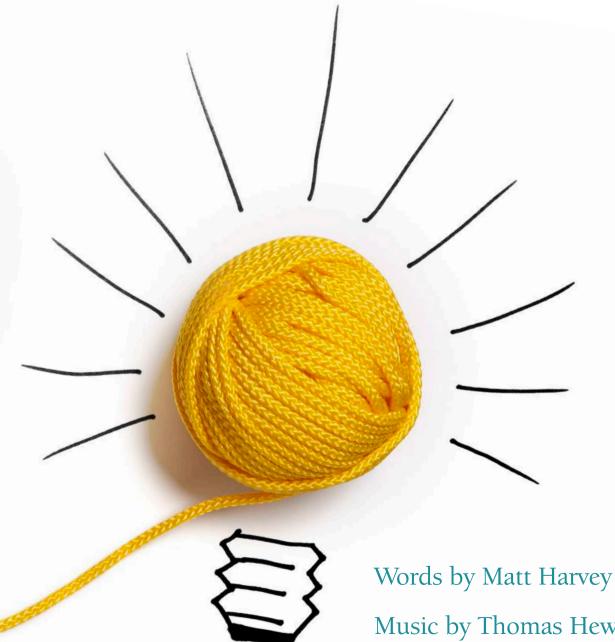
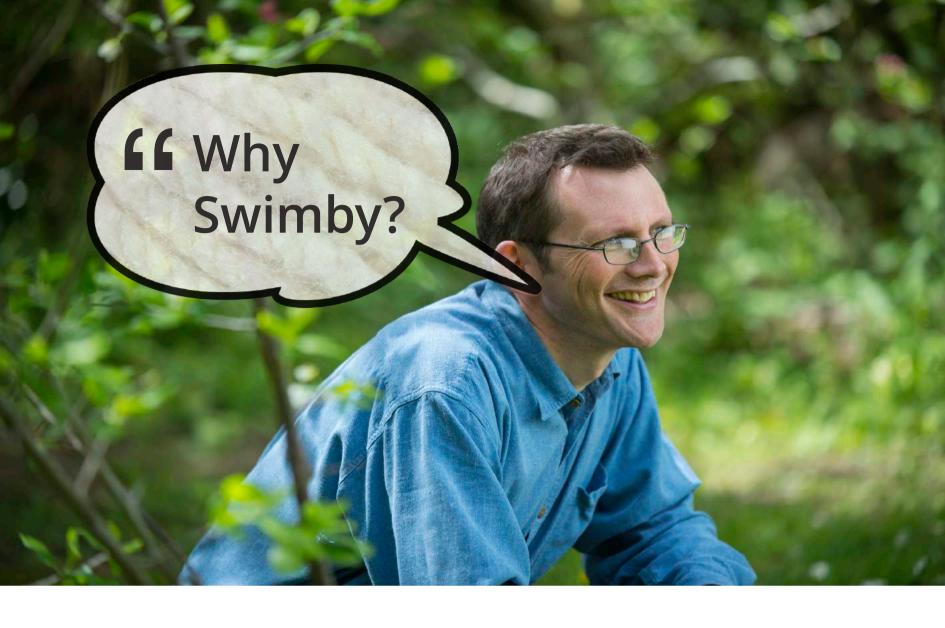


SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN BACK YARD





Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones
Produced by Chloe Uden



Why SWIMBY?

The term 'SWIMBY' came about because I was fed up of groups I knew, or was part of, who were doing what they could to stop appalling, ugly, unaffordable, unwanted developments going ahead being patronisingly labelled 'NIMBYs'. NIMBY refers to 'Not In My Back Yard'.

But none of the people I knew, or the campaigns I was part of, wanted no development at all. Rather, they were looking at what was proposed and knowing that it could actually be done differently, in a way that met the community's needs, created more local work, was beautiful, life-affirming, something we could all be proud of. We knew it could be done better. Hence SWIMBY, 'Something Wonderful In My Back Yard'.

If you want to buy a new computer, you don't settle for something that weighs half a ton and runs on Windows 3.1x. You get the best thing you can, that best meets your needs, that you love, that will work for you. Yet if you ask the same of development that we'll have to live with for decades, you're a NIMBY.

So welcome the Age of the SWIMBY! Dream big, share your ideas, why settle for less? If we put our imaginations together we can create amazing things. Up and down the country, communities are coming together as and dreaming big. Be bold.



SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN MY BACK YARD

The Songbook

The SWIMBY songbook - Our story so far*

*(So far so good)

Words Matt Harvey

Music Thomas Hewitt Jones

Produced by Chloe Uden

Published by The Quixotic Press



Legal and acknowledgements

Regen SW's arts and energy programme aims to win hearts and minds in the bid to transition to a low carbon economy. This project is designed to support our transition and community energy groups in their work and hopes this heart warming project will give audiences and participants the energy and inspiration to make something wonderful in their own back yards.





SWIMBY musical would not be possible without huge support from a great number of people.

This project has been crowd funded. We are very grateful to all of the project's backers and would like to extend special thanks to:

Andrew Garrad, Susie Hewson, Tim & Sheila Harvey, Rosie Pearson, Ben Cavanna, 't', Josephine Bush, Genevieve, Adrian & Mary Sargood, Mike Shorland and Vince Adams

Some wonderful volunteers in Exeter and Totnes have helped to yarn-bomb energy related items for this songbook. A massive thank you to: Pauline Constantine, Kathryn Humpheys, Rhiannon Gunn, Clare Cox, Diana Moore, Irene Oakley, Doreen Thompson, Glenyce Meacher, Meg Parris, Pat Berryman, Iva-Mary Cripps, Susan Ash, Denise Teague, Naomi Oppong, Katherine Manessis & Julie Strange for all your help

In particular we would like to thank Clare Bryden the artist responsible for Particulart for permission to use the knitting pattern for a carbon dioxide particle and Richard Reynolds for his guerrilla Gardening Tips.

We have had help from some talented musical pioneers who have helped us to test these songs: We would like to thank the students from KEVICC along with their generous and creative staff including Jo, Anna, Tom, Polly and Teresa. We would also like to thank Billy Bottle and Martine Waltier as well as Phillip at Eastcote Studios for their recordings of our piano demos.

Kal Lawrence is a student at Kennicott Sixth Form and he is responsible for designing the SWIMBY logo. We were so delighted with his work that we invited him to work on this songbook layout with support from Rick Lawrence.

www.kallawrence.co.uk

Many thanks to The Naturesave Trust – Funding Environmental, Conservation and Community Renewable Energy projects throughout the UK. www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/

Thank you to David Irish at KEVICC for involving his students in this design project.

Thank you also for really helpful input from Joe Sellman-Leava.

Yarn bombing photographs by Matt Austin, Other photographs by Will Dolphin & Clive Chilvers.

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About the project

I tell my kids you don't have to do something just because someone says you should, and that the excuse: "It was her idea, she said I should do it" cuts no ice. Nevertheless, this was all Chloe's idea. She said we should do it. I was coming to the end of a poet-in-residence role with RegenSW that she'd organised as Arts and Energy programme manager. At the back of our minds throughout this residency – that culminated with the publication of the Element in the Room – was the hope that some of the pieces might be set to music by my friend and collaborator Thomas Hewitt Jones and sung by community choirs. Interest had been shown.

But Chloe, aware that Thomas and I were finishing our musical retelling of Rumpelstiltskin prior to its production as The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath's Christmas show ("Wit, charm, great songs," Guardian) bypassed the songs-for-community-choir idea and went straight to: "Why don't you and Thomas write a musical?" "A musical?" "About Transition Towns?" "Transition Towns?" "Yep. Transition Town, the Musical." I laughed. Chloe laughed. Part of what was funny was that we both obviously thought it was a good idea. I ran it past Thomas. He laughed, "I'd love to do that." "Great, me too." "Oh and, um, Matt — what's a Transition Town?"

Once it became clear we were all serious we stopped laughing and became hard-headed. "Right, but who's going to fund this? Who'd want us to write this enough to pay something up front?" Chloe said we'd go to Kickstarter.com. If enough people were interested we'd get the 10k we needed to get started. And this would of course, she said, attract more (it did) so we could keep going (we are).

I ran the idea past Transition co-founder Rob Hopkins. He laughed, too, in a good way. And gave us a lovely quote for the kickstart promo page (*see below). All the lovelier, I felt, because he later admitted to not particularly liking musicals. Later still he admitted to being the originator of the SWIMBY acronym, which we'd nicked from a local Don't Bury Dartington Under Concrete campaign.

We spoke with many Transition people – in Exeter, Essex, London, Bristol and, of course Totnes. WE read things – not whole books obviously, more things off the internet, blogs etc – and watched youtube about Transition, Incredible Edible, stuff like that. We have a story in embryo, characters who I, at least, can visualise and a clutch of songs. What you hold in

your hand are the songs so far, the ones we were able to finish in time for this book. It's a bit make do and mend – but that's a good thing...

*Rob's quote: "When Matt first mentioned the idea of "Transition Town: The Musical", I couldn't help laughing. There was something silly about it, but at the same time something rather wonderful. Doing Transition has many of the elements of great musicals: drama, moments of high tension, highs of great choral unity, moments when it all locks in beautifully and it feels more exhilarating than anything else, and the fact that it needs a whole cast, not just one or two heroes. This is something designed to be performed by communities, and I really hope it becomes the 'Billy Elliot' for community activists, the 'We Will Rock You' for community energy, and the 'West Side Story' of rooftop gardeners. The world needs this musical. Please support it!"

