

EXPERIENCE SERIES

PRO CORO CANADA

**MOONSHOT IV  
THE DAYKING**

**SAT. FEB. 11. 2023. 7:30PM**

**SUN. FEB. 12. 2023. 3:00PM**

ATB FINANCIAL ARTS BARN | WESTBURY THEATRE

**GROWLERS CHOIR** MONTREAL  
**FORTNER ANDERSON** NARRATOR

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YOUR  
CHOIR**

MICHAEL ZAUGG ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ProCoro  CANADA    @procorocanada



Pro Coro Canada acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.





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Pro Coro Canada  
#309, 10113 - 104 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB, T5J 1A1  
780.420.1247  
procoro.ca

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# Program

Michael Zaugg, conductor

Where Once Poe Walked

Nicholas Ryan Kelly\*

Amanogawa (River of Heaven) from Shiki

Matthew Whittall\*

*With the Growlers Choir performing kargyraa-inspired throat singing*

Blood, Breath, and Other Miracles^

Jane Berry\*

I. Forgive Me

II. Whatever An August Is

III. Beckon Rain

IV. Open This Night

V. Press Me Soft

Warning to the Rich

Thomas Jennefelt

*With the Growlers Choir*

*Narrator: Fortner Anderson*

*Baritone: Michael Kurschat*

*Quartet: Zoitsa Gotziaman, Erin Craig, Ian Bannerman, Adam Robertson*

Outer Space, Inner Light^

Mari Alice Conrad\*

Arrache^

Pascal Germain-Berardi\*

*The Growlers Choir, conductor Pascal Germain-Berardi*

The Dayking

Pierre-Luc Senécal\*

*With the Growlers Choir*

*Narrator: Fortner Anderson*

*^World Premier*

*\*Canadian composer*

# Performers

## **Pro Coro Canada**

### **Director**

Michael Zaugg

### **Soprano**

Zoitsa Gotziaman  
Jacqueline Hernandez  
Catherine Kubash  
Annette Martens  
Katrina Smith  
Jessica Wagner

### **Alto**

Sable Chan  
Erin Craig  
Kimberley Denis  
Lesley Dolman  
Jessica Robertson  
Adrienne Sitko

### **Tenor**

Ian Bannerman  
Taylor Fawcett  
Tyson Kerr  
Charles Stolte  
Nathan Willis  
Anthony Wynne

### **Bass**

Graeme Climie  
Graham Fast  
Michael Kurschat  
Peter Malcolm  
Josiah Maxfield  
Adam Robertson

## **Growlers Choir**

### **Composer & Manager**

Pierre-Luc Sénécal

### **Conductor**

Pascal Germain-Berardi

### **Narrator**

Fortner Anderson

### **High**

Yves Godbout  
Maude Thériège  
Marie-Claude Fleury  
Maxime Daigneault  
Corinne Cardinal

### **Medium**

Roxana Bouchard  
Patrick Goyette  
Jeffrey Macdermott  
Samuel Arseneau-Roy  
Pascal Germain-Berardi

### **Low**

Jean-Charles Carrère  
Philippe Langelier  
Mikaïl Standjofski-Figols  
Estelle Martinez  
Sacha Nahman-Lévesque  
Laurent Bellemare

# Growlers Choir

## Composer and Manager



**Pierre-Luc Sénécal** is a music composer and sound studio owner based in Montreal, Canada. He specializes in creating original, unique soundtracks and sonic adventures.

He is renowned for its broad palette of high quality services: film scores, contemporary dance music and concert pieces, music production and innovative show experiences.

Listen to his music and you will discover dark depths and halos of luminous sounds. Hear the roar of its repertoire, both complex and contrasted.

Master of Music (Université de Montréal, CA), Pierre-Luc Sénécal built his artistic practice within the rich electroacoustic music field. Strongly inspired by rock, pop, and metal, he instills his electronic pieces with his sensibility, lyricism and dashing passion.

His work has been presented in Canada, Germany, Italy, Monaco, Russia, Sweden, South Korea and in the US. Amongst his notable achievements, and the founding of the dark, clamorous and attention-catching Growlers Choir, the most famous vocal ensemble in the world exclusively made up of metal singers. Their appearance on the TV reality show America's Got Talent garnered them worldwide attention. Pierre-Luc Sénécal is a grant recipient from the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Fond de Recherche du Québec – Society and Culture.

