Wheel of the Year
A Pagan Song Cycle

For Choir, Soloists, Two Flutes, ‘Cello, Piano, Hand Drum, and Singing Bowl in C.

Leanne Daharja Veitch

2004
For Michael, Matchiko, and the Akasha Coven.
Wheel of the Year: A Pagan Song Cycle

Notes about the Wheel of the Year

This piece celebrates the eight holy days of the Pagan community, which are collectively known as the Wheel of the Year. All of the text and music is original and copyright to the composer, except where indicated below (**).

The Wheel of the Year: A Pagan Song Cycle also includes opening and closing movements.

Samhain (1 May)

Samhain (pronounced saw-een) is the Pagan New Year, and it is from here that the Wheel of the Year is traditionally counted. It is a time for fireworks, sparklers and night-time celebration, and a time to both say farewell to the old year, and to welcome in the new. Thyme (associated with departed souls), rue (the flower of repentance), and rosemary (for remembrance) are the traditional herbs burned at Samhain. Samhain is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed on, and many Pagan set candles at the windows of their homes (to welcome friendly souls).

Eucalyptus, rosemary,
Burning brightly for remembrance:
Burning bright for purity
On this night when we remember…

Once again, Shadow’s Eve.
Light the candle at the window.
Set a light to guide them home
Through the darkness of the night.

Contemplate our visions,
Dreaming of times long gone:
Dreaming of our loved ones
Who have passed across our lives…

Eucalyptus, rosemary,
Burning brightly for remembrance
Burning bright for purity
On this night when we recall.

Yule (21-22 June)

The Midwinter Solstice, when the nights are longer and the days shorter than at any other time of the year. Yule corresponds in many ways with the Northern Hemisphere Christian Christmas festival. Yule logs are burned, homes are decorated with evergreen, and gifts are given. Yule is a traditional time of feasting, and the seasonal colors are green and red. Yule was the traditional time of birth of Dionysus, Mithras and Baal. The birth of the Norse Goddess Freya was also celebrated at this time.

Cold snow,
Icy the winds that blow
Cold, blow, in the dark of night.

Cold snow, icy the winds that blow
Cold, blow in the dark of night.

Icy cold wind blow, freezing winter snow
Yuletide is come!
Feel the icy breath, bitter cold of death
Yuletide is come!
Cold winter wind blowing icily.
Coldest, longest of nights.
Coldest, darkest of nights.

Drifting snowflakes on the air, blowing icily.
Twirling snowflakes on the air:
Wintertime at Yule.

**Imbolc (1 August)**

Imbolc is the celebration of the imminent arrival of Spring. White and green candles are lit, homes decorated once again with garlands and fresh native flowers, and thanks is given that warmth is returning to the earth. Imbolc is a celebration of all that is fresh, new and young, and is also a celebration of the Goddess as Virgin. It is a particularly feminine festival, sacred to women.

**Ostara (21-22 September)**

Corresponding with the Christian Easter (and both festivals derive their names from the Norse Fertility Goddess Eostre), Ostara is a celebration of life, and of fertility. Symbols of the Equinox include fertile animals (hence the Christian association with the rabbit) and eggs - a symbol of new life, fertility and new beginnings. Colors of the season are soft green, white, and soft yellow, and the festival is associated with Venus, the Goddess of Love.

**Beltane (31 October)**

Beltane is the festival of the Sacred Marriage, and is the time of the year when sexuality and fertility are recognised and most revered. This is the festival of the Great Rite - of sexual union between Goddess and God. Beltane is the most popular time for Pagans to be *handfasted* (married). Sacred to Beltane is the Apple tree, and in Australia the jarrah replaces the oak as the sacred tree of this time.

*Brightly the fires at Beltane burn*
*Rise, as the dusklight is fading*
*And we will dance, as we sing this song*
*Sing to the Lord and the Lady.*

**Midsummer (21-22 December)**

Midsummer is the time of the year when the days are longest and the nights shortest. The color of the season is red, representing heat and ripe fruit, and fruit is eaten in thanks, and in Australia the Sturt Desert Pea is a sacred flower of this time. Midsummer is also traditionally associated with the faery realm, and this Sabbat is preferably celebrated in the evening, with feasting, singing and dancing lasting throughout the night until dawn.