Our story so far

Though the songs in this book don't quite – yet – add up to a whole musical's worth, they do fit into a story, kind of. And while it's not written in stone – or even sand, more a sort of putty – and we reserve the right to change any and everything, the overall arc of the story-so-far is pretty clear. I've put in brackets the (song) that is probably sung in a given place. In the 'make do and mend' spirit of the characters themselves, anyone using this book is invited to make up their own story or amend ours.

Our story is set in Fremsley, a small market town not far from where you live (Home) much of it in the Moonshine Café where pragmatic Lizzie Moon brings up her daughter Molly and serves fine vegetarian food plus the occasional Moonshine 'Special' (bacon sarnie, cooked upstairs) to those in the know.

A disappointed group trudge in to grump and a moan about the town council who've just voted yes (10-2) to a new supermarket. "Cllr. Featherstone's puppets!" opines Steve, libellously. Some Moonshine regulars quite like the prospect of a new supermarket, and in the ensuing argument (unwritten Supermarket Song) the protestors are dismissed as a 'bunch of blooming NIMBYs'. The epithet stings, and licking their wounds afterwards they decide that rather than fight Bad Things they need to actively promote Good Things – and become not NIMBY but SWIMBY. (Something Wonderful). There and then they decide to form Transition Fremsley.

This is the story of how this grows, takes shape and takes root. Early meetings are poorly attended. So are later meetings. Nevertheless, on they go. Interesting, disparate people turn up, join in, fall out and get off with each other in turn – the latter more offstage. The falling out happens more onstage, where arguments can so easily escalate into song (Get a Life, Gullible We). Plans are fomented, seeds are sown, awareness raised – well, reached for.

The Food Group gathers steam. To everyone's surprise the cool young man we thought was there because he fancies Molly turns out to be a maverick grower who loves the idea of guerilla gardening and edible veg in public beds. (Veg on the Edge). Stig's Repair and Restore group also does well. The enigmatic Eva confesses she only joined because she was lonely and a phrase on the poster – 'make do and mend' – reminds her of her mother. (Make Do and Mend). They also attract renegade WI members who introduce radical knitting. To general consternation one of them commission a new Christmas carol. Everyone thinks it's going to be SO embarrassing. (Fellowship Carol). But it's not, it's lovely.

Years go by. (This is musical theatre, we can do what we like.) The supermarket never did get around to building their store and to the consternation of Mr Featherstone who, we've learned, was hoping to do well from owning access land next to the site, the council say the Transitioners can use the land formerly earmarked for the supermarket. They move groups and workshops there and, as part of re-skilling project, they build a hub, cafe and workshop space which is also Fremsley Youth Club. It's an 'earth-ship', says Stig and George looks it up on Google and confirms: it is.

They are even emboldened to form a Community Energy Group. To generate clean green energy and, you know, combat climate change. At the public meeting, despite the eloquence of their argument for renewables (Because the Sun) they are taken aback by the vehemence of opposition, but ultimately win the day (Pie in the Sky).

Things are going so well – till they are told their flagship eco-build wonderland will all have to come down. They didn't have permission to make it in the first place and anyway it's all needed now because the supermarket chain has decided to go ahead after all. They have to pull it down, their community energy scheme is going nowhere, it all looks bad for them. All that's left is to acknowledge the good they've done and lament. (In Our Own Back Yard).

Then Google George looks on the internet and points out that, technically, planning permission has to be sought again. Mr Featherstone recalls the 10 votes to two of last time, surely it's a shoein. Or is it? They mobilise to win hearts and minds, hold a march that's more of a parade than a protest, and yarn-bomb the town, dressing up prominent landmarks including the speed camera and the statue of Fremsley's great philanthropist Hector Cousins.

Many townsfolk are with them. The vote goes with Transition Fremsley and against the supermarket. They can hardly believe it. (Gullible We Reprise). They've not just grown food, repaired and restored, set up a renewable energy co-op and built an earth-ship, they've helped a town feel like a community. (In Our Own Back Yard Reprise) They have made Something Wonderful in their Back Yard. (Something Wonderful, Home, Reprise).

Bunch of blooming SWIMBYs that they are.



About the Songs

Home – "Home is where we start from" and this song starts the show. A fast-paced song about what home means to us, why it's important, and could apply to any hometown. Contains one or two clichés – that's homes for you.

Something Wonderful (in My Back Yard) – This title songs starts out wistfully wondering what it might be like if we did, one day, something special in our lives and how our children and grand-children might see us, before morphing into an upbeat anthem with the determined, present-time intention to "Make something extraordinary / that's more than you that's more than me".

Veg on the Edge – An attitude-filled vegetable-inspired rap about a posse of young growers who grow as an act of radical defiance. Or so they claim. It's ridiculous but got to be done straight.

"I got sorrel in my song, I got beans in my ballad / Everyone can sing along, it's not rocket salad"

Make Do and Mend – A softer song about a woman making the best of things during a difficult time. People join in with Transition for different reasons. Many aren't idealists nor even particularly concerned about energy or climate change, some are just a bit lonely. "Make do and mend, it's what her mother says"

Get a Life – When you've been told to "Get a life" enough times you might begin to question what kind of life they mean, what kind of life do you want, what kind is available? This happygo-cynical song questions the expectations and values we're sold and asks if there are other lives we could 'get'.. "Here's a check list – just tick your favourite box / try to fit in, in that box you ticked!"



Gullible We – Everyone believes in something – this strangely reassuring song celebrates our credulousness along with our incredible resilience and hopefulness in the face of mis-information and myth. "Everything's credible, credible to / Sweet gullible me & sweet gullible you" "And everything, everything's fine / You CAN have a powerful body like mine!"

Fellowship Carol – We'd written a song about friendship that we wanted to include, but it didn't seem right for the musical so we wrote a traditional carol about friendship during a time of loneliness, imagining it written by one of the characters themselves. "So spare a thought or shed a tear / for everyone who's far away / and raise a glass, or say a prayer / for those alone on Christmas Day." Some of the characters aren't sure about it but we love it.

Because the Sun – A melodic pro-renewable energy song about the logic, wisdom and ultimate inevitability of harnessing the power of elemental forces. "Because the need is always there / Because the means are all around / Alive within the quickening air / Within the waters, underground"

Pie in the Sky – An energetic, pro-renewable energy, Country and Western inspired song – Yee hah! "Put a saddle on a sunbeam / Hang a bridle on a breeze / Ride the tide into the future land / of Possibilities". Could do with some nimble-fingered banjo-picking.

Gullible We (Reprise) – Revisiting the earlier celebration of this underrated human trait with an unashamedly self-congratulatory reprise. "Turn Tinkerbell dreams into practical schemes"

In Our Own Back Yard – A simple song – the simplest in the Songbook – sung by people who are basking in – and blinking in surprise at – their own achievements. "Right here where we live / here where we live and love and argue / here where we never thought we could / we have made something good"





Words by Matt Harvey ${\hbox{$\mathbb O$}}$ Matt Harvey 2015 Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones ${\hbox{$\mathbb O$}}$ Metronome Music Ltd 2015



SOMETHING WONDERFUL

Words by Matt Harvey

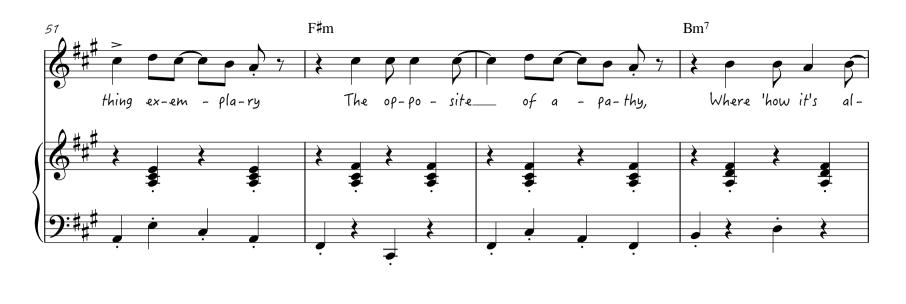
Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones



Words by Matt Harvey © Matt Harvey 2015 Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones © Metronome Music Ltd 2015



Up-tempo, swung (very lively indeed) **2=2**160 F#m 33 E (no chord) We'll cul - ti - vate com - mu - ni-ty, Dm thing We'll har-ness pull_ we'll_ make won - der-ful! our own hun - ger's and some F#m Bm^7 our own neigh - bour-hood, Make some-thing for the great-er good Right here in Make some-thing (optional D/E 2nd2part) quite ex-tr'ord-in-'ry___ That's more than more_ than We'll make someyou___ and













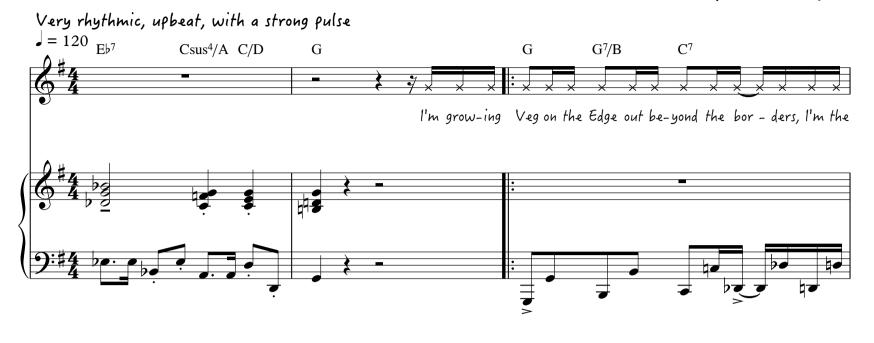


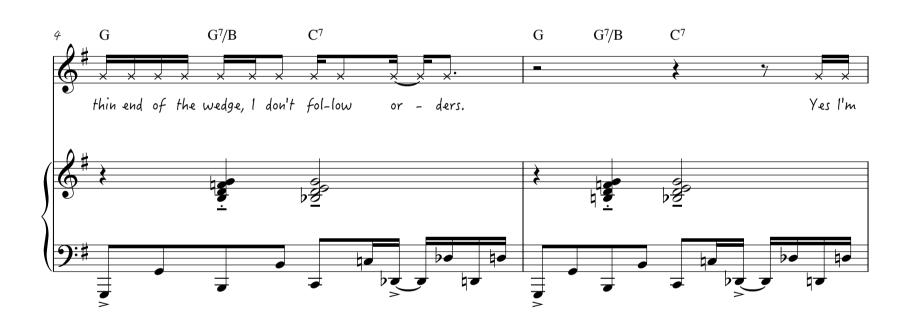
During this number extensive use of percussion is encouraged to create a rap beat of your liking.