# Growlers Choir Conductor



Born and raised in deprived neighborhoods of Montreal, **Pascal Germain-Berardi** is a conductor who found life through music and became the first of his family to reach college. He recently completed his doctoral studies in orchestral conducting at University of Montreal under professors Jean-François Rivest (I Musici) and Paolo Bellomia (former assistant of Pierre Boulez).

Also holding a master's degree in composition, Pascal has a thing for dramatic and powerful music. His influences ranges from bombastic classical composers like Beethoven, Bruckner and Liszt all the way up to extreme metal bands like Strapping Young Lad, Necrophagist and Vektor. His compositional style blends the narrative principles of classical music with a contemporary approach to harmonies and melodic language.

Pascal is conductor for the ensemble Forestare, a 12 classical guitars band with whom he just recorded his first ATMA album as music director with works by Ravel and Debussy arranged for guitars. He's also founder and artistic director of « Temps Fort », a production company with which he conducts a wide range of vocal and instrumental ensembles made of young professionals. He held multiple assistant-conductor positions and has been very active as a professional chorister (Montreal Opera, Montreal Symphony, Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal) and with the Growlers Choir, the world's only active choir made of metal growlers.

Pascal had the privilege to study conducting with Bramwell Tovey (Vancouver Symphony), Yannick Nézet-Séguin (Orchestre métropolitain), Jon Washburn (Vancouver Chamber Choir), Joseph Flummerfelt (New York Philharmonic), Ovidiu Balan (Mihail Philharmonia Bacau) and Andrew Megill (Montreal Symphony Choirs, Illinois University).

# Growlers Choir

## Narrator and Poet



Artist and poet, **Fortner Anderson** is noted for the performance of his poems, his unique artist books and installations, and his formalist and experimental work to renew and expand poetic forms. His publications of poetry include reiterations (2022), an e-book whose content of 24 sonnets change with each reading, Considerations (2021) a formalist text in the form of a silver-age comic book, Points of Departure (2017) a book of poems encased in bronze,

and announcements (2012), a poetic re-interpretation of the final minutes of the space shuttle Columbia disaster.

He has presented his poetry in the United States, Canada, Colombia and across Europe. His performances and installations have been showcased widely including at the Festival Internationale de Musique Actuelle à Victoriaville and the Festival Internazionale di Poesia di Genova. In 2007, he was awarded the La voix électrique prize for career achievement in performance poetry and in 2018, he received the Poésie dans la cité award from the Conseil des arts de Montréal for his project with Geneviève Letarte, "L'inventaire des faits en neuf lieux de Montréal un après-midi d'été." His work, "The DayKing" has become one of the Growler Chorus' signature works. Originally from the American Midwest, Fortner Anderson now lives and works in Montreal, Canada.

His website is [www.fortneranderson.com](http://www.fortneranderson.com).

# Our Conductor

**Michael Zaugg:  
Managing & Artistic Director  
and Principal Conductor**

Swiss-native Michael Zaugg has distinguished himself as an innovative and versatile conductor, pedagogue and clinician. Currently in his 11th season as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the professional chamber choir Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton, Michael also previously led other notable Canadian choirs including, in Montreal, the St. Lawrence Choir (2008-2013) and voces boreales (2006-2015), and the Cantata Singers Ottawa (2005-2014).

As Chorus Master of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (2006-2011), Michael successfully prepared groups of up to 1500 singers for OSM Artistic Director Kent Nagano, including the award-winning production *Saint François d'Assise* by Messiaen. Michael also prepared the Cantata Singers Ottawa for their appearances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra under conductors such as Franz-Paul Decker, Trevor Pinnock, and Helmuth Rilling.

Active as a Guest Conductor, Michael Zaugg has worked with notable groups including the Vancouver Chamber Choir, National Youth Choir of Canada, the BBC Singers, Vancouver's *musica intima*, Thirteen Strings, as well as the Longueuil Symphony Orchestra. Michael's US debut was with the Grammy-nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street in New York. He has led a 60-voice male choir, with singers selected from across Canada, the US and the Ukraine, to perform the Resurrection Liturgy by Fr. John Sembrat (Alberta) in tours across the



Prairies and to Toronto, Philadelphia, Rochester and New York City.

