

Nighttime Birds - 1997
Century Media - 77168-2



On Most Surfaces (Inuit)
Confusion
The May Song
The Earth is my Witness
New Moon, Different Day
Third Chance
Kevin's Telescope
Nighttime Birds
Shrink

Anneke van Giersbergen - vocals
René Rutten - guitars
Jelmer Wiersma - guitars
Frank Boeijen - synthesizer, grand piano
Hugo Prinsen Geerligs - bass
Hans Rutten - drums

Also played: hammond organ, leslie speakers

all music by The Gathering
all lyrics by Anneke van Giersbergen

recorded February 17th - March 15th 1997 at Woodhouse Studios, Hagen, Germany
Mixed March 24th - March 29th 1997
Produced by Siggi Bemm & The Gathering
Engineered by Siggi Bemm & Matthias Klinkmann

photo cover taken by Karel Tomeï, Flying Camera
Layout & design by Media Logistics (Carsten Drescher)

Hans uses Mapex exclusively

Hugo wants to dedicate the song "Nighttime Birds" to M. de Haard-Versteijlen

On Most Surfaces [Inuit]

The frost hits me in the eye
and wakes me
these are blurry winters
and I cannot see

I walk into the white light of the snow
when the sun comes
I break it with my shadow
which takes me where I go

The frost hits me in the eye
and wakes me

I am the snow falling down on you
I tear up your face with my frost
And make you run to somewhere warm
When I come I see you get away
I burst out about your emptiness

The frost hits me in the eye
and wakes me
these are blurry winters
and I cannot see

Confusion

False eyes are staring
disrespectfully and untrue
the burden that we are carrying
is way too much for me and you

Sometimes it is better to lay
don't you think?

I'm evaporating
a veil of smoke is what I am
your thoughts will take on their way
to grow old and to be certain

Sometimes it is better to lay
don't you think?

The May Song

I'm waiting for your hands
to fold around my wrist
I'm mellowing in warm grass
and the scent of you I've missed

And blue is representing
the draft in my heart
I'm wandering through thin skies
and the transparent air I've missed

Pale is my face
you might want to colour
while I breathe

I'm following large drops of rain
with my eyes on the sight of you I've missed

Pale is my face
you might want to colour
while I breathe

The Earth is my Witness

Mother earth look at her closely
she looks at her baby and she sighs
the slight breathing pause that she takes it builds her and
makes her strong

She refuses to give her up
and we close our eyes

Her hands touch the round stomach
and feel the kick
The eyes that have seen so much cry
with the water she starts to rinse her face

And refuses to give her up
And we close our eyes
And you close your eyes

New Moon, Different Day

I'm at the waterside
my cold feet are numb
and I follow my dream
I want to cross
I want to get inside

The clouds make a circle
on the soil that I'm on
and I trust what surrounds me
I want to cross

I break the storm through the clouds

I'm on the other side
I watch time pass
and I see, I have to go along
with the water that will lead the way
and I feel, the rain on my head
and the drops hit me one by one

I break the storm through the clouds

Third Chance

Fear and sweat, my muscles ache
I smile but it's just a fake
I fade away
it troubles me, what you're gonna say
just a day away
and you will be here to stay

I wait and I wait
and what i really hate
is the panic that stops me from breathing
my knees hit the floor
and I panic more
until you open my door

Kevin's Telescope

His hands hide inside a sleeve
and little feet play with the ground beneath him

while up in the sky is where he wants to be

Time will fly
and the wind plays with him
the night will give him its charm

While he walks home
his head's up in a cloud
he feels his pores fill up with fresh air
and there is no doubt
that one day he will be
where the eye of his telescope has already been

Night will pass
but he's a lot faster
no one can do him any harm

Nighttime Birds

Their ways are open
they spread as their wings
they want to be certain
of a warm surrounding

When they fly
through the night as beautiful
nighttime birds

The warm wind picks them up

When they fly
through the night as beautiful
nighttime birds

Shrink

To feel this great urge
to hold and embrace you
I slowly dry out

I shrink and shrink
until I'm gone
nothing to make out of me
oh what the hell went wrong

my heart gets pulled out
into your direction
it's no use
you have forsaken me