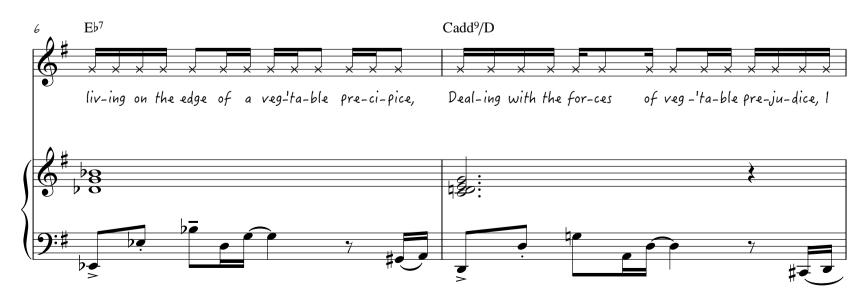
VEG ON THE EDGE

Words by Matt Harvey

Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones

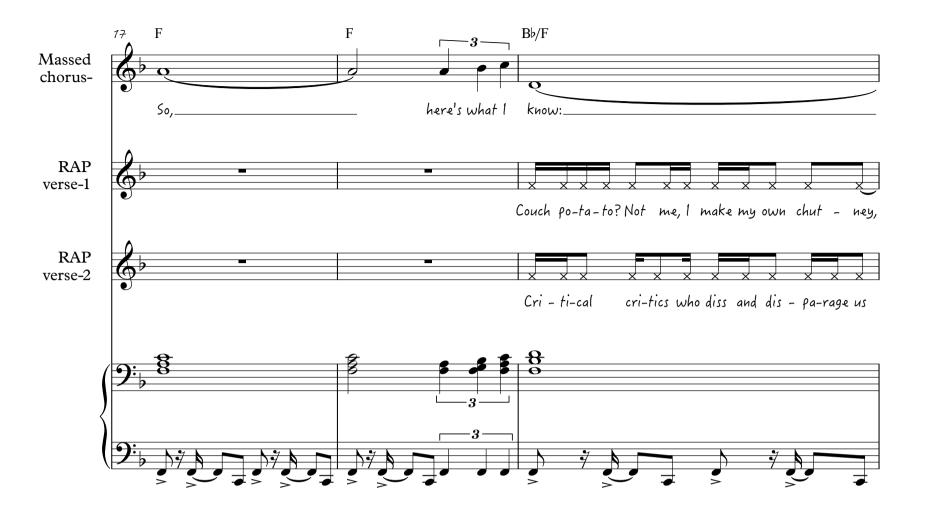


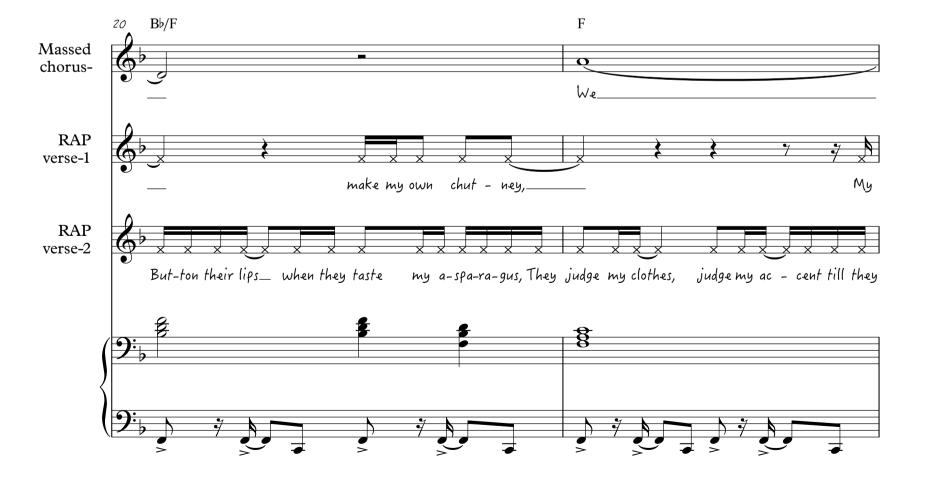


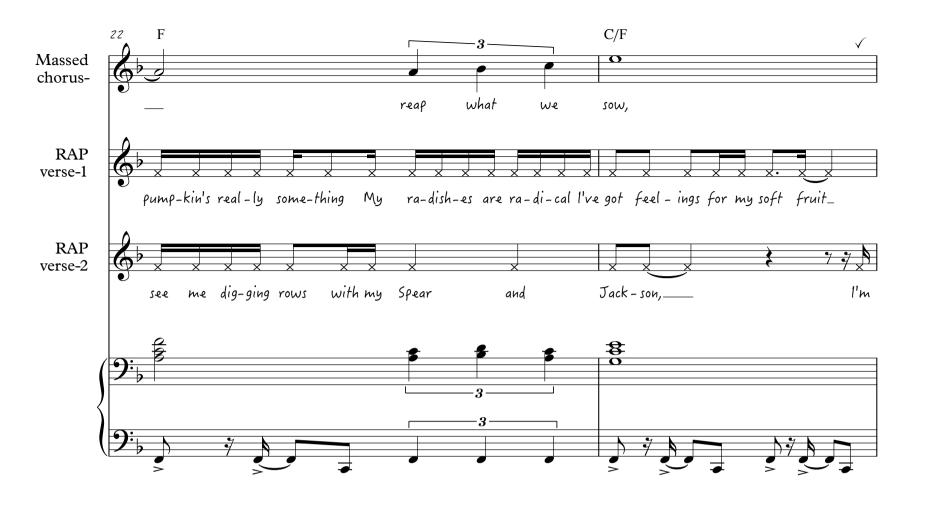


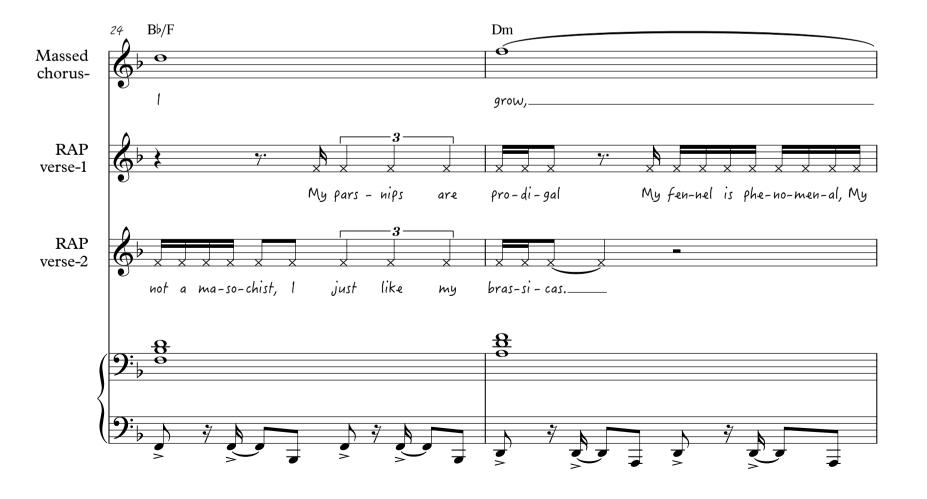
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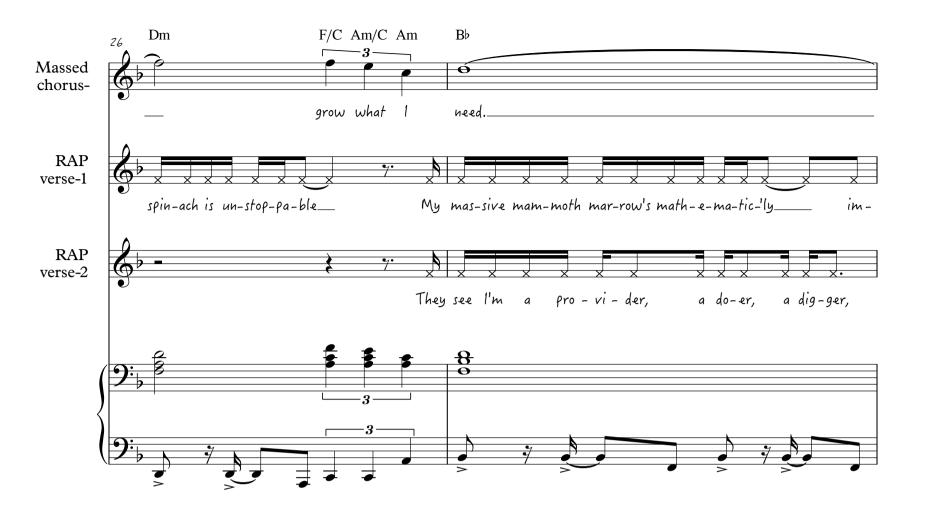