Originally an accomplished tenor, Michael became the first Swiss conductor to be accepted to the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Sweden in its prestigious post-graduate program for Professional Choir Conducting. Mr. Zaugg also holds degrees in voice and music education from the University in Basel. In 2018 he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music (Hon DMus) by Scotland's King's College, University of Aberdeen.

In 2020 Michael Zaugg, together with Pro Coro Canada, received the Choral Canada national Award for Outstanding Innovation for the CHORAL ART at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. He was also a 2020 recipient of the Edmonton Artists Trust Fund Award, and the recipient of the Con Spirito Award from Choir Alberta in 2022.

# Pro Coro Canada



Founded in 1981 by Canadian Michel Marc Gervais, Pro Coro Canada has performed at the Toronto International Choral Festival (1994 and 2002), the 1988 Olympic Arts Festival, and Canadian Voices (2003 landmark series of concerts celebrating 50 years of professional choral singing in Canada and R. Murray Schafer's 70th year). The choir has commissioned dozens of new works, the majority by Canadian composers. Pro Coro Canada produced the second Edmonton International Choral Festival from May 30th to June 2nd, 2019.

The twenty-four voices of Pro Coro Canada have been shaped by some of the finest choral conductors in the world, including Gervais, Anders Eby (Sweden), Søren Hansen (Denmark), Agnes Grossmann (Austria), and Richard Sparks (USA). Guest conductors have included Frieder Bernius, Eric Ericson, Gary Graden, Maria Guinand, Bo Holten, Elmer Iseler, Tõnu Kaljuste, Diane Loomer, Leonard Ratzlaff, Ward Swingle, Ivars Taurins, Jon Washburn, and Erik Westberg. In early 2012 Michael Zaugg was announced as Pro Coro's new Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

Under the direction of Swiss-born Michael Zaugg, the choir is widely recognized as one of this country's finest. The choir is particularly proud of its composer-in-residence program with internationally renowned composer Alberto Grau; its appointment as Faculty in the Choral Art program at the Banff Centre; and critically acclaimed tours of four provinces. Pro Coro Canada believes strongly in community partnerships and over the past few years has collaborated with many community choirs as well as mentoring young choral artists through their Emerging Artist Program.





# Growlers Choir



The most famous growlers choir in history. Composed solely of metal vocalists called “growlers”, Growlers Choir blends metal and experimental music in a way that is unique and groundbreaking. Hailing from Montreal, one of the world’s capitals of metal music, the 13 metal vocalist ensemble was dreamt up by composer Pierre-Luc Senécal in 2016. What may have been a wild fantasy for many metalheads was finally brought to fruition in May 2019, when the band took the stage for their first public performance. Their first piece, the mythical “The Dayking”, has triggered a frenzy of ecstatic comments, calling it “masterfully arranged”, “mindblowing”, “a ritual of summoning demons from the other dimensions”, a descent “into literal unbridled chaos”. This success was in no small part due to the lead speaker’s of the piece, Fortner Anderson. Pioneer of the spoken word scene in Montreal, his reading of his text “The Dayking” has been described as dramatically poignant, visceral and riveting.

Since, Growlers Choir has dedicated itself to producing ambitious concerts, creating bewitching music and exploring vocal techniques. Fascinated by extreme metal as well as a variety of throat singing techniques, Growlers Choir showcases the sonic potential of the voice and demonstrates its extraordinary properties, both sensual and monstrous.

In May 2021, Growlers Choir headlined the Festival international de musique actuelle de Victoriaville, one of the most respected events of its kind in North America. In June 2021, it collaborated with classical choir Temps Fort for the concert “Extreme Vocals”. The event comprised 60 minutes of music for double choir (14 growlers and 24 singers) in a 50,000 square foot church.

Growlers Choir’s original musical hydra has attracted a variety of public and media such as Vice News, popular Quebecer talk show Tout le monde en parle and MetalSucks, one of the most important media of the metal music scene.

Growlers Choir is a grant recipient from the Canadian Council of the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.



