



SHUDDER BEFORE THE BEAUTIFUL

THE DEEPEST SOLACE LIES IN UNDERSTANDING,
THIS ANCIENT UNSEEN STREAM,
A SHUDDER BEFORE THE BEAUTIFUL

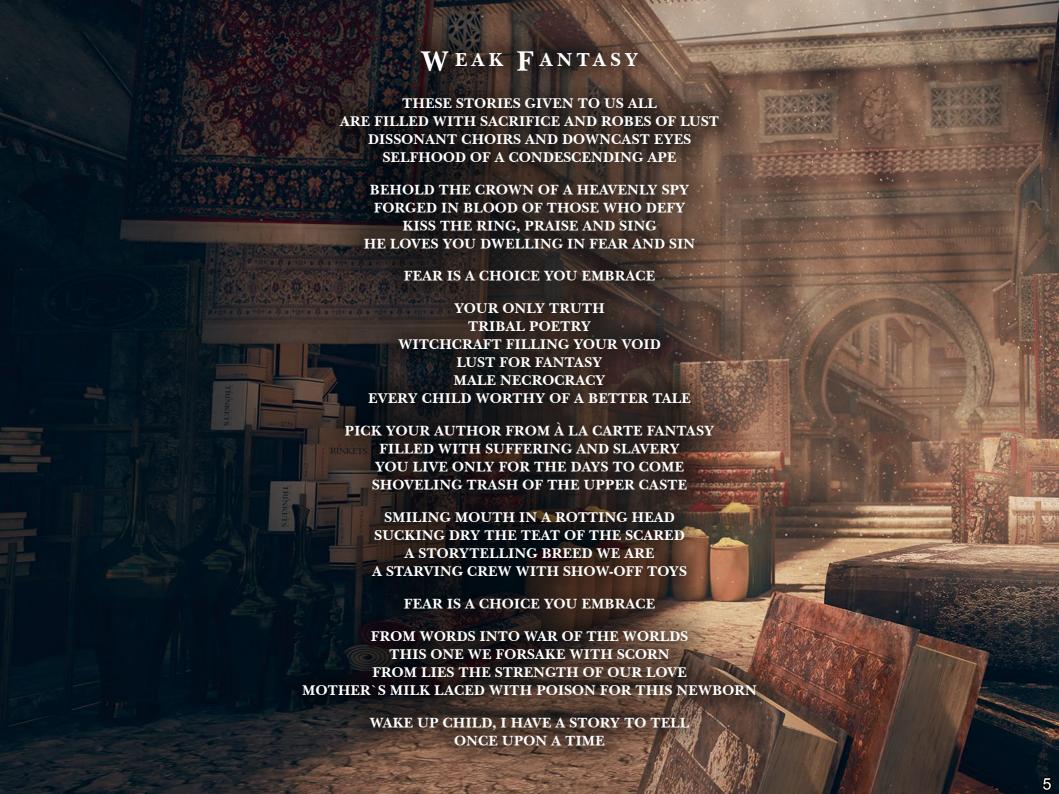
AWAKE, OCEANBORN
BEHOLD THIS FORCE
BRING THE OUTSIDE IN
EXPLODE THE SELF TO EPIPHANY

THE VERY CORE OF LIFE
THE SOARING HIGH OF TRUTH AND LIGHT

THE MUSIC OF THIS AWE
DEEP SILENCE BETWEEN THE NOTES
DEAFENS ME WITH ENDLESS LOVE
THIS VAGRANT ISLAND EARTH
A PILGRIM SHINING BRIGHT
WE ARE SHUDDERING BEFORE THE BEAUTIFUL
BEFORE THE PLENTIFUL
WE, THE VOYAGERS

TALES FROM THE SEAS CATHEDRAL OF GREEN

THE UNKNOWN, THE GRAND SHOW, THE CHOIR OF THE STARS INTERSTELLAR THEATRE PLAY, THE NEBULAE CURTAIN FALLS IMAGINATION, EVOLUTION, A SPECIES FROM THE VALE WALKS IN WONDER IN SEARCH OF THE SOURCE OF THE TALE





ÉLAN

LEAVE THE SLEEP AND LET THE SPRINGTIME TALK
IN TONGUES FROM THE TIME BEFORE MAN
LISTEN TO A DAFFODIL TELL HER TALE
LET THE GUEST IN, WALK OUT, BE THE FIRST TO GREET THE MORN

THE MEADOWS OF HEAVEN AWAIT HARVEST
THE CLIFFS UNJUMPED, COLD WATERS UNTOUCHED
THE ELSEWHERE CREATURES YET UNSEEN
FINALLY YOUR NUMBER CAME UP, FREE FALL AWAITS THE BRAVE

COME

TASTE THE WINE
RACE THE BLIND
THEY WILL GUIDE YOU FROM THE LIGHT
WRITING NOUGHTS TILL THE END OF TIME

COME

SURF THE CLOUDS
RACE THE DARK
IT FEEDS FROM THE RUNS UNDONE
MEET ME WHERE THE CLIFF GREETS THE SEA

THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE BEFORE YOUR EYES
IS IN DEAD LEAVES AND FLEETING SKIES
RETURNING SWANS AND SEDULOUS MICE
WRITINGS ON THE GARDENS BOOK, IN THE MINUTE OF A LOVER'S LOOK

BUILDING A SANDCASTLE CLOSE TO THE SHORE
A HOUSE OF CARDS FROM A WORN OUT DECK
A HOME FROM THE FELLOWSHIP, POISE AND CALM
WRITE A LYRIC FOR THE SONG ONLY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND

RIDING HARD EVERY SHOOTING STAR
COME TO LIFE, OPEN MIND, HAVE A LAUGH AT THE ORTHODOX
COME, DRINK DEEP LET THE DAM OF MIND SEEP
TRAVEL WITH GREAT ÉLAN, DANCE A JIG AT THE FUNERAL

COME!





YOURS IS AN EMPTY HOPE

TEAR ME TO BITS ENJOY THE SCENE
OF SCREEN NAME VERBAL VANITY
CHURNING THE WORDS IMBUED IN FILTH
YOUR TONGUE OILY WATER UNDER MY BRIDGE

YOU HAVE THE WORLD, IT'S ALL FOR YOU
I WISH YOU'D FIND THE LOST IN YOU
GRATEFUL FOR THE PAIN, IT PROVES WE'RE ALIVE
CAN YOU FEEL IT

I CAN'T MAKE YOU WANT THE TRUTH
IT'S UP TO YOU

YOURS IS AN EMPTY HOPE YOURS IS AN EMPTY HOPE

FEED ME TO PIGS IN YOUR FANTASIES
YOUR SEA ROARS BITTER ELEGIES
LIKE NARCISSUS WHO BRIBES THE POOL
A HOLLOW VOICE, RUIN WITH A ROOF

STOP! LIFE IS NOW, STILL ALL FOR YOU
TURN FROM THE HATE, TURN FROM THE SMOKE
I SEE THE PARCHMENT OF YOUR SOUL
THE NOTES, THE SONG
JOIN YOUR VOICE

I CAN LET YOU HAVE THE WORLD IT'S ALL FOR YOU

YOURS IS AN EMPTY HOPE YOURS IS AN EMPTY HOPE



OUR DECADES IN THE SUN

I CLIMBED OFF YOUR BACK
NOT SO LONG AGO
TO A BLOOMING MEADOW
TO A PATH YOU`D MADE FOR THE LIGHTEST FEET

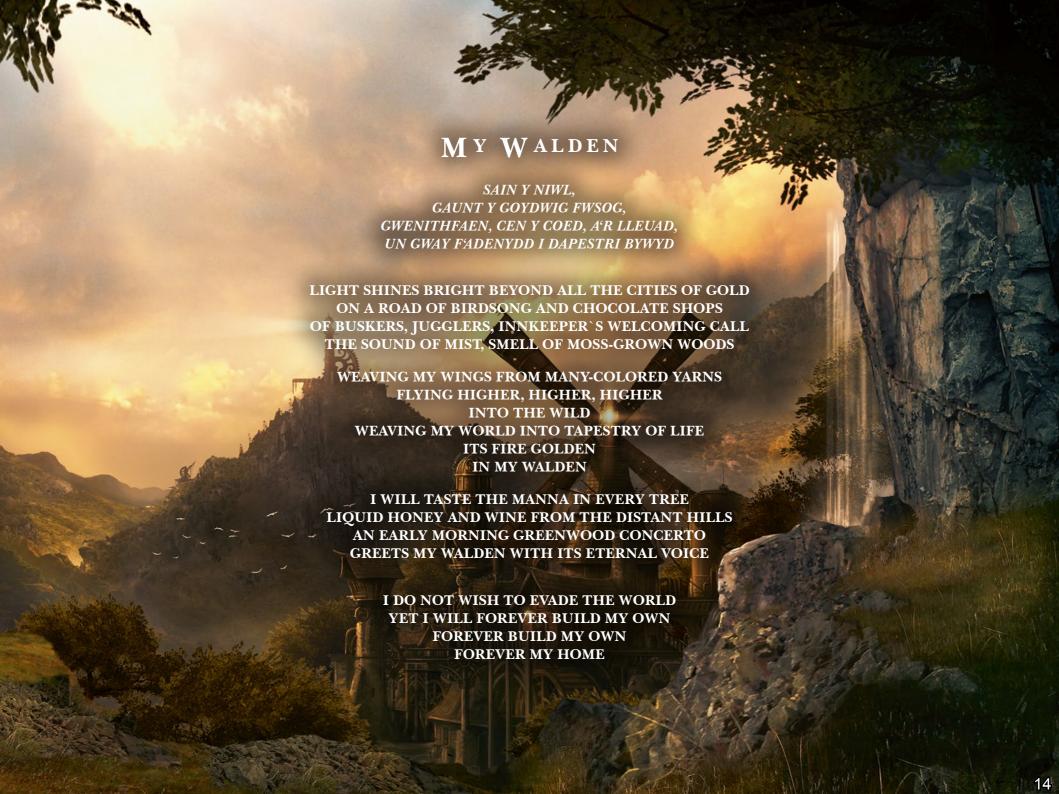
MOTHER
I AM ALWAYS CLOSE TO YOU
I WILL BE WAVING EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE
OH, I AM YOU
THE CARE, THE LOVE, THE MEMORIES
WE ARE THE STORY OF ONE

FATHER
I AM ALWAYS CLOSE TO YOU
I WILL BE WAVING EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE
OH, I AM YOU
THE CARE, THE LOVE, THE MEMORIES
YOU ARE FOREVER IN ME

THIS VERSE WE WROTE ON A ROAD HOME FOR YOU ALL THIS FOR YOU

OUR WALK HAS BEEN SUBLIME
A SOARING RIDE AND GENTLE LEAD
YOU HAVE THE HEART OF A TRUE FRIEND
ONE DAY WE`LL MEET ON THAT SHORE AGAIN





ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL

COME ON, HOP ON, LET'S TAKE A RIDE COME AND MEET THE TRAVELERS WHO CAME TO TOWN THEY HAVE A TALE FROM THE PAST TO TELL FROM THE GREAT DARK BETWEEN THE STARS

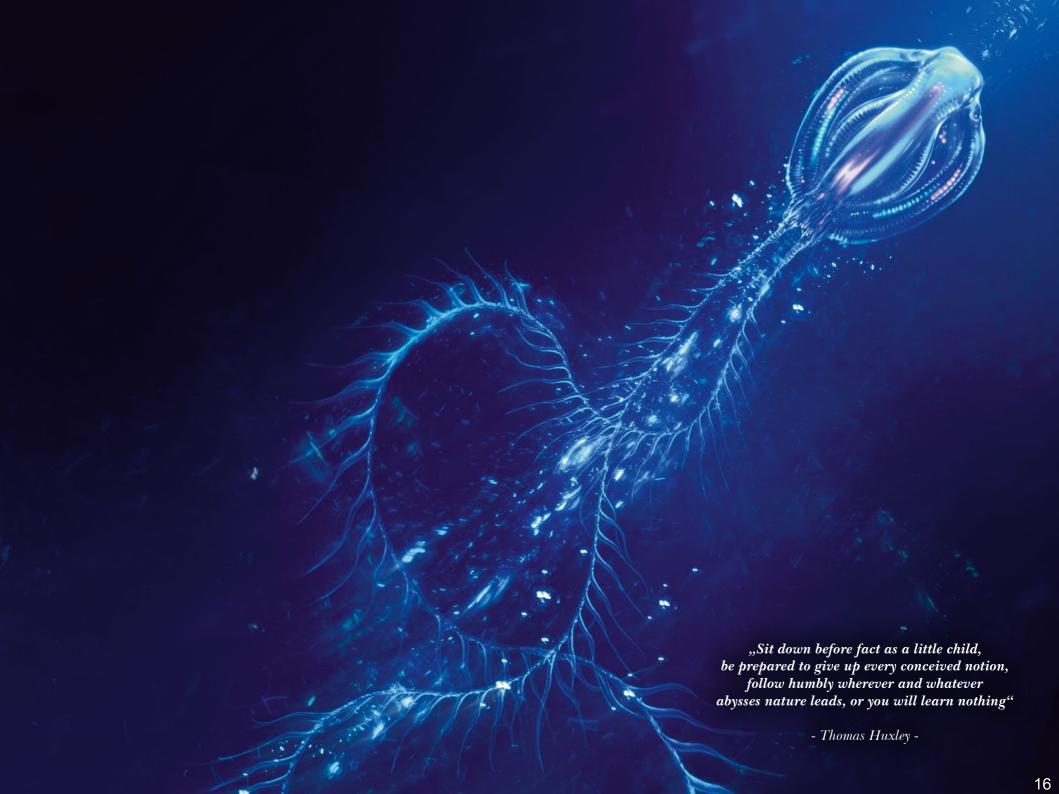
> WE ARE A SPECIAL SPECK OF DUST A FLEETING MOMENT ON AN ARK A CELEBRATION, A RESTHAVEN OF LIFE

LAY ON A FIELD OF GREEN
WITH MOTHER EVE
WITH FATHER PINE REACHING HIGH
LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE EYES OF AYE-AYE
UNFOLDING RENDEZVOUS

DEEP INTO THE PAST
FOLLOW THE AEON PATH
GREET A BLADE OF GRASS
EVERY ENDLESS FORM MOST BEAUTIFUL
ALIVE, AWARE, IN AWE
BEFORE THE GRANDEUR OF IT ALL
OUR FLOATING PALE BLUE ARK
OF ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL

BEYOND AEONS WE TAKE A RIDE
WELCOMING THE SHREW THAT SURVIVED
TO SEE THE TIKTAALIK TAKE HER FIRST WALK
WITNESS THE BIRTH OF FLIGHT

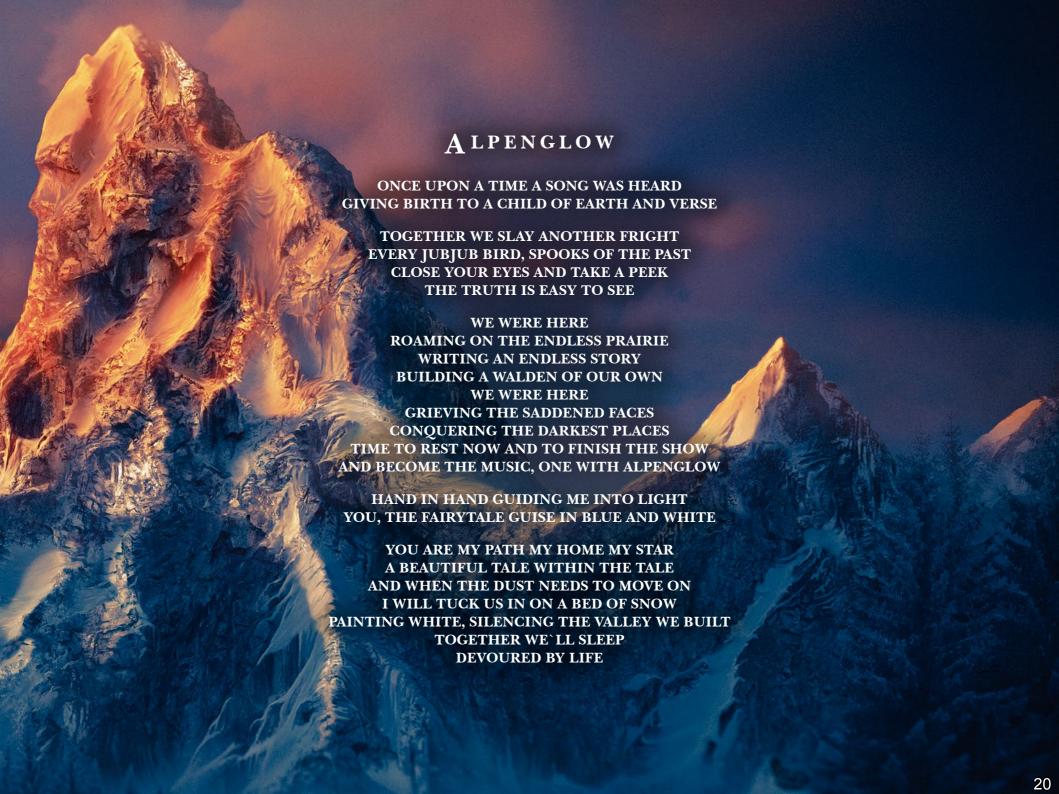
DEEPER DOWN IN PANTHALASSA A EUKARYOTE FINDS HER WAY WE RETURN TO THE VERY FIRST ONE GREET THE ONE WE`LL SOON BECOME















THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

1.) Four Point Six

ARCHAEAN HORIZON
THE FIRST SUNRISE
ON A PRISTINE GAEA
OPUS PERFECTUM
SOMEWHERE THERE, US SLEEPING

2.) Life

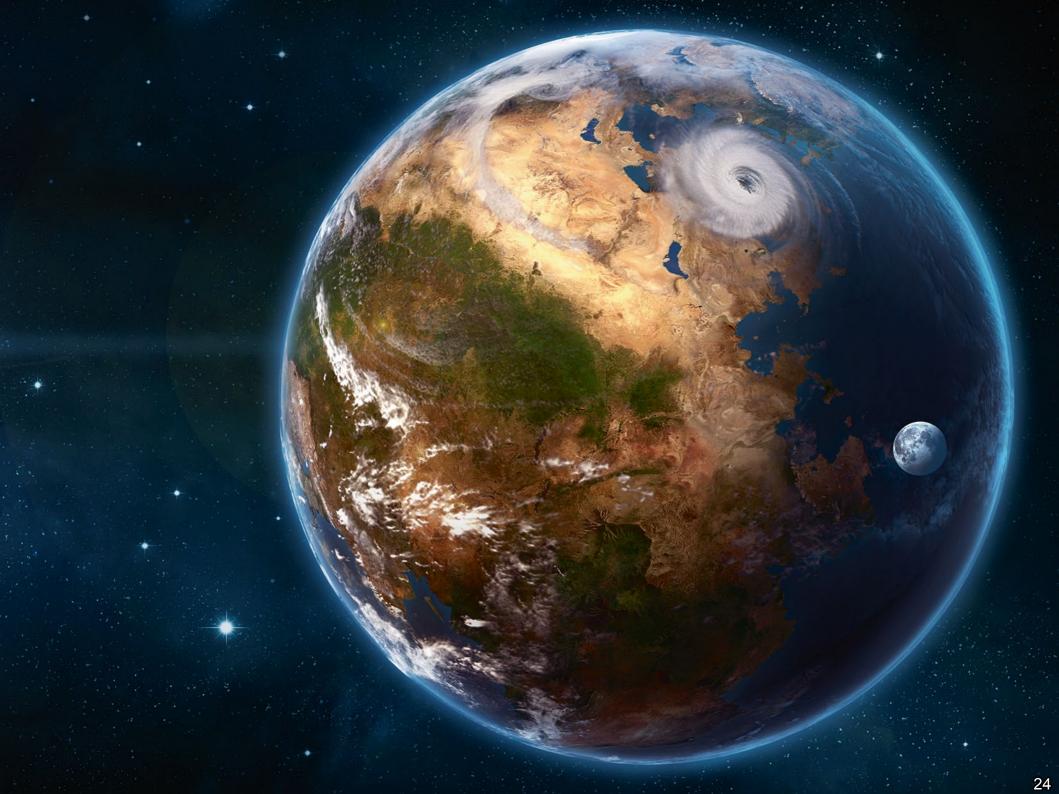
THE COSMIC LAW OF GRAVITY
PULLED THE NEWBORNS AROUND A FIRE
A CARELESS, COLD INFINITY IN EVERY VAST DIRECTION
LONELY FARER IN THE GOLDILOCKS ZONE
SHE HAS A TALE TO TELL
FROM THE STELLAR NURSERY INTO A CARBON FEAST
ENTER LUCA

THE TAPESTRY OF CHEMISTRY
THERE'S A WRITING IN THE GARDEN
LEADING US TO THE MOTHER OF ALL

WE ARE ONE
WE ARE A UNIVERSE
FORBEARS OF WHAT WILL BE
SCIONS OF THE DEVONIAN SEA
AEONS PASS
WRITING THE TALE OF US ALL
A DAY-TO-DAY NEW OPENING
FOR THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

ION CHANNELS WELCOMING THE OUTSIDE WORLD
TO THE STUFF OF STARS
BEDDING THE TREE OF A BIOLOGICAL HOLY
ENTER LIFE

WE ARE HERE TO CARE FOR THE GARDEN
THE WONDER OF BIRTH
OF EVERY FORM MOST BEAUTIFUL











ORCHESTRE DE GRANDEUR

Violins Perry Montague-Mason Emlyn Singleton Dermot Crehan Patrick Kiernan Mark Berrow Rita Manning Boguslaw Kostecki Everton Nelson

Chris Tombling Steve Morris Jackie Hartley Emil Chakalov Pete Hanson Jim McLeod Sonia Slany

Violas Peter Lale **Bruce White**

Rachel Bolt Andy Parker Martin Humbey

Celli Martin Loveday Dave Daniels Jonathan Williams

Frank Schaefer Paul Kegg

Basses Chris Laurence Steve Mair

Richard Pryce

Flute / Piccolo Andy Findon

Anna Noakes

Oboe/Cor Anglais David Theodore

Bb Clarinet NicholasBucknall

Bb Clarinet / Bass Clarinet Dave Fuest

Bassoon/Contrabassoon Julie Andrews

Nigel Black

French Horns Richard Watkins Philip Eastop

> Trumpets Phil Cobb Mike Lovatt

Kate Moore

Tenor Trombones Mark Nightingale

Ed Tarrant

Bass Trombone Andy Wood

Tuba Owen Slade

Harp Skaila Kanga

Stephen Henderson

Ethnic Percussion Paul Clarvis

Timpani Stephen Henderson

Gary Kettel

Orchestral Percussion Frank Ricotti

Orchestral Contractor - Isobel Griffiths **Assistant Orchestral Contractor** - Lucy Whalley

THE METRO VOICES

Choirmaster - Jenny O'Grady

Alexandra Gibson, Alice Fearn, Ann de Renais, Catherine Bott, Claire Henry, Deborah Miles Johnson, Eleanor Meynell, Emma Brain Gabbott, Grace Davidson, Helen Brooks, Jacqueline Barron, Jenny O'Grady, Joanna Forbes, Jo Marshall, Kate Bishop, Mary Carewe, Morag MacKay, Rosemary Forbes Butler, Sarah Eyden, Soophia Foroughi

Andrew Playfoot, Ben Fleetwood Smyth, Callum MacIntosh, David Porter Thomas, Gabriel Vick, Gerard O'Beirne, James Mawson, Lawrence Wallington, Lawrence White, Michael Dore, Neil Bellingham, Richard Henders, Robin Bailey, Stephen Weller, Steve Trowell, Tom Pearce

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Young Musicians London Choirmaster - Lynda Richardson

Omar Ait el Caid, Bertie Beaman, Delphine Christou Hill, Oliver Cripps, Eleanor Grant, Rowan Hallett, Theo Harper, Jane Jones, Asha Lincogle-Gabriel, Jenson Loake, Celine Markantonis, Kaela Simi Masek, Robert Masek, Marguerite Moriarty, Andrew Morton, Akinoluwa Olawore, Modadeogo Olawore, Christopher Sabiski, Alistair Spencer, George Webb

Orchestra, Choirs and Percussion recorded at Angel Studios London.

Engineered by Steve Price **Assisted by** Jeremy Murphy **Thanks to** Dee Ellingham

Orchestra and Choir Conducted by James Shearman

Music Preparation by Richard Ihnatowicz

Orchestra and Choirs Arranged, Orchestrated and Directed by Pip Williams
Assistant to Pip Williams - Ilona Opulska

(Pip Williams teaches Music and Music Technology at The London College of Music: special thanks to Sara Raybould and John Gummery.)

I would like to dedicate my work on this album to my children Sam and Joe and to my wonderful Ilona!

NIGHTWISH ARE

Floor Jansen: Vocals

Marco Hietala: Bass, vocals, acoustic guitars

Emppu Vuorinen: Guitars

Tuomas Holopainen: Keys & piano

Jukka Nevalainen: Drums

Troy Donockley: Uilleann pipes, low whistles, bodhran, bouzouki, vocals

Drums on this album were performed by Kai Hahto

All music by **Holopainen**

Except: "Weak Fantasy", "Our Decades In The Sun" & "The Toolmaker" by Hietala / Holopainen "My Walden" by Holopainen / Hietala

All lyrics by **Holopainen**

Except: "Weak Fantasy" & "Yours Is An Empty Hope" by Holopainen / Hietala

Arrangements by Donockley / Hahto / Hietala / Holopainen / Jansen / Kinnunen / Nevalainen / Vuorinen

"Endless Forms Most Beautiful"

was produced by **Tuomas Holopainen** and co-produced by **Nightwish** & **Tero "TeeCee" Kinnunen**

Recorded at **Röskö Campsite**, Kitee, in August - September 2014 & at **Petrax Studio**, Hollola, in October 2014

Engineered and recorded by Tero "TeeCee" Kinnunen and Mikko Karmila

Mixed at Finnvox Studios, Helsinki by Mikko Karmila, in October - December 2014

Mastered by **Mika Jussila** at **Finnvox**, in January 2015

Spoken parts in "Shudder Before The Beautiful" & "The Greatest Show On Earth" by Professor Richard Dawkins

Recorded at Hats Off Studios, Oxford, by Michael Taylor

Soundscapes & music echoes in "The Toolmaker" created by Jussi Tegelman, with "Sea-Worn Driftwood" featuring Francesco Lupica`s Cosmic Beam Experience

Cover artwork by **Janne** & **Gina Pitkänen** Band photography by **Ville Juurikkala**



"At the back of our brains, there is a forgotten blaze or burst of astonishment at our own existence. The object of the artistic and spiritual life is to dig for this submerged sunrise of wonder"

- G.K. Chesterton -