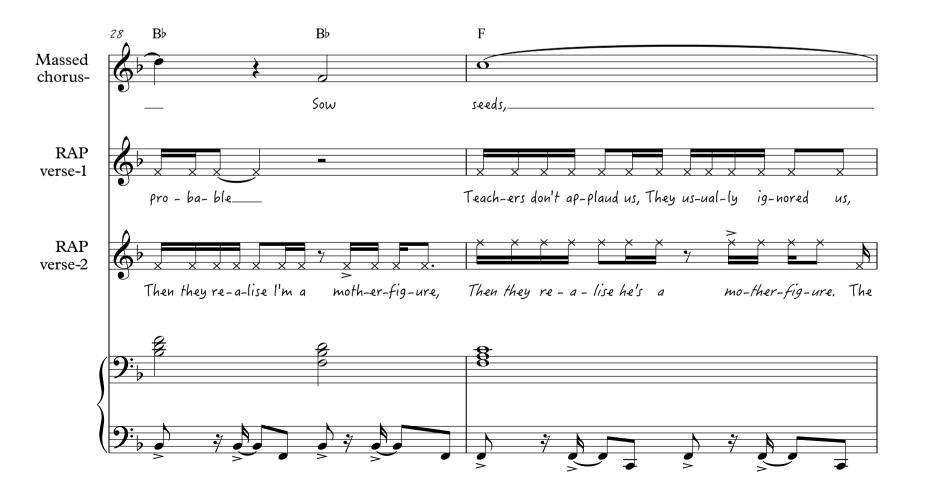


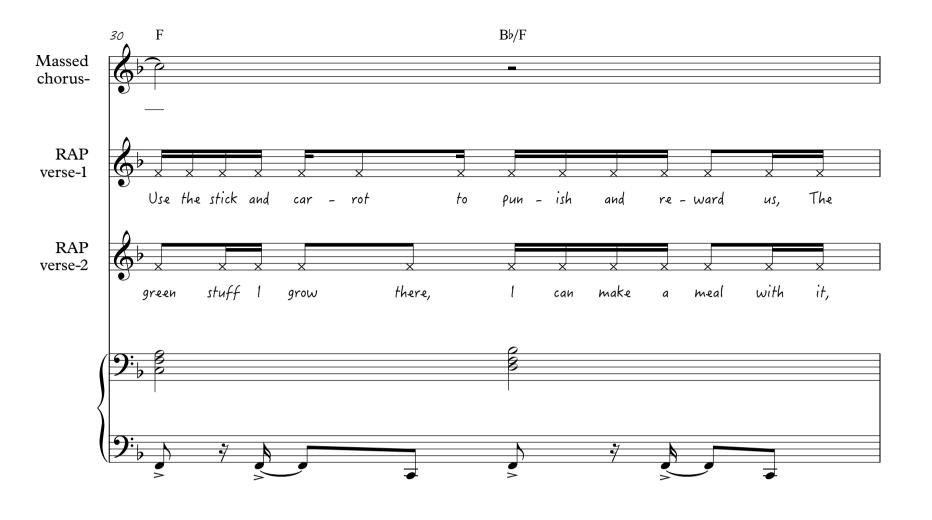


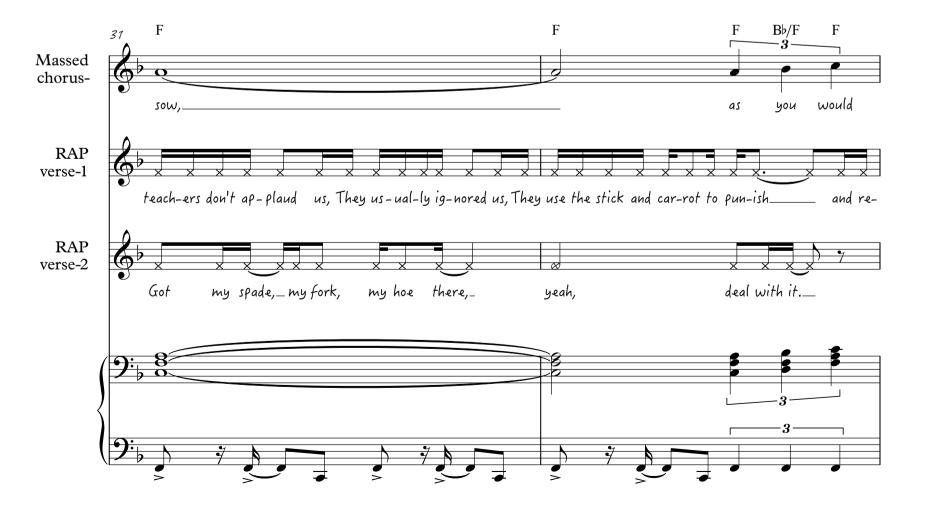


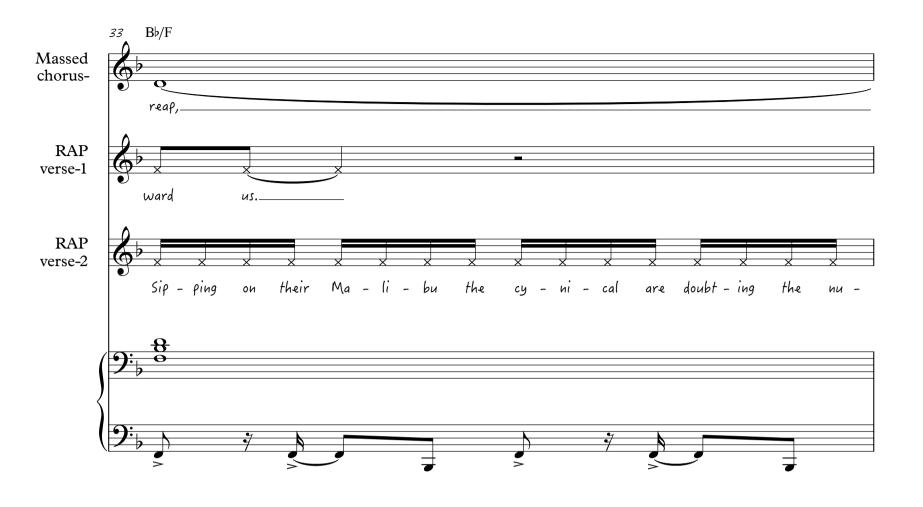


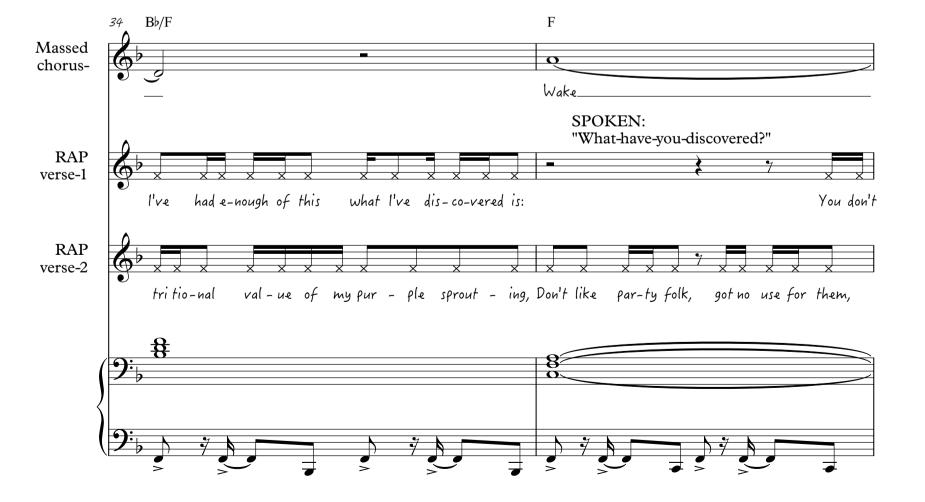


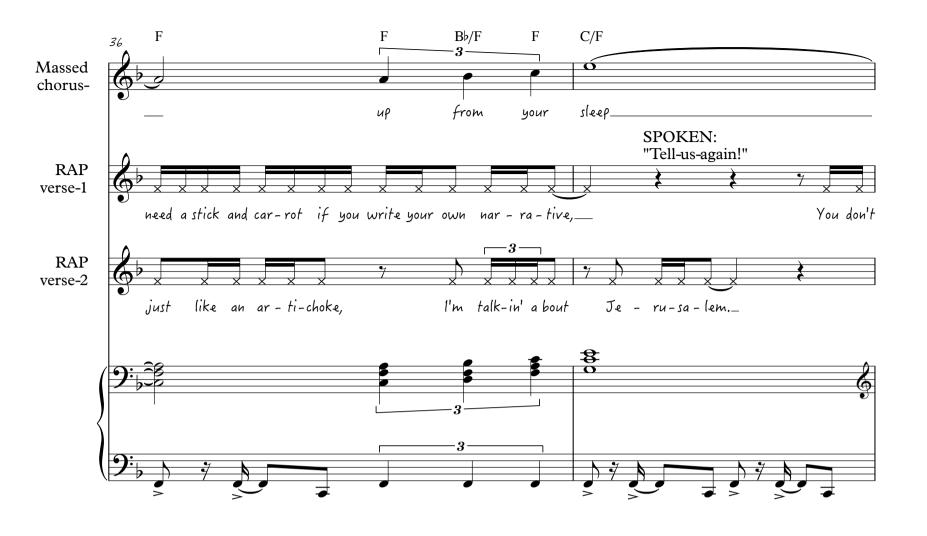


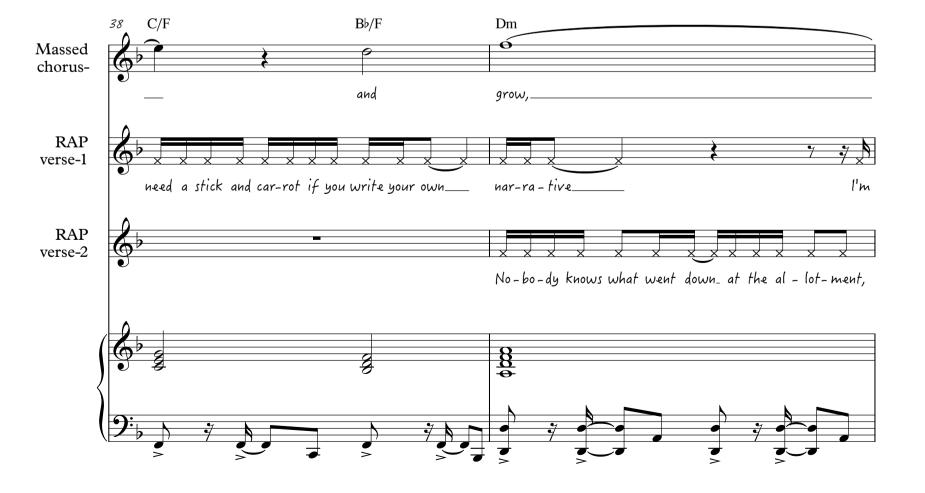


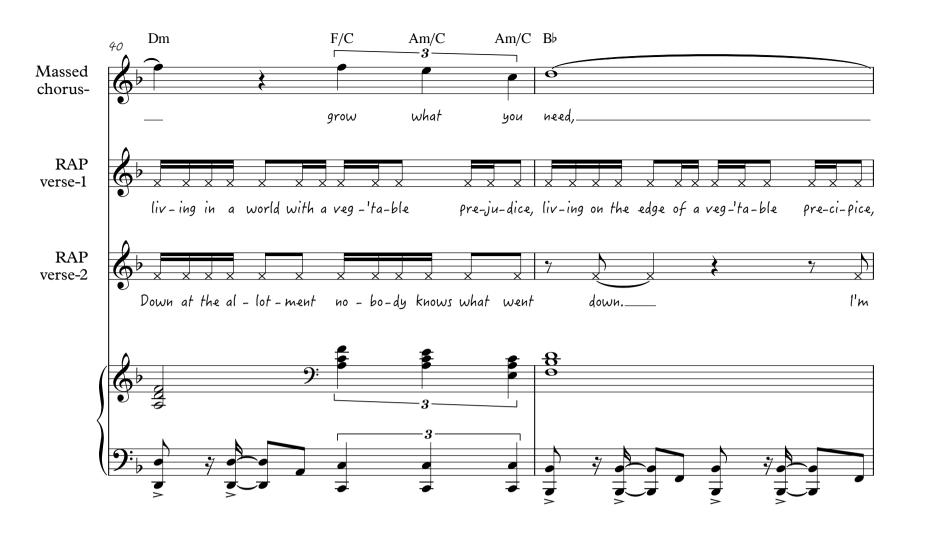


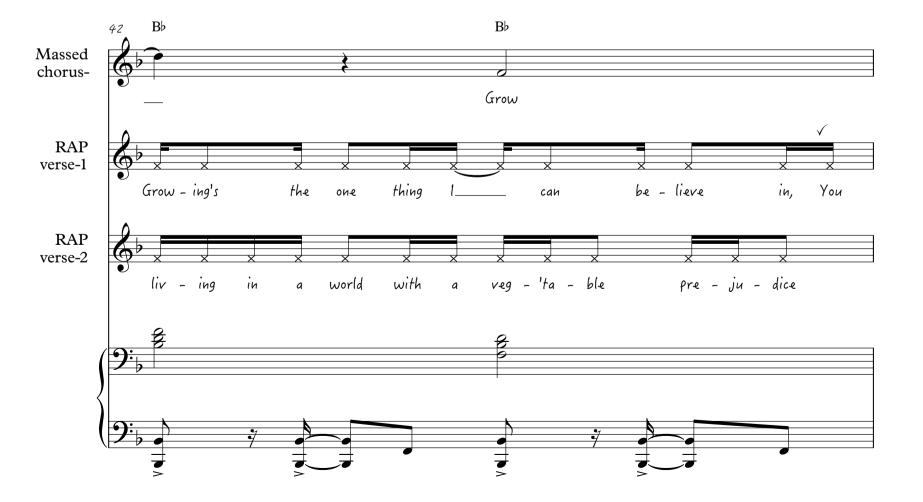


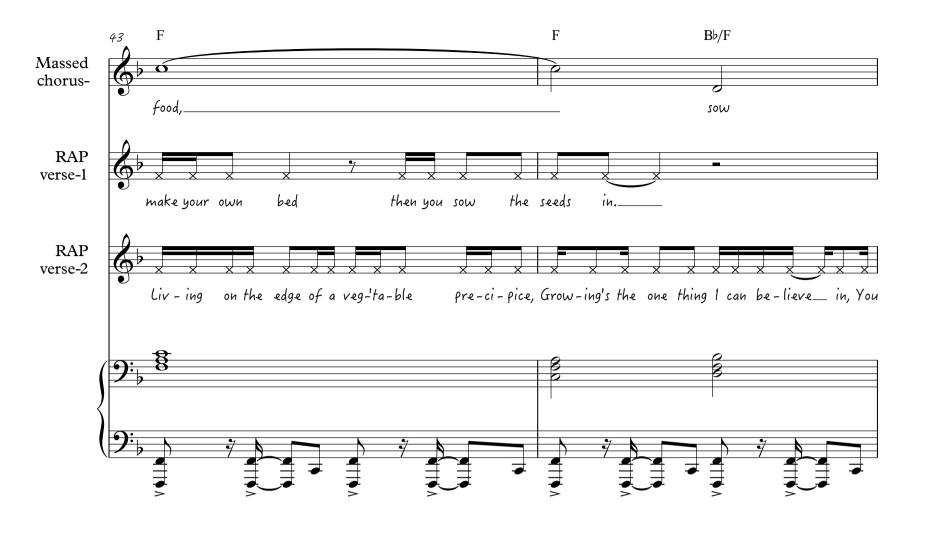


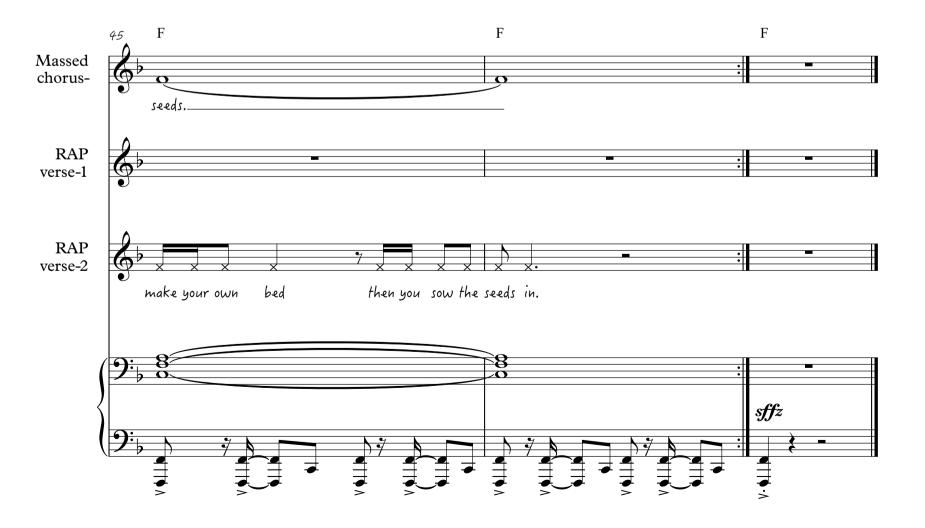
















GUERRILLA GARDENING.ORG

"When Richard Reynolds began planting flowers secretly at night outside his tower block in South London, he had no idea that he was part of a growing global movement committed to combating the forces of neglect, land shortage and apathy towards public spaces. But before long, his blog had attracted other guerrillas from around the world to share their experiences of the horticultural frontline, and is now a focal point for guerrilla gardeners everywhere" – On Guerrilla Gardening by Richard Reynolds

Here are some top tips taken from Richard's really wonderful website which has some really great pictures and community pages:

1. Spot some local orphaned land

You will be amazed how many little grubby patches of unloved public space there are. Neglected flowerbeds, concrete planters sprouting litter and untamed plants, bare plots of mud. Chose one close to home, perhaps you pass it on the way to the shops or work, and appoint yourself it's parent. This will make it much easier to look after in the long term and reduce the risk of straying into a dangerous neighbourhood.

2. Plan a mission

Make a date in the diary for an evening attack, when trouble-making busy bodies are out of sight. Invite supportive friends. (You can also invite friendly strangers through the community pages on www.guerrillagardening.org)

3. Find a local supply of plants

The cheaper the better. For city dwellers think local DIY stores, supermarkets and wholesalers. The cheapest plants are ones that are free. Sometimes garden centres will have spare plants to give you for the cause. Or befriend someone with a garden (you might even be lucky and have a garden yourself).

4. Choose plants for front line battle

Think hardy - resistant to water shortages and the cold, and in some locations pedestrian trampling! These plants need to look after themselves a lot of the time. Think impactful - colour, ever green foliage, scale. These plants need to really make a difference, for as much of the year as possible. In London I use a lot of herbs like Lavender and Thyme, tulip bulbs & shrubs.

