eyes  
All the people locked away behind the windows  
They're all waiting for a hero to arise

All the men remember days when they were stronger  
Every woman hides a dagger in her gown  
But you won't cover up your faces any longer  
On the day when I come riding into town

So put a light on in your window  
Put your face against the glass  
Don't you know that I'm your hero?  
Won't you whistle when I pass?  
I'll move a mountain if you just rely on me  
I'll be the one you want to call "Your Majesty"

Every year it comes with trials and tribulations  
And all the answers are revealed to next to none  
But I recall a time of grand imaginations  
Long before you learned to say "it can't be done"

There is a storm to come that none alone can weather  
But if you'd like to learn I'll gladly show you how  
And in the days ahead we all will band together  
For your liberator walks among you now

So raise a banner from the tower  
When you open up the gate  
Don't you know this is your hour?  
I have come to bear the weight  
I swear I'll set your body and your spirit free  
I'll be the one you want to call "Your Majesty"

Now is the reckoning of wretches and the meek  
For the champion that you seek is at your door  
I'll rectify a world of impotence and rage  
And not only for an age but evermore

In times of trouble we are torn in all directions  
You may be dazzled by the roads you travel down  
Do not beleaguer in the burden of selection  
You'll be lighter when you learn to lay your crown

I've heard the wailing of your city in the distance  
I know the strain you must endure to still believe  
But I could steer a steady course with your assistance  
Toward the things that only power can achieve

So now awaken from your slumber  
Wipe the worry from your brow  
Don't know I've got your number?  
Can't you hear me calling now?  
I'll make you one with wonders none before could see  
I'll be the one you want to call "Your Majesty"  
I'll be the one you beg to call "Your Majesty"  
I'll be the one you dare to call "Your Majesty"

## 7. When We Take The Sky

There's love in the air  
And I'm taking you there tonight  
So let's hang like a key  
Flying fancy and free from a kite  
The morning edition and trusted magicians  
Say all the conditions are right  
So up we'll be travellin' where they're unravellin'  
Jupiter's javelin smite

Climb up to the clouds  
We're the few and the proud here tonight  
(Tonight, tonight, tonight)  
Indulging a dream  
Like the smoke and the steam taking flight  
(In flight, in flight, in flight)  
The evening papers can peer through the vapors  
Which cover our capers from sight  
(From sight, from sight, from sight)  
Where static explodes from our five-finger nodes  
Into plasmatic roads made of light  
(Of light, of light, of light, hey!)

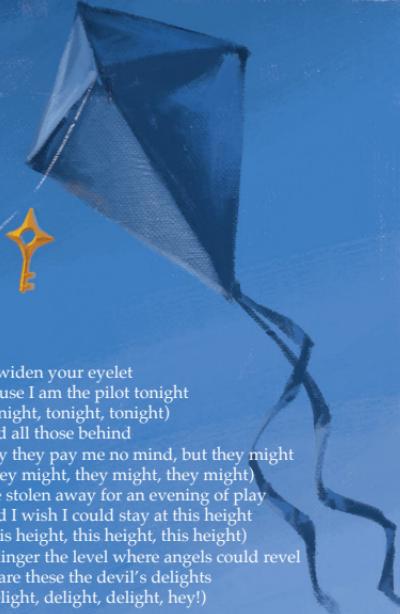
What a thing to behold  
We'll be way up high  
When we take the sky

We've ridden the wheel  
That hangs at our heels tonight  
(Tonight, tonight, tonight)  
There's dozens around  
Who are holding the ground very tight  
(Very tight, very tight, very tight)  
But cool are the cats who'll be hanging their hats  
Way up here where the bats couldn't bite  
(Couldn't bite, couldn't bite, couldn't bite)  
Few mortals would dare to the mischief we share  
In the throes of such hair-raising frights  
(Such frights, such frights, such frights)

So widen your eyelet  
'Cause I am the pilot tonight  
(Tonight, tonight, tonight)  
And all those behind  
May they pay me no mind, but they might  
(They might, they might, they might)  
I've stolen away for an evening of play  
And I wish I could stay at this height  
(This height, this height, this height)  
To linger the level where angels could revel  
Or are these the devil's delights  
(Delight, delight, delight, hey!)