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# Our Staff

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**Production Coordinator**

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Madge McCready

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# Our Supporters

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 Canada Council for the Arts  
 City of Edmonton  
 Edmonton Arts Council  
 Heritage Canada

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 The PayPal Giving Fund  
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 Rich, Sheila & Tony  
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\*donations received directly to Pro Coro Canada from January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

# Support the Pro Coro Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds create a permanent legacy felt over generations. An endowment fund with Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) invests gifts through independent investment managers. Each year, a percentage of this family of funds is granted to Pro Coro Canada, to be invested according to their intended purpose. Donors work with ECF to ensure their investments are set up for long-term growth. Endowment funds offer permanent investment of charitable gifts to provide ongoing support to organizations in the Edmonton community.

Donations to funds are eligible to be matched by the Canada Cultural Investment Fund through the Endowment Incentives program.

## **The Pro Coro Canada Endowment Fund with ECF**

Ensures the long-term prosperity of the ensemble. This fund directly assists the general operations of the choir on-stage and behind the scenes.



## **The Russ and Johann Mann Endowment Fund with ECF**

Facilitates the creation and commission of new choral works by Canadian and International composers for performances by Pro Coro Canada, and choirs across Canada.



## **The Maria David Evans Memorial Endowment Fund with ECF**

In the spirit of educating the leaders of tomorrow, the Maria David Evans Memorial Fund facilitates the educational work of Pro Coro Canada with emerging choral leaders, young singers and the local choral community at-large.



**To donate, visit [procoro.ca/endowment](https://procoro.ca/endowment)**

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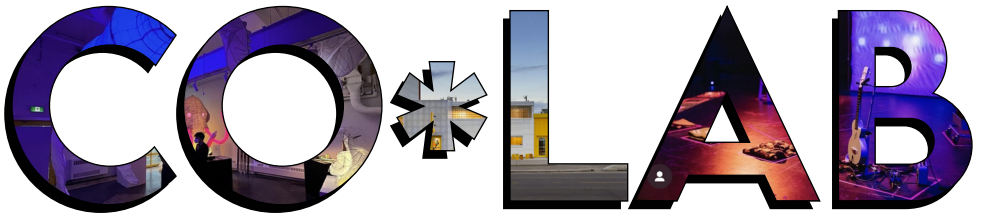


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# Texts & Translations

## Where Once Poe Walked

Nicholas Ryan Kelly

**Text: In a Sequester'd Providence Churchyard Where Once Poe Walk'd by H.P Lovecraft**

Eternal brood the shadows on this ground,  
 Dreaming of centuries that have gone before;  
 Great elms rise solemnly by slab and mound,  
 Arch'd high above a hidden world of yore.  
 Round all the scene a light of memory plays,  
 And dead leaves whisper of departed days,  
 Longing for sights and sounds that are no more.

Lonely and sad, a spectre glides along  
 Aisles where of old his living footsteps fell;  
 No common glance discerns him, tho' his song  
 Peals down thro' time with a mysterious spell:  
 Only the few who sorcery's secret know  
 Espy amidst these tombs the shade of Poe.

## Amanogawa from Shiki

Matthew Whittall

amanogawa mayonaka no  
 yo ei dore wa  
 odoru

## The River of Heaven

the river of heaven  
 midnight – drunken  
 the stars dance

## Blood, Breath, and Other Miracles

Jane Berry

**Text by Brandon Wint**

Forgive Me  
 My teeth gleam white as gutted pears,  
 the juice of tangerines and ambrosia apples  
 is a clownish makeup on my chin-

to live in a body is to thirst.

Dawn drenches me in honeyed light,  
 lets me drink of the amber bled from sun-gashed clouds,  
 gives me to the feast a body can make  
 of the scent of rain, peppermint oil on an arm.



I smear my lips with saffron powder and beg wind to kiss me.

Forgive me, every room in my house is eggshell white,  
the orioles are silent in their ragged nests.

I taste magnolias,  
the ringed torsos of bees, dense metallic air,  
the copper dust of cities.

To live in a body is to hunger:

I split the moon, an unripe grapefruit  
and gorge.