5. Get some Wellington Shoes

Whilst protecting your feet from mud and providing good purchase on a fork, these rubber shoes also don't look too obviously "agricultural" as the usual boot, and blend in well with the urban environment. I've even worn these clubbing. Andy (a fellow guerrilla gardener) wrapped his white trainers in carrier bags which worked very effectively, and enables a very convincing clean-footed get-away should you want to whip them off quickly.

6. Bag some bags

Plastic bags or bin liners are essential for clearing up the detritus of war as weeds, litter, flower-pots, and pebbles need to be carried away. For gentle work; recuse wind blown carrier bags or for more serious gardening; reuse compost bags or giant sacks from builder's merchants. The thick plastic does not rip and you can lug a great deal in them to a nearby bin.

7. Regular Watering

One of the responsibilities of a Guerrilla Gardener is on-going tending. Water is short in many parts of the world, even drizzly old London. The Guerrilla Gardener must usually carry water. I have used petrol canisters; they are the perfect watertight, efficiently packed, portable transportation. But it has caused passers-by to ask if I am a nocturnal arsonist.

8. Seed bombs

For gardening those areas where access is difficult or a long dig is unsuitable, use a seed bomb (sometimes called green grenade). These are seeds and soil held in an explosive or degradable capsule. There are many different methods; some you can easily make at home, some that require a bit more ingenuity. Have a look online for some recipes.



9. Spread the word

Let people know what you have done with a few flyers under doors near the guerrilla gardening war zone, a poster taped to a phone box or bus stop, a marker in the soil. Engage passers by in conversation; perhaps even bring a few spare tools. And welcome local media (particularly if they'll help towards the cost of your gardening, which many do).



10. Buy the book!

Through building this website I have met and talked with guerrilla gardeners around the world. Some publishers encouraged me to write a book and I leapt at the chance to put it all together in a beautiful handbook and find out more about why, what and how people were fighting for and against. It's not a manifesto, it's a collection of different approaches, tales and tips, history and horticulture, and although you'll learn my favourites it also raises questions about society today. I hope you find it inspiring, useful and entertaining. It's available in English, German, French and Korean.

MAKE DO AND MEND

Words by Matt Harvey Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones Haunting c = c.66 D C#m⁷ F#m And where she goes no-bo - dy O E/G# F#m _ Dmaj⁷(add⁹) Aadd⁹/C# $\mathrm{C}^{\sharp}\mathrm{m}^7$ Ama⁷ Bm/D knows, No-bo-dy knows she's here, But she's far, __ far a - way And no - one knows her name We are О F#m E/G# Dmaj⁷/A F#sus⁴/B F#m F#m D/B crea-tures of ri - o - si - ty._ it's what her mo-ther says. Make do and mend___ Amaj⁷sus²/F# D Bm^7 She's not the first, won't be the last, 'rinth of the past, in the lab lost she's on - ly ò

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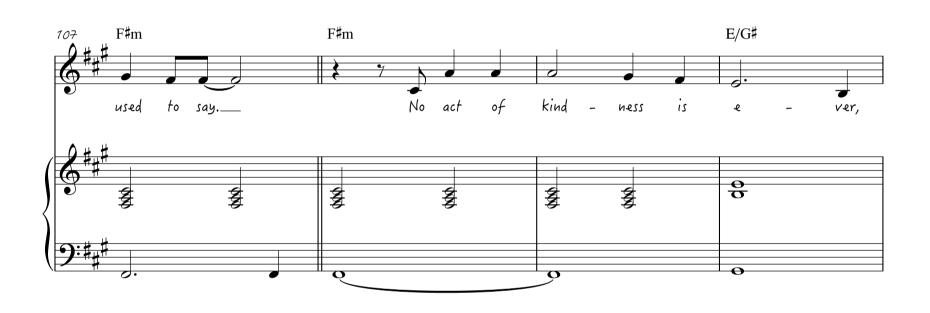


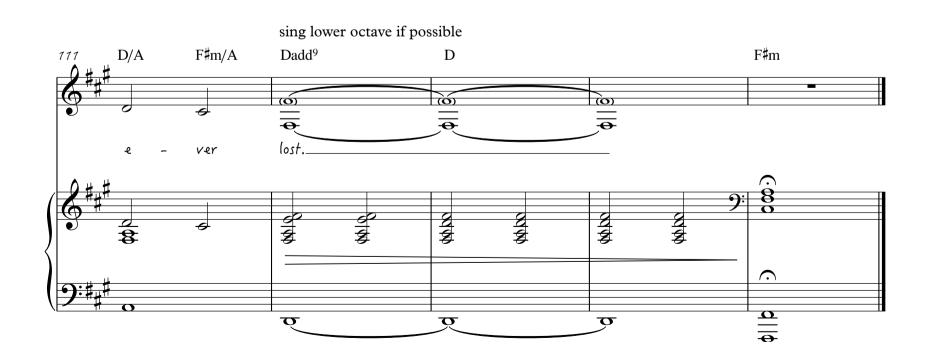












Carbon particles knitting pattern

Clare Bryden is a knitting activist – or a craftivist. She uses yarns to help people understand the chemistry involved in climate change and our impact on the environment in an act of gentle protest.

Watching her knit some carbon dioxide particles, we were inspired to incorporate knitting in the SWIMBY story somehow. So in honour of her work, we've included a knitting pattern for a carbon dioxide particle below. If you are new to knitting, some of the codes below may be a mystery. But the internet is full of marvels such as tutorials and knitting videos.

kfb knit into the front an back of the stitch

.. repeat stitches in between

k2tog knit two together

skpo slip stitch, knit next stitch, pass slip stitch over the knitted stitch

Wool Double knit Needle 3.75mm

Tension 26 stitches to 10cm

The atom will be approx 20 cm in circumference.



ATOM Pattern

Cast on 12 sts

rl	knit
r2	purl
r3	kfb into each st (24 sts)
r4	purl all
r5	*k1, kfb* across row (36 sts)
r6	cast on 1 st, purl across row, cast on 1 st at end (38 sts)
r7-r18	continue in stocking stitch for 12 rows starting with a knit row
r19	k2tog, *k1, skpo* (25 sts)
r20	purl
r21	k2tog, *skpo* to last 3 sts, k1, k2tog (13 sts)
r22	p1, *p3tog*

Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm tail.

Thread onto needle, thread through remaining stitches and pull tight.

Sew edges together, stuff atom, thread through casting on stitches and pull tight.

Knot tails together, thread onto needle and pass through atom, and cut so ends stay inside.

BOND Pattern – joining two atoms of the same colour

Cast on 4 sts, leaving a 20 cm tail.

Knit i-cord for 16 rows.

Cast off i-cord, leaving a 20 cm tail.

Pattern – joining two different colour atoms

Cast on 4 sts, leaving a 20 cm tail.

Knit i-cord for 8 rows.

Knit 1 stitch i-cord, join the second colour and knit the rest of the row.

Knit i-cord for 7 rows.

Cast off i-cord, leaving a 20 cm tail.

Knot the tails of the two colours at the join.

Thread each tail in turn onto a needle, pass through the cord of the same colour, cut so ends stay inside.

Work the knot inside the cord, and the stitches so they even out.

Thread each 20cm tail onto a needle and sew the bond onto the atom.

Pass remaining tail through atom, cut so ends stay inside.