What a thing to behold  
We'll be way up high  
When we take the sky

At last we're descending  
We're reaching the ending tonight  
You're shook to your tail  
And your lips are so pale, nearly white  
Let's go get some rest, it is all for the best  
If the atmosphere's guests are polite  
Again we could treasure a night of such pleasure  
So long as the measure is slight



## 8. Overboard

Gentlemen, listen right now as I speak  
I fear that this ship of ours has sprung a leak  
The sea, she is coming to take us an inch at a time

It's roaring in faster than buckets can fill  
I fear it's a matter of minutes until  
From belly to mast we'll be deeper than any can climb

And all of this now with the shore plain in sight  
We might make it yet if the load could be light  
But what sort of life do you think we'll afford  
If we have to throw all that we have overboard?

The gold in our coffers is weighing us down  
We shan't spend a cent if we're certain to drown  
And none can come with you at all in the life after this

So gather your treasures and cast them away  
And if you are swift then I hope and I pray  
We won't soon be up to our eyes in a watery kiss

And if one among you at all hesitates  
Remind them this is for the lives of their mates  
But what sort of life do you think we'll afford  
If we have to throw all that we have overboard?

See now the spoils in motion  
Straight to the heart of the ocean  
Down in the drink, every glimmering piece  
You watch as they sink while the waters increase  
Just slow enough to renew life's intolerable lease

At last we arrive clinging onto the sails  
And leap to the dock when it finally fails  
The ship where we spent seven months as we circled  
the globe

The price that we paid sure is awfully steep  
Behind us the trail that shines in the deep  
Could only be seen by an angler's most luminant lobe

We came as we left now with only our lives  
The glory is gone but the story survives  
So what sort of life do you think we'll afford  
Now we've had to throw all that we have overboard?

Yes what sort of life do you think we'll afford  
Now we've had to throw all that we have overboard?



## 9. Venus Fly

Little fly, don't you die so easy  
I know you only live a day  
Weathered by the winds so high and breezy  
Don't you let this evening slip away

Little legs hatch from eggs each morning  
Silhouettes hardly ever change  
Stomach begs the musky dregs adorning  
For a taste of something new and strange

Oh, open up your eyes  
Can't you see you're falling for the Venus Fly?  
Oh, won't you tell me why  
You keep living like you're never gonna die?

Little speck, don't you wreck your wingspan  
The beating of which gives to you your name  
Keep in check below your neck for things can  
So easily be plucked upon your frame

Spiders crawling forest walls you've thwarted  
You circumvent the snatch of froggy tongue  
The birds who call from perches tall you've shorted  
But on this fang you let yourself be hung?

Oh, open up your eyes  
Can't you see you're falling for the Venus Fly?  
Oh, won't you tell me why  
You keep living like you're never gonna die?

Never gonna die  
Don't you know that it's a lie?  
You were only passing by for a try, another high,  
Now the jaws will never pry

"Come and play," you hear it say so sweetly  
Nothing else had ever been so bold  
But where you lay it's had its way discreetly  
With all the rest who never grew so old

The same disease that lures the bees to pollen  
Pulls you where no free thing should involve  
In the squeeze of this the tease you've fallen  
Now to feel your body be dissolved

Oh, open up your eyes  
Can't you see you're falling for the Venus Fly?  
Oh, won't you tell me why  
You keep living like you're never gonna die?

Never gonna die  
Don't you know that it's a lie?  
You were only passing by for a try, another high,  
Now the jaws will never pry



## 10. Merry-Go-Round

There is an ivory horse  
Upon a platinum post  
Down at the bumper car breaks  
Of the roller coast

Where all the riders go on  
In an exotic parade  
You were there long ago  
While the organ played

And although you aren't sure when  
You know you will be there again

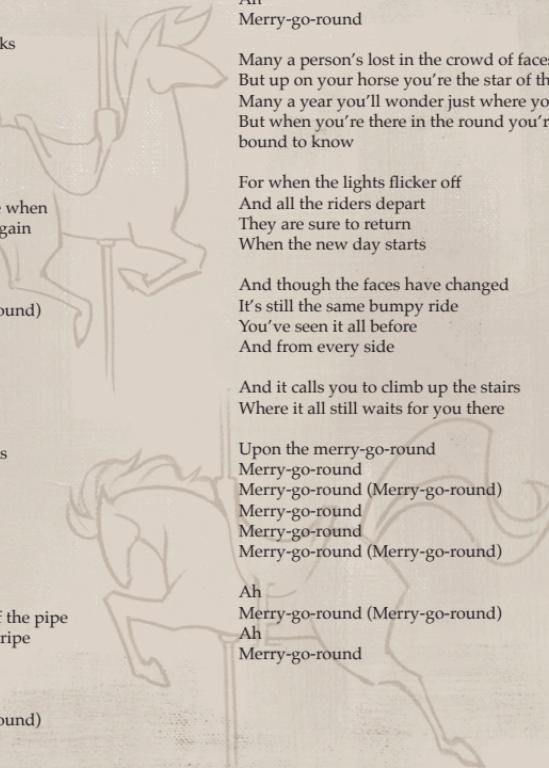
Upon the merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round