–

Smear my lips with molasses, stir the jays from their ragged twig beds. Make wind kiss my dark, sugared mouth; whatever an August is, let it leak into my chest, magenta-stain my unbuttoned shirt. Oh, grief of the untouched body, wail. Give yourself to thirst: touch, yes, is a small heaven of choice. Bust the dark mirror of sky and beckon rain to fall like fingertips, soft against my neck. The blushing, dusty moon of a peach in my palm is enough to make my body an oracle promising entire orchards – oh sky, be as generous as berries, open this night like a pomegranate and gush seed and flame, red, into my mouth. Let moonlight bleed, turn my pores to windows of stained glass, blur me into an ecstatic picture, smear my edges, lust – make me a poorly developed photograph. Press me soft, a saxophone's glittering button, make me thus yellow, thus ochre and golden, breathe into me until I spill sound, relax the fists my stomach has eaten, smooth my red knuckles to blue studs of water and let all who touch me drench me, jolt me into a twilight where amigas bent in gusts of wind might envy the curve of my spine, the sheen of my back, dappled in sweat and rain.

### **Warning to the Rich**

**Thomas Jennefelt**

**Text based on James 5:1-6, 4:9**

Come on you wealthy,  
weep and cry about the miseries  
that are coming upon you.

Your hoarded wealth has decayed  
and your clothes have become moth-eaten:

Your gold and silver are covered with rust and their rust shall be evidence against you. As fire, [that you have stored up for the last days,] it will consume your flesh.

---

See! The pay of the workmen  
 that mowed your fields,  
 which you have withheld from them  
 is crying out and the cries of the reapers have entered the ears of the Lord!

You have been living an easy life on the earth, you have given yourselves up to pleasures,  
 [you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.]

You have condemned,  
 you have murdered the upright  
 [without his resisting you.]

Be miserable and grieve and cry.  
 Let your enjoyment be turned to dejection  
 and your laughing to sorrow.

Come on you wealthy!

**Outer Space, Inner Light**  
**Mari Alice Conrad**  
**Text by Anna Marie Sewell**

Out!  
 Away from the heart of a star  
 Light spins - shout! -  
 Form - shout -  
 I shatter - shout -  
 Oscillate soul to soul  
 Rise and breathe  
 Measure light  
 In parsecs, in constants, in black degrees of violence

How long?  
 There is no centre, weightless  
 Red to blue to white  
 Decay of matter, celestial chatter  
 Untouchable  
 Pulse  
 One note sent on breath  
 How long? until forever cracks the highest ring  
 Atomic line  
 Sends back light - breathe -  
 Mote by mote - breathe -

Note by note- breathe -  
 Cupped into heart of darkness aching  
 To spring out, sing out  
 Form spins light into  
 A star's heart  
 Song. unending light bending time mending soul of the momentary forever  
 song.

### **Arrache**

#### **Pascal Germain-Berardi**

Arracher tout sur mon passage,  
 Dans la médiocrité des sages,  
 Nous emmène dans la blanche page  
 Vers la fin de tous les âges,

De leurs grandes tours d'ivoires,  
 Installés sur leurs perchoirs,  
 Ils se votent à boire,  
 Et remplissent tous leurs tiroirs,  
 Animés depuis toujours par l'avidité du sou,  
 Narcissiques sans gênes sans pensées pour  
 le jour,

Sans remords,  
 Sans pitié,  
 Sans regrets  
 Sans chagrins,

Repentir dans le désespoir de la médiocrité  
 issue de l'instabilité des forces de la société  
 l'illusion de la liberté trouvée dans l'infidélité  
 envers les plus abîmés

La montée sanguinaire rassemblant toute la  
 colère  
 Débordant de tout côtés  
 La nécessaire fondation  
 Illuminée de par la force vitale de l'existence

Vidés de toute humanité,  
 Saccagés, déchirés, consumés, foudroyés,

### **Rip and Tear**

Tearing everything in sight,  
 Ripping through lucid's mediocrity,  
 Bringing us to a blank page,  
 To the end of all days,

Perching from their ivory tower,  
 Voting for themselves,  
 Drinking, filling pockets,  
 Fulfilled by avidity,  
 Shameless narcissists,  
 Thoughtless to  
 the Sun

No remorse,  
 No pity,  
 No regrets,  
 No sorrow

Repenting through mediocrity and despair,  
 Clustered in unstable forces of society,  
 Illusions of freedom  
 Found through infidelity  
 Towards the damaged of humanity,