GET A LIFE

Words by Matt Harvey

Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones





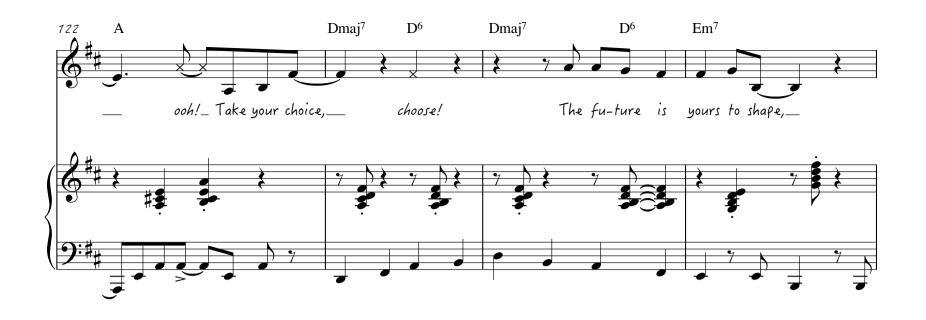


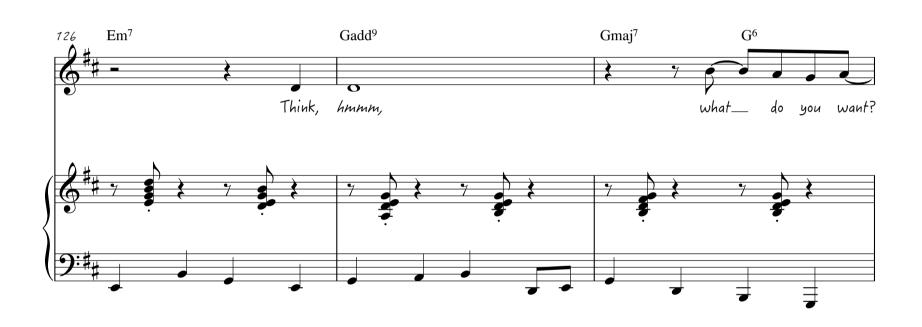


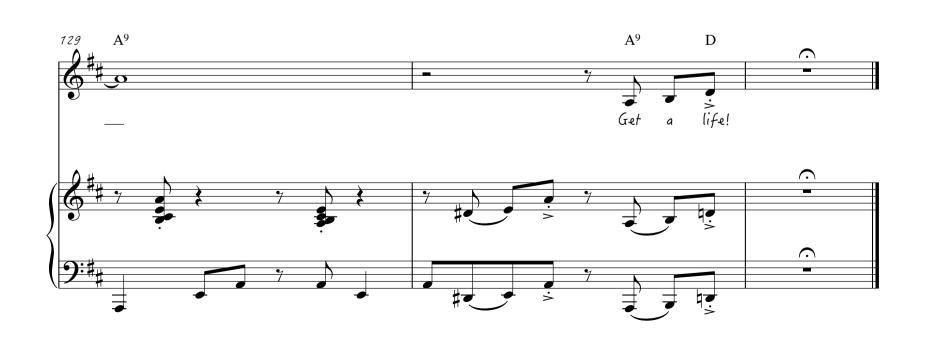












GULLIBLE WE

Words by Matt Harvey





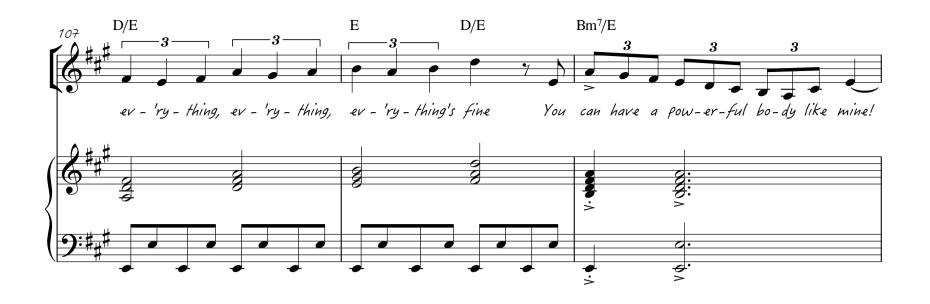


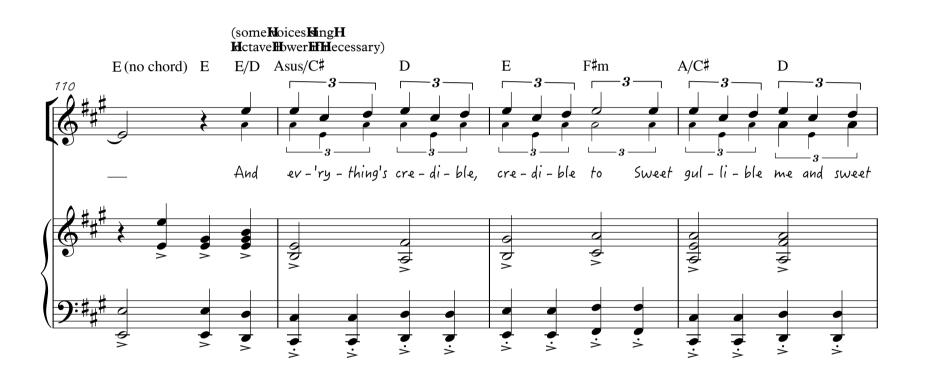


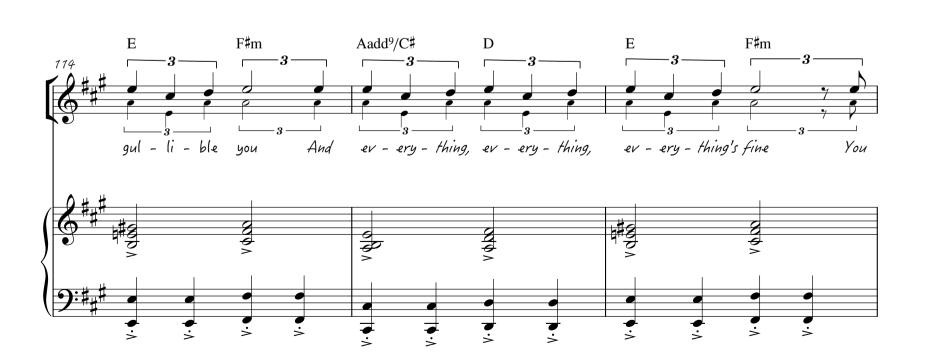


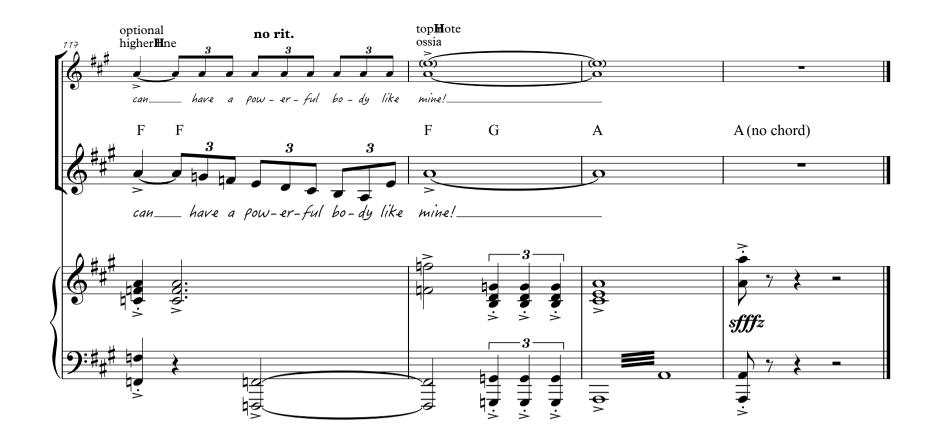














Gullible Stew

A sweet, rich everyday vegetable curry

You will need:

1 onion

a suggestion of celery - people always suggest celery - you'll miss it if it isn't there

1tbsp sunflower oil

4 cloves from a believable bulb of garlic

2 and half cm piece of fresh ginger that's without foundation

a fait accompli of coriander (about 2 teaspoons)

2 tentative teaspoons of cumin

a persuasive pinch of cayenne pepper, depending on how hot you like it

1 level teaspoon of completely trumped up turmeric

1x400g tin of chopped tomatoes

an improbable quantity of sweet potatoes (not the giant ones, we don't believe in giants)

a credible cauliflower

1x400g tin of coconut milk

a completely made up quantity of cashew nuts

a suspicion of sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 1. Peel the onion, roughly chop the onion and celery and fry gently in the oil in a large saucepan for 5 minutes. Peel and grate the garlic and ginger, add to the pan and fry for 1 minute. Add the spices and cook for a further 2 minutes until they are fragrant.
- 2. Add the tomatoes, and the peeled and cubed sweet potatoes. You'll probably notice how chunky I leave the veg. Cook for about 30 minutes, adding water if it seems to be drying
- 3. Divide the cauliflower into florets and add them to the pan with the coconut milk. Put the lid on and simmer for around 8 minutes, or until soft.
- **4.** Meanwhile, gently toast the cashew nuts in a dry frying pan.
- 5. Season to taste and add the nuts just before serving.

Should be served in a highly convincing casserole dish. Stand back and admire the placebo effect.

Tips:

Add an assertion of spinach or a placebo of peas for colour

Serve on a bed of rice with a duvet of dreams and a mattress of imagination

Finish with a blob of yoghurt

FELLOWSHIP CAROL

Words by Matt Harvey Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones Gently flowing: poignant and atmospheric $J = 70 \ (D^7)$ Bm/F# Dsus⁴/E Em^7 1.1t's Christ-mas Day, they should be zĄ your fam-i - ly are "what would Je-sus do?"_ n't 2. You need - n't ask,_ You know he would Gmaj⁷/D Cm⁶/Eb C^6/D 1*t*'s The lie. be - neath the thered near, pres - ents tree, Not who. way,_ way_ from some - one was 00 :# 20 A^7 C^6/D \mathbf{D}^7 Am/G D/F# Bm/D it's Christ - mas Day. Come look here and - n't all on Christ - mas Day. 1+ lone is hard to un - der -Ó 10 D7 omit3/A $Gmaj^7sus^4$ G11 G F/G F6/G Caug ma⁷ Am/C A To side, There's some - one there. who's their ОИ own call of stand the to your way 0





BECAUSE THE SUN



Words by Matt Harvey © Matt Harvey 2015 Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones © Metronome Music Ltd 2015

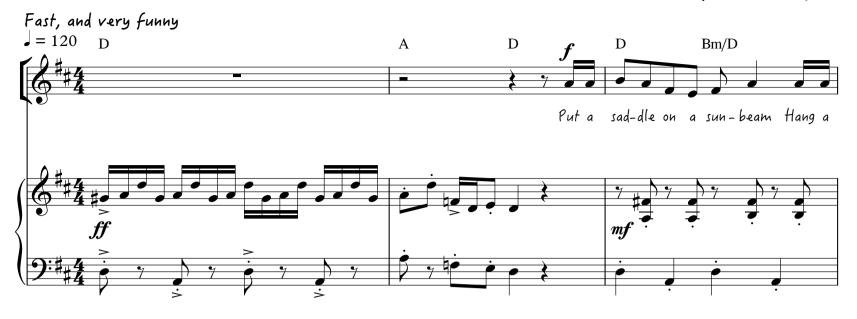




PIE IN THE SKY

Words by Matt Harvey

Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones







Words by Matt Harvey © Matt Harvey 2015 Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones © Metronome Music Ltd 2015











Yarn Bombing

Yarn-bombing is the art of covering things with knitting or crochet. It is usually bright and colourful and invites us to look again at the object that's been bombed. It is fairly durable, but unlike graffiti, it is easy to remove. Yarn bombing is usually playful, friendly and brings a smile to passers-by.

We wanted to include it in the show because it's so colourful and joyful and as different characters take up knitting then collaborate on civic yarn-bombing it becomes a subliminal symbol of community cohesion! (We hope).

There are no knitting patterns for yarn-bombing. It could be the first free-style knitting experience someone has! But basically if you can knit or crochet at all (even if it's just a rectangle shape), you can yarn bomb! (You just have to choose something that could be wrapped in a rectangle!)