Out of the strollers they rise  
Up to the saddles they crawl  
To seize the world by the reins  
Standing ten feet tall

I saw the mayor and his wife  
Wearing their funny old hats  
Sat in the carriage behind  
With a herd of cats

And they rose to the sound of the pipe  
Which blows a peppermint stripe

Upon the merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)



Ah

Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)  
Ah  
Merry-go-round

Many a person's lost in the crowd of faces  
But up on your horse you're the star of the rodeo  
Many a year you'll wonder just where your place is  
But when you're there in the round you're certainly  
bound to know

For when the lights flicker off  
And all the riders depart  
They are sure to return  
When the new day starts

And though the faces have changed  
It's still the same bumpy ride  
You've seen it all before  
And from every side

And it calls you to climb up the stairs  
Where it all still waits for you there

Upon the merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round  
Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)

Ah

Merry-go-round (Merry-go-round)  
Ah  
Merry-go-round

## 11. Charity Bizarre

Oh, here it goes - they're all in rows  
All the madames and mademoiselles  
Decked to the nines and hanging signs  
From the cupboards and carousels  
The old bric-a-brac is out on bail  
But you know as I that what's for sale  
Is more than what's above the bar

Charity Bizarre  
That's all you are  
You steal their hearts  
But you never take it far  
Charity Bizarre

Oh, look at that - the tails and spats  
They are lining around the block  
A tip of the brim and you know him  
He's aware what you have in stock  
It's all for a very worthy cause  
And last that I heard there were no laws  
On doors getting left ajar

Charity Bizarre  
That's all you are  
You steal their hearts  
But you never take it far  
Charity Bizarre

The wives and widows play so posh  
But this is not the Sunday wash  
The price is high but the talk is free  
Underneath the canopy  
The lines we keep so clean and clear  
Are just a little jagged here  
Where dollars line the lips of mason jars

What have we here? The auctioneer  
Strikes the podium gavel down  
Out goes the maid and marmalade  
With the newcomer in this town

The school on the hill will lay its stone  
But lest that the rest should leave alone  
I'm sure that two will share a car

Charity Bizarre  
That's all you are  
You steal their hearts  
But you never take it far  
Charity Bizarre

Charity Bizarre  
That's all you are  
You steal their hearts  
But you never take it far  
Charity Bizarre  
Charity Bizarre



## 12. Mister Mirror

I have a secret power  
That lets me change my face  
Every bone in my body  
Is replaced

I've been the baker with his heavy hands  
I've been the soldier in a foreign land  
I've been every kind of person so very many times  
I'm not sure who I was when this began

I'm a copy, I'm a clone  
I have no face of my own  
And the mask I wear before you  
Hides a fool who's all alone  
You can call me Mister Mirror  
Though I might not be a man  
For the life that I am living  
Is forever secondhand

Secondhand  
Won't you please understand?

Oh it's a wild transformation  
To move inside another person's skin  
Still I remain in isolation  
For the faces never fill the space within

But if you'd like to see it  
It isn't hard to do  
Just reach over here and touch me  
I'll be you

Won't you let me draw you nearer  
See yourself a little clearer  
In the eyes of Mister Mirror  
History's greatest disappearer

Bring to me the mouth and nose  
The tensed brow, the fidget toes  
The rib that aches, the heart that knows  
The love and hate a lifetime chose

I'll taste the sweet and bitter upon your tongue  
I'll choke the smoke and glitter that glaze your lungs  
I shall know you as no other ever has or ever will  
Though I know that you could never do the same

I'm a copy, I'm a clone  
I have no face of my own  
And the mask I wear before you  
Hides a fool who's all alone  
You can call me Mister Mirror  
Though I might not be a man  
For the life that I am living  
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Hides a fool who's all alone  
You can call me Mister Mirror  
Though I might not be a man  
For the life that I am living  
Is forever secondhand

Secondhand

So if you'd like to see it  
You know what to do  
Just reach over here and touch me

Oh, won't you please just reach over here  
And touch me