*(Ding dong ding dong, midnight rising)*
*(Ding dong ding dong, chimes are striking)*
*Over hill, over dale, (Shadowy trees)*
*Thorough bush, thorough brier, (Whispering winds)*
*Over park, over pale, (Evening breeze)*
*Thorough flood, thorough fire, (Call Fairies in)*
*I do wander everywhere,*
*Swifter than the moon's sphere;*
*And I serve the fairy queen,*
*To dew her orbs upon the green:*
*The cow slips tall her pensioners be;*
*In their gold coats spots you see;*
*Those be rubies, fairy favours,*
*In those freckles live their savours:*
*I must go seek some dew drops here,*
*And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.*
*(We welcome summer in!)*
**The above lyrics are from Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Act II, Scene I, with the exception of bracketed text (original work).**

**Lammas (2 February)**

Lammas is the traditional time of Harvest, and preparation for the coming winter months. Lammas revolves around the awareness of the approach of winter, and it is the time we give thanks for the year’s harvest. The name Lammas derives from the Old English *Hlaf-Mass*, which means ‘bread feast’. Lammas is traditionally the festival where the first loaf of bread from the harvest is broken and shared in the name of the Goddess. All crops associated with bread are sacred to this time, in particular barley. The drink of the season in Australia is ice cold beer and cider.

*(Hoof and horn, hoof and horn,
All that dies will be reborn.
Corn and grain, corn and grain,
All that falls will rise again.)*

*Bring the crops in against the weather:*
*Wheat and barley and hops and hay.*
*Working, harvesting in together -*
*Celebrating Lammas today.*

*Night draws nearer, and wind blows colder:*
*Wheat and barley and hops and hay.*
*Gather in as the days grow shorter,*
*Celebrating Lammas today.*

*Cull the last of the Summer’s bounty:*
*Wheat and barley and hops and hay.*
*Welcome in Autumn’s golden beauty -*
*Celebrating Lammas today.*

*Bid farewell to the days of Summer:*
*Wheat and barley and hops and hay.*
*Calling in the cool rains of Winter,*
*Celebrating Lammas today.*

*(Hoof and horn, hoof and horn,
All that dies will be reborn.
Corn and grain, corn and grain,
All that falls will rise again)*

**All text and music original, apart from bracketed text and its associated chant (traditional).**

**Mabon (21-22 March)**

Mabon falls at the Autumnal Equinox, when nights and days are of equal length. It is a time of balance, and a time of looking forward to and preparation for the winter. It is the second harvest, when Pagans take time to give thanks for their blessings, meditate on the joys and trials of the year past, and make plans for the year to come. At this time food is prepared for storage, jams and pickles are made, and fruit is preserved. The colors of the season are brown and gold.

*Wind, fire, sea, stone*
*Breath, flame, wave, bone*

*Long light has lingered here, Earth still is warm,*
*Deepening shadows lost by the dawn.*
*Long darkness rising here, though heat lingers on,*
*Twist of the Equinox – Mabon has come.*
Dead leaves fall silently, drift on the air,
Trees standing, slumbering – dry, cracked and bare.
Time passes quietly, echoing past:
Earth calls the winter in. Mabon at last!

Shadows through the mist I see:
Time passing silently.
Starlight, as the Spiral bends.
Moonlight, as the daylight ends.

**Closing the Circle**

By the Earth, by all fleshly beings
By the Water, and all creatures that drink from her
By the Fire, and the shining spirits of the Bright Ones
By the Breath that gives all Life.

By Earth, by Water, by Fire and by Air
Bright Ones, depart in peace from this place.
1. Casting The Circle

Match pitch with the bowl
\[ j = 80 \]

Freely

Flute

Singing Bowl

Chime

Chime

(Stroke)

Match pitch with the bowl

\[ j = 80 \]

Freely

Flute

Singing Bowl

Chime

Chime

(Stroke)

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2. Samhain

Women

Piano

Cello

7

Gently

Eu-ca-lyp-tus, rose-ma-ry Burning bright-ly

for re-mem-brance Burning bright for pu-rity On this night when we re-mem-ber...

Arco

Women

Men

Once a-gain, Sha-dow’s Eve Light the can-dle at the win-dow

Oh

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Set a light to guide them home Through the darkness of the night

Con-template our visions Dreaming of times long gone

Dreaming of our loved ones Who have passed a-cross our lives...
Euca - lyp - tus, rose - mar - ty Bur - ning bright - ly for re - mem - brace
Oh
Bur - ning bright for pu - rity On this night when we re - call

Soprano

Quick and light (in one), \( \frac{d}{d} = 50 \)

Solo \( p \)  
Cold snow ic-y the winds that blow Cold,  

Alto and Tenor

Tutti  
Blow, blow, cold winter winds that blow Cold, blow in the dark of night Cold snow ic-y the winds that blow Cold, blow in the dark of night

Bass

Oh pp
snow ic-y the winds that blow Cold, blow in the dark of night

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Feel the icy breath, bitter cold of death Yule-tide is come! I-cy cold wind blow, blow, Yule-tide. Blow.