The moment that you know how to increase or decrease you can cope with more complex shapes.

We found that working on smallish handleable items is a good place to start – choose walkingsticks, saucepans, trowels or table lamps etc. It is fairly straightforward to knit and compare what you've knitted with your object to make sure it fits as you go.

You will need:

Knitting needles and plenty of wool in different colours

Lots of everyday objects for knitters to chose from

A group of willing knitters (an existing knitting circle could do this for instance) - Tea and cake

In two x 1 and a half hour sessions, you can usually start and often finish something like this – and then you have all sorts of objects that make a great display. It is always interesting to see what others have made.

One of the yarn-bombing sessions ran was held in Totnes in August 2015. We decided to run this project as part of our community musical www.SWIMBYmusical.com.

It's always good to let conversation flow comfortably in a knitting session, but often groups are willing to consider questions too. Here are some questions about energy that you could bring up:

What are your first memories of electricity?

What's it like in a black out?

What's your favourite appliance and why?

What are your top tips for saving money on your energy bill?

Once people are comfortable knitting freestyle it becomes easier to take on bigger challenges. You could choose to yarn bomb something larger together – perhaps a lamp post, or a telephone box, or the fence around a sub-station.

If you want to delve deeper into questions about what we can do to support local energy projects to improve our community's resilience, it may be worth inviting someone from a community energy or sustainable energy group to come and join in one of these knitting sessions! You could then consider things like:

What do you think about community energy?

Can you think of any good places to put solar panels, hydro systems or wind turbines near here?

What do you think we should do about energy now to protect future generations?

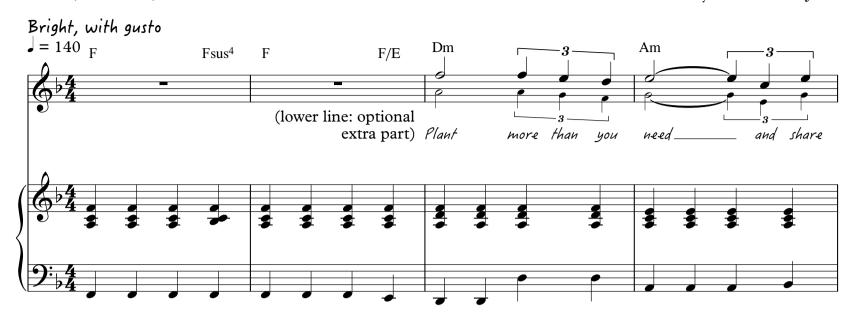
I know it's ambitious, but I would really love to yarn-bomb the base of a wind turbine! So if anyone out there wants to join me in doing this please let me know! (Here's a model I made earlier!)

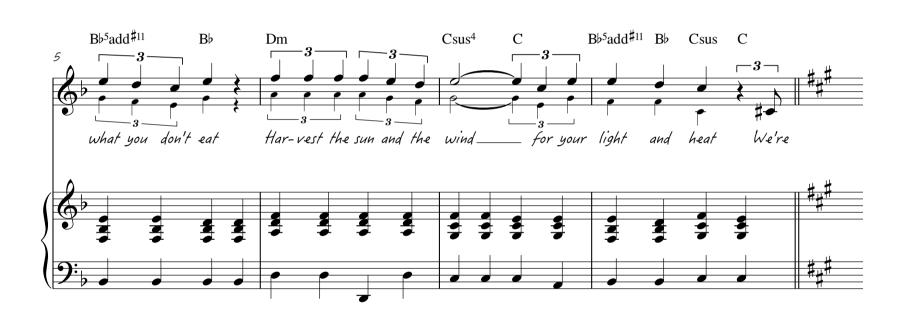
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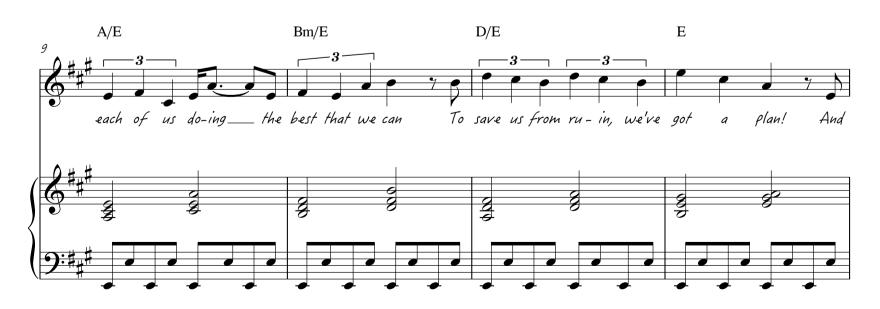
GULLIBLE WE REPRISE

Words by Matt Harvey

Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones













IN OUR OWN BACK YARD

Words by Matt Harvey

Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones



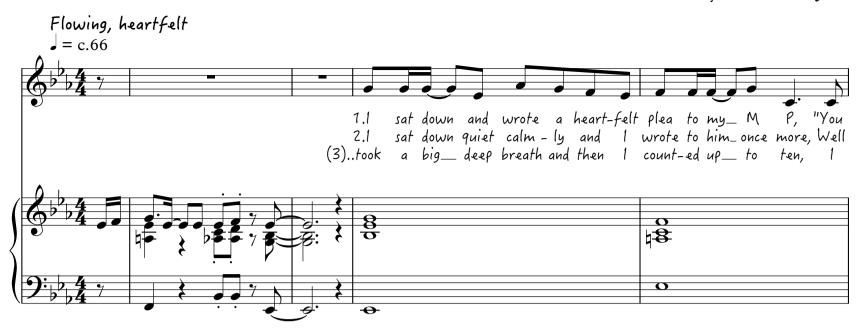
Words by Matt Harvey ${\hbox{$\mathbb O$}}$ Matt Harvey 2015 Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones ${\hbox{$\mathbb O$}}$ Metronome Music Ltd 2015



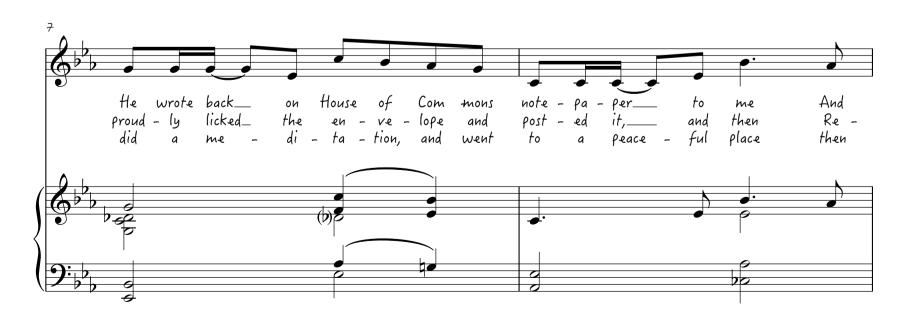
LETTER TO MY MP

Words by Matt Harvey

Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones







Words by Matt Harvey © Matt Harvey 2015 Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones © Metronome Music Ltd 2015

































What is Transition?

'SWIMBY - The Musical' was originally called 'Transition Town the Musical'. Although the title changed, it still tells the story of an imaginary community becoming a Transition Town. So what on earth is one of those? There are now Transition groups in over 50 countries around the world, in thousands of places. Basically, it's a process whereby people come together to reimagine and rebuild the place they live.

It started in Totnes in 2006, and it's a creative, dynamic, fun way of getting people together to do good things. Transition groups start new food markets, community energy companies, food-growing projects, teach each other new skills. They might print their own money like the Totnes Pound, Exeter Pound or Bristol Pound. They often start new businesses, new enterprises, and try to bring assets like land or buildings into community ownership. And they make new friendships in the process.

The fundamental idea is to make that community more resilient, more able to adapt and thrive in uncertain or difficult times. Here's our Transition Manifesto which might give you a better sense of what Transition is:

Reimagine and rebuild
Put care at the centre
Weave your community together
Live within limits
Your local economy matters - support it
Seize the opportunities that present themselves
Be entrepreneurial
Celebrate often
Enable your community to own assets
Look for the fertile edges
Be creative, playful and open
Keep telling great stories
Invest in your community
Turn needs into opportunities
Support each other

And this approach is the economic model of the future. A recent report which looked at the work of 39 Transition groups in 15 countries found that between them they had raised over £13,155,104.88 in community investment in renewable energy, led to 131,049 more miles being cycled, put £1,025,379 worth of complementary currency into circulation, led to 74,196 more miles being walked, inspired 15,527 hours of volunteer input, saved 21 tonnes of food from landfill per year, begun work on building projects with a value of £3,521,150, saved 1,352,277 miles of car travel, created 39 new social enterprises, and produced 16,200 MWh of renewable electricity per year, which generates annual savings of 9,202 tonnes of CO2.

Starting local CAN change the world, and IS changing the world. If 'SWIMBY - the Musical' inspires you, turn that energy into action, and change the world, starting at your back door.

www.transitionnetwork.org

SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN BACK YARD

A sparkling new crowd-funded community musical!

Think of a musical and you might imagine the romance of West Side Story or the razzle dazzle of Chicago. But this new musical has a different setting and tackles a very different subject: how do a motley group of ordinary, argumentative people persuade their make-do-and-mend, muddle-through market town to embrace community food and energy schemes and become more resilient?

Designed to be used by community choirs; This songbook contains the first songs from the musical with parts for piano or guitar accompaniment. We've also included knitting patterns for carbon dioxide particles, approaches to guerrilla gardening and a recipe for gullible stew.

Words by Matt Harvey Music by Thomas Hewitt Jones Produced by Chloe Uden