Assemble,  
 Boiling, bloody anger,  
 Overflowing,  
 To the inevitable rebirth  
 Enlightened  
 By the the life force of existence

Emptied of any humanity,  
 Trashed, tormented, thunderstruck

Consumés de par tous les côtés,  
Mutilés, sabotés, piétinés, ignorés,  
Rattachés par l'infidélité  
Arrachés de l'incrédulité  
Écorchés dans leur intimité

Consumed on all fronts,  
Mutilated, sabotaged, trampled, ignored  
United by infidelity  
Snatched from disbelief  
Skinned in their privacy  
Facing inequality

Sûffit, Assez  
Le but est achevé  
Affranchis, sans merci  
Libérés de l'oubli  
Nous refusons l'aliénisation  
Fonçons tous vers la libération

Enough  
Goal was met  
Freed without mercy  
Released from a forgotten destiny  
We refuse alienation in the name of  
convention  
Let's all push for liberation

Déchirés, acculés, sans espoirs, démunis,  
Révoltés,  
Déterminés

Torned, cornered, hopeless, ripped off,  
Outraged,  
Determined,

## The Dayking

**Pierre-Luc Senécal**

**Text by Fortner Anderson**

Sleeper: I have dreamed of a darkened hourglass  
With shifting, quickly sinking sands. Under  
Its racing shadow, I trembled and stumbled  
In that time before the final grains fell.

Through countless nights, cold, still as glass,  
The night's eyes stared through me, as I waited.  
Stranded on this desolate mountaintop.  
Waiting for an end, for deliverance.

Chorus: Awake, Sleeper, Awake! Your time has come.  
On the distant mountain a pyre burns bright.

Awake, Sleeper, Awake! It is the sign,  
From desperate men who send us warning.

Sleeper: I have sacrificed my single life  
Exposed upon this blasted barren crag.  
Without the things that make a life. Alone,  
Without companion nor family.

Long since have those below forsaken me.  
In teeming cities, with laughter and sighs

Bathed in warmth and light, having forgot  
I remained beside this pyre, dutiful.

To transmit across the night's depth a sign.  
To those I do not know, have never known.  
Protecting their precious future, One I  
do not know, one that I shall never share.

Chorus: Watchman, it is time! You must rise! Obey,  
The ancient protocols and light the fire.

Sleeper: In summer under the pitiless sun  
I fed on bitter roots pulled out like teeth  
From between hot stones and after autumn rains  
In shadows I drank from shallow stinking pools.

Winter, I scraped thin frost from jagged rock  
To make my soup. While in fine houses and gilt  
Palaces in the cities, filled with warmth,  
With light, they feasted, on meat, piles of meat.

While I waited through the seasons, till thick  
Muscled arms withered to flesh-covered bone.  
Youthful legs wasted to enfeebled sticks.  
I can climb down the stone-bound path no more.

Chorus: Dawn approaches, night flees across the heavens.  
Light the signal before day's blinding light  
Obscures bright flames and so, breaks the thin chain  
Which holds the last and smallest hope for man.

Sleeper: I stood steadfast, waiting for this moment.  
One single solid link in a chain that bound  
A distant troubled past, a nightmare filled  
With uncountable unspeakable crimes

To now. This unsuspecting unaware  
Instant filled with youthful laughter  
Is pulled by a heavy anchor back  
Toward retribution quick, terrible.

There is but one choice: to protect and save  
Or to fling these lives into an abyss.  
I am master of this mountain and pyre.  
This is my time. Let it be my glory.

Chorus: Without warning their high walls shall tumble  
Under heavens dark with soot, seas shall rise  
To devour land. Sweet water shall turn sour  
Lush fields shall wither then burn. In that fire  
All will perish, their open mouths stuffed  
With dust and stones. Their tongues dead and still  
Their words falling to earth, to burrow deep  
Till they are lost, effaced and forgotten.

Sleeper: Now, whose life is small? Whose life is useless?  
Theirs dangles off a single thread. Broken  
When I turn my head, when I close my eyes  
In their high towers, with their sweets and breads  
They are doomed.

Chorus: A blood-red light rises to the east.



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