



sunrise

jacob cooper

steven bradshaw

In the summer of 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tony Creamer approached us with the idea of creating a collaborative work while in quarantine, isolated in our respective homes. We readily agreed. Knowing that our creation must acknowledge the raw, tumultuous state of the world at the time, we delved into the music of a different pandemic, the 1918–1920 Spanish influenza, and came across Ernest Seitz and Gene Lockhart's song "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise."

As we watched the world unravel around us, the conceit of the Seitz-Lockhart song began to resonate within us. Apparently we were not alone: Since its initial recording by Edward Allen a century ago, the ballad has been performed and recorded by American musicians that included Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Les Paul and Mary Ford, and Willie Nelson. Each performance seems framed by its own distinctive sense of calamity—one imagines the artists grappling with their generations' darkest moments, while awaiting the relief of an awakening and rebirth.

But we were not interested in producing a straightforward rendition of "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise." Instead, we used it as inspiration for a wholly new piece, one that refracts a classic American song through the prism of COVID-era desperation. Melodic and harmonic material from the song itself appears mostly in phantom traces, or momentary samplings of early 20th-century recordings, while Lockhart's original lyrics are transformed through reconfiguration, isolation, repetition, and change of inflection.

**Sunrise** emerged from a constant exchange of material: Steven would record melodies, improvisations, motifs, vocal scrapes, hisses, whispers, and screams; Jacob would sonically manipulate them and generate new material, forging it all into a compositional framework. With a request for more vocal sounds, the cycle would begin again.

This yearlong, multilayered dialogue represents our attempt to process the present moment and the century that preceded it, and to consider what might come next.

—Jacob Cooper and Steven Bradshaw







*Down in the lazy west rises the moon  
Warm as a night in June  
Stars shimm'ring soft in a bed of blue  
While I am calling and calling you*

*Sweetly you are dreaming  
As the dawn comes slowly streaming  
Waken love in your bower  
Greet our trysting hour*

rise  
night  
blue  
sleep  
slow  
high  
dawn  
warm  
sun  
rose  
wake  
blue  
night  
rise  
wake  
blue  
night  
call

The wake  
of blue  
at night  
is rising  
The wake  
of blue  
at night  
is calling  
The rose  
on high  
is dreaming

the hour  
The rising  
of heart  
is heavy  
is waiting  
is dreaming  
is on high  
is warming  
is blue  
is calling  
is the rose  
is the moon  
is dawning  
is warming  
is slowing  
is on high  
is in blue  
is streaming  
is heavy  
is dreaming  
is the thrush  
is the moon  
is the rose  
is slowing  
is warming  
is calling  
is the moon  
is the rose  
is dreaming  
is slowing  
is warming  
is calling  
is slowing  
is dreaming

The wake of blue at night is rising  
The rose on high is dawning and dreaming  
The hour of moon is waking and waiting  
The rising of heart is slowing and heavy

The blue-ing heart is waking  
The thrush at night is calling  
The rose is blue and warming  
The world on high is slowing

*Dear one the world is waiting for the sunrise  
Ev'ry rose is heavy with dew  
The thrush on high, his sleepy mate is calling  
And my heart is calling you*



sunrise 32:03

Music by Jacob Cooper with Steven Bradshaw

Performed by Steven Bradshaw, voice  
Produced by Jacob Cooper

Additional performers:  
Dynasty Battles, piano; Clara Kim, violin; Timothy Munro, flute/piccolo

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Steven thanks Peggy and Dave Bradshaw, Nyahzul, Rob Bradshaw, Jill Bradshaw, Donald Nally, Ted Hearne, Tom and Colin Frangicetto, Tony Creamer, Variant 6, Jennifer Boorum, and Elliott Zohn Harry.

Mixed by Jacob Cooper, with additional mixing by Devin Greenwood  
Executive producer, Jim Fox

Mastered by Scott Fraser, Architecture, Los Angeles

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