

Chanting and Music – TAPS 2019

Why do we chant and sing?

- Focus intention
- Build energy
- Breathing together

How do you use music in ritual? How do you decide what to use?

- How to Use
 - Set a mood
 - Wherever it fits – there's not really a wrong answer
 - To raise energy or to meditate
 - Circle casting
- How to Select
 - Find songs that are appropriate for the purpose
 - Use methods that further your purpose (sung, playing recorded, drums, etc.)
 - Write one if you don't have one that fits.

Pagan chants and oral tradition

- Many pagan chants are passed down through oral tradition. It's why songs such as *We Are a Circle Within a Circle* are sung differently by different groups.
- Many pagan chants are actually copyrighted, and as such, their copyright should be respected. Most pagan artists are okay if you use their music in ritual, provided you're not making money off it, and many of them are very kind if you ask if you can repurpose the chant in some way. Some, however, are not.
- How to Pitch a chant – know your audience

Using popular music

- Copyright concerns
- Otherwise, go for it!

Some common chant examples –

Youtube playlist: <https://bit.ly/2FX9r0r>

- Circles
 - We Are a Circle Within a Circle
 - We Are a Circle Moving
 - May the Circle be Open
- Events / Sabbats
 - Way to the Well (Imbolc)
 - When We Are Gone (Samhain)
 - Full Moonlight Dance (Full Moon)
 - Dark of the Moon (New Moon)
 - We All Come from the Goddess (Samhain**)
- The Elements
 - The Earth, the Air, the Fire, the Water, Return
 - Earth My Body
 - We are a Circle (with the Verses)
- General Use
 - She's Been Waiting
 - Loy Yisa Goy
 - Earth Song (Turn the World Around)
 - We are the Flow
 - Mother of Darkness
- Pop Songs
 - I See Fire – Ed Sheeran
 - Nearly anything by Loreena McKennitt
 - Take me to Church – Hozier

Resources:

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/agora/2012/04/we-all-come-from-the-horned-god-possibly-but-dont-sing-it/>

<http://www.thedance.com/wicca101/songs.htm>

<https://serpent77.wordpress.com/songs-and-chants/>

<https://youtu.be/4je3f-E9v-c?t=863> (Surrender Dorothy concert – She's Been Waiting)

<http://www.reclaimingquarterly.org/web/chants04/Chants04.pdf>

Songbooks:

Songs for Earthlings: A Green Spirituality Songbook

The Voices of Earth: Pagan Songs and Chants

Circle of Song – Kate Marks

We Are a Circle

By Rick Hamouris

We are a circle within a circle
With no beginning and never ending

Verses:

You hear us sing, you hear us cry
Now hear us call you, spirits of air and sky

Inside our hearts, there glows a spark
Love and desire, a burning fire

Within our blood, within our tears
There lies the altar of living water

Take our fear, take our pain
Take the darkness into the Earth again

The circle closes between the worlds
To mark this sacred space where we come face to face

We Are a Circle Moving

By Marae Price

We are a circle moving,
One with another,
We are moving together,
We are one.

(I am Spirit and I flow in you.
You are Spirit and you flow in me.)

May the Circle be Open

Author Unknown

May the circle be open but unbroken,
May the (peace/love) of the goddess (old ones)
Be ever in your heart.
Merry meet, and merry part,
And merry meet again.

Never Lose Our Way to the Well

By Starhawk, Rose May Dance, Raven Moonshadow
Melody adapted from South African Freedom Song

We will never,
Never lose our way to the well
Of Her memory,
And the power
Of Her living flame, it will rise,
It will rise again.

Like the grasses,
Through the dark, through the soil, to the sunlight
We will rise again.
We are thirsting
For the waters of life, we are moving.
We will live again.

We All Come from the Goddess

By Z Budapest

We all come from the Goddess,
And to Her we shall return
Like a drop of "rain"
Flowing to the ocean.

Hoof and Horn (often sung with above)

By Ian Corrigan

Hoof and horn, hoof and horn
All that dies shall be reborn
Corn and grain, corn and grain
All that falls shall rise again

When We Are Gone

By Starhawk and Anne Hill

When we are gone, they will remain:
Wind and rock, fire and rain.
They will remain, when we return.
The wind will blow, and the fire will burn.

The Earth, the Air, the Fire, the Water, Return

Found Attribution to Michael Tierra,
With slightly different words

The earth, the air, the fire, the water
Return, return, return, return <repeat>
Ah ey-a ey-a ey-a ey-a, oh-a oh-a oh-a oh <repeat>

OR

The Earth, the water, the fire, the air
Return, return, return, return

Earth My Body

Author Unknown

Earth my body
Water my blood
Air my breath and
Fire my spirit

We are the Flow

By Shekhinah Mountainwater

We are the flow, we are ebb
We are the weavers, we are the web

We are the weavers, we are the web
We are the spiders (and), we are the thread

We are the spiders, we are the thread
We are the flow and, we are the ebb

*Other version (used at CMA):

We are the flow, we are ebb
We are the weavers, we are the web
We are the flow, we are ebb
We are the witches back from the dead.

We are the flow, we are ebb
We are the weavers, we are the web
We are the flow, we are ebb
We are the wolves that Hecate fed.

She's Been Waiting

By Paula Walowitz / Surrender Dorothy

<Chorus>
She's been waiting, waiting
She's been waiting so long
She's been waiting for Her children
To remember to return <repeat>

Blessed be and blessed are
The lovers of the lady
Blessed be and blessed are
The mother, maiden, crone
Blessed be and blessed are
The ones who dance together
Blessed be and blessed are
The ones who dance alone <to chorus>

Blessed be and blessed are
the ones who work in silence
Blessed be and blessed are
the ones who shout and scream
Blessed be and blessed are
the movers and the changers
Blessed be and blessed are
the dreamers and the dream. <to chorus>

Full Moonlight Dance

By Karen Beth

Under the full moonlight we dance
Spirits dance, we dance,
Joining hands we dance,
Joining souls, rejoice.