Snow icy the winds that blow Cold, freezing winter snow Yule-tide is come! Feel the icy breath, blow, cold winter wind. Blow.

Icy the winds that blow Cold, blowing, icyly Yule-tide is come! Feel the icy breath, bitter cold of death Yule-tide is night. Cold, winter wind blowing, icyly come! Coldest longest of nights blowing, icyly.
Coldest darkest of winter-time at Yule.

Coldest darkest of nights winter-time at Yule.
4. Imbolc

Soprano Solo

Sopranos

Altos

Tenors

Basses

Cello

*mp = 70*

"aw" as in "glory"

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Daw  daw  daw  Daw

Daw  daw  Daw

Daw  daw  Daw
5. Ostara

Soprano Solo

Sopranos

Altos

Men

Hand Drum

Cello

\[ j = 120, \ 8 = 3+3+2 \]

Pizz.

5. Ostara

© 2004 by Leanne Daharja Veitch all rights reserved
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All hail Ostara when
Ostara Ostara Ostara Ostara Ostara

all life is re-born Honou-ring new life on
Ostara Ostara Ostara Ostara Ostara

mf All hail Ostara as the
Ostara morn All hail Ostara

sun rises in the morn from the biting cold of
sun rises in the morn from the freezing biting cold of
all hail the sun rise all hail the morn from
Os - ta - ra Os - ta - ra Os - ta - ra

winter all hail the day, all hail the light
winter all hail the day, all hail the light
winter all hail the day, all hail the light
Os - ta - ra Os - ta - ra Os - ta - ra Os - ta - ra

- 3 -
Os - ta - ra

Os - ta - ra

Os - ta - ra

Os - ta - ra

sfz

sfz

- 6 -
Beltane

- Brightly the flames at Beltane burn Rise, as the dusk light is fading And we will dance as we sing this song

- Brightly the flames at Beltane burn Rise, as the dusk light is fading And we will dance as we sing this song

- Sing for the Lord and the Lady Brightly the dance as we sing this song

- Sing for the Lord and the Lady Brightly the dusty light is fading And we will dance as we sing this song

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fi res at Bel tane burn
Rise, as the dusk light is fa
dy
Bright ly the fi res at Bel tane burn
Rise, as the Lord and the La dy
Bright ly the fi res at Bel tane

burn
Rise, as the dusk light is fa
ding And we will dance as we sing this song
Sing for the dusk light is fa
ding And we will
fi res at Bel tane burn
Rise, as the dusk light is fa

Sing for the Lord and the La dy

And we will dance as we sing this song
Sing for the Lord and the La dy

And we will dance as we sing this song
Sing for the Lord and the La dy

Lord and the La dy

Lord and the La dy

Lord and the La dy

Solo (Solo)

Solo

Solo

Solo

Solo
7. Midsummer

\[ \text{Sop Solo} \]
\[ \text{Sops} \]
\[ \text{Chimes} \]
\[ \text{Tenors} \]
\[ \text{Basses} \]

\[ \text{Midi} \text{night stri} \text{ki} \text{ng} \]

\[ \text{Ding d} \text{ong} \text{ong} \text{ing} \]

\[ \text{Chimes are stri} \text{ki} \text{ng} \]

\[ \text{mid} \text{night stri} \text{ki} \text{ng} \]

\[ \text{Ding d} \text{ong} \text{ong} \text{ong} \]

\[ \text{O} \text{ver h} \text{ill o} \text{ver} \]

\[ \text{Mid} \text{night ris} \text{si} \text{ng} \]

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Thorough bush thorough bri-er
O-ver park o-ver

Sha-do-wy trees
whi-spe-ring winds

Dong Ding Do-n-g

Dong Ding Do-n-g

Dong Ding Do-n-g

Dong Ding Do-n-g

Thorough flood thorough fi-re
I do

E-ve-ning breeze
Call fa-ri-es in
I do

Dong Ding Dong

Dong Ding Dong

Dong Ding Dong

Dong Ding Dong

Ah

wan-der e-ve-ry where
Swi-fter than the moon’s sphere

wan-der e-ve-ry where
Swi-fter than the moon’s sphere

Dong Ding I do wan-der e-ve-ry where
Swi-fter than the moon’s sphere

Dong Ding Dong

Dong Ding Dong

Dong Ding Dong

Dong Ding Dong

mf
And I serve the Fairy queen
To dew her orbs upon the green
The cow-slips tall
orbs upon the green
her pensioners
Ding Dong Ding
Ding Dong
Ding

In their gold coats
Those be rubies fairy favours
be spots you see
Those be rubies fairy favours
Dong
Those be rubies fairy favours
Dong
Dong
Dong
Dong
Ah
Ding Dong Ding Dong
In those
Ding
-freckles
Dong
live...

Ah
-saviours

Ding Dong Ding Dong
Dong

Ah

I must go seek some dew-drops here
And hang

I must go seek some dew-drops here
And hang

I must go seek some dew-drops here
And hang

Ah

-sp

a pearl in every cow-slip's ear
We welcome

a pearl in every cow-slip's ear
We welcome

a pearl in every cow-slip's ear
We welcome

a pearl. We welcome summer in We welcome summer in We welcome
We welcome summer in We welcome summer in We welcome...
8. Lammas

Female Solos

Hoof and horn hoof and horn all that dies will be reborn

Sopranos

Altos

Alto solo = 70

Hoof and horn all that dies will be reborn

Alto+Mezzo Solos

corn and grain corn and grain all that falls will rise again

Bring the crops in again

Wor-king har-vesting

gainst the weather Wheat and bar-ley and hops and hay

in to-gether Ce-le-bra-ting Lam-mas to-day

Night draws nearer and

wind blows colder wheat and bar-ley and hops and hay

S

Gather in as the days grow shorter Ce-le-bra-ting Lam-mas to-day

A

Oh = O as in ‘Glory’

Men

Cello

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Cull the last of the Summer's bounty Wheat and barley and hops and hay

Come in Autumn's golden beauty Celebrating Lammas to day

A little louder

Bid farewell to the days of Summer Wheat and barley and hops and hay

Calling in the cool rains of Winter Celebrating Lammas to day
Female Semi/Solos

Hoof and horn hoof and horn all that dies will be re-born

ff

S

ff

A

ff

Men

Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas

hoof and horn all that dies will be re-born corn and grain corn and grain

ff

Alto+Sop Solo

Alto+Mezzo+Sop Solo/Semi

Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas

Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas

Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas Lam-mas

corn and grain corn and grain all that falls will rise again Hoof and horn
all that falls will rise again
Hoof and horn hoof and horn all that dies will
be reborn corn and grain corn and grain all that falls will rise again
grain All that falls will rise again!
9. Mabon

Solo Flute  
\[ \text{\( \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} \)} \quad \text{\( \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} \)} \quad = 66 \]  

Semi/Solo Female(s)  

Ah (whispered)  

Soprano  

wind  

Pizz.

Cello  

fire  

Ah  

(whispered)  

Pizz.

Solo/Semi Male(s)  

Ah  

stone  

breath  

flame  

Soprano  

wave  

wave  

Long light has lingered here Earth still is warm

Cello  

Long darkness rising here Though

Dee-pen-ing sha-dows Lost by the dawn Long darkness rising here Though

heat lingers on Twist of the e-qui-nox Mabon has come

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Women

Dead leaves fall silently

Men

Dead leaves fall silently

Cello

Dead leaves fall silently

drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air
drift on the air

trees standing slumbering
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare
dry cracked and bare

time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly
time passes quietly

Solo Soprano

Shadows through the mist I see

Women

Dead leaves fall silently

Men

Dead leaves fall silently

Cello

Dead leaves fall silently

earth calls the winter in

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

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Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!

Ma bon at last!
Spiral bends
Moonlight as the daylight ends
Echoing past
Earth calls the winter in
Ma bon at last!

Echoing past
Earth calls the winter in
Ma bon at last!
10. Closing The Circle

Freely, \( \text{\( \frac{\text{}}{\text{}} \)} = 60 \text{ approx.} \)

Singing Bowl

Women

Men

By the earth, by all fleshly beings

Female 1 Solo

By the water, and all creatures that drink from her

Male 2 Solo

By the fire, and the shining spirits of the bright ones

Female 2 Solo

Tutti

By the breath that gives all life, By earth, by water, by fire, and by air

Tutti

By earth, by water, by fire, and by air

Bright ones, depart in peace from this place.

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Freely, $\frac{1}{2} = 60$ approx.

By the earth, by all fleshly beings

By the water, and all creatures that drink from her

By the fire, and the shining spirits of the bright ones

By the breath that gives all life,

By earth, by water, by fire, and by air
Bright ones, depart in peace from this place.