



IONA – OFFICIAL LYRICS

'The Circling Hour'

1. empyrean dawn

(Bainbridge, Hogg, Donockley, Van Essen. The first 2 verses of the lyrics are from the hymn 'How Wonderful This World' by Frederick Pratt Green Church Hymnary, Oxford University Press)

How wonderful this world
A fragment of a fiery sun
How lovely and how small
The smallest seed in secret grows
Thrusting upward and so soon
The bidding of the light

The bud unfurls into a rose
The wings within the white cocoon
Are perfected for flight
The migrant bird in winter fled
Shall come again with spring
And build, in this same shady tree

How wonderful this life
No random path this great design
How fragile and how bold
The mystery of creative thought
The wonder of the human frame
Of spirit and of soul

When life within the nidus wakes
The formless taking shape unfolds
How complex and how strange
The heart created free to choose
The quintessential breath is given
In love's own image born

2. children of time

(Bainbridge, Hogg - lyrics adapted from the poem 'The Song of Maelduin' - T.W.Rolleston 1913 - from 'The Irish Book of Celtic Poetry' - Talbot Press)

Fair, they shine through the burning zone -
The rainbow gleams of a world unknown,

There are veils that lift, there are bars that fall,
There are lights that beacon, and winds that call,
There are hurrying feet, and we dare not wait,
For the hour is on us,
The circling hour of the flaming gate

Oh Children of Time
Children of Time

The music calls and the gates unclose,
Onward and onward the wild way goes,
O fading phantoms of pain and mirth,
We die in the bliss of a new birth

Of fading loves,
Fading loves of the old green Earth

Children of Time

To follow to seek to dare
Step by step in the evening air

Children of Time

Fair, they shine through the burning zone,
The rainbow gleams of a world unknown,

Fair, they shine through the burning zone,
The rainbow gleams

3. strength

(Bainbridge, Donockley, Hogg, Van Essen, Barker)

Strength of a flower, pushing up through the earth
Strength of the rain, soaking into the ground
Strength of a fish, swimming against the flow
Strength of the sun, melting the winter snow

Like the strength of a flower, pushing up through the earth
Like the strength of the rain, soaking into the ground
Like the strength of a fish, swimming against the flow
Like the strength of the sun, melting the winter snow

Like the strength of a bird, flying into the wind
Like the strength of the wind, lifting the desert sand
Like the strength of the tide, shaping the rocks and land
Like the strength of the ice, carving the mountainside

How wonderful this world
A fragment of a fiery sun
How wonderful this life
How fragile and how bold

Like the strength of a man, who fights for his family
Like the strength of a friend, who carries you when you're weak
Like the strength of the heart, bearing the pain of birth
Like the strength of the love, healing the sons of earth

How wonderful this world
A fragment of a fiery sun
How wonderful this life
How fragile and how bold

Like the strength of a man, who fights for his family
Like the strength of a friend, who carries you when you're weak
Like the strength of the heart, bearing the pain of birth
Like the strength of the love, healing the sons,
healing the sons of earth

4. wind off the lake

(Donockley, Bainbridge, traditional)

Heart sails out from you,
See it go, watch it go, let it go
All sails grow from you,
In your soul, in your soul

5. factory of magnificent souls

(Bainbridge, Hogg, Van Essen, Lyrics by Steve Stockman)

Thought of you on this island of the leper,
on this island of the mad.
I've thought of you on this island of the outcast,
on this island of the sick and sad.
Thought this island had a tragic holiness,
thought it had a painful grace.
Thought it had the ugliest history,
thought this island was, the most beautiful place.

And I saw the altar, of this world's cruelty
I saw the stadium of the devil's goals.
And I saw a man, duck and weave the most evil punches.
I saw a factory of magnificent souls.

Thought of you on this island of the limestone
and the pain of dust torn eyes.
Thought of you on this island of the convict
Toiling under the bluest skies.
Looked upon this island of the reconciled
and I saw a stone carved cross.
Thought of you on this island of redemption.
Closed my eyes and thought, of what freedom had cost
And I saw the altar, of this world's cruelty
I saw the stadium of the devil's goals.
And I saw a man, duck and weave the most evil punches.
I saw a factory of magnificent souls.

No-one ever asked questions with marks as sharp as these
They pierced the veins of Jesus who was one of the least of these
And no-one ever gave an answer with as gentle a word as this
You took violent indignation,
and you killed it with a political kiss.

And I saw the altar, of this world's cruelty
I saw the stadium of the devil's goals.
And I saw a man, duck and weave the most evil punches.
I saw a factory of magnificent souls

6. skymaps

(Donockley)

Notice how the air it clears
In a city like a museum,
That hosts the sun and moon
As they melt the road, the well worn road

It must have been a morning like this
When Gallileo looked into infinity
From within and without

7. no fear in love

(Bainbridge, Hogg, Van Essen. Lyrics by Joanne Hogg and David Teems)

Like a river of fire stretched across the sky
Peering into the veil of the aurora's light
My soul is drawn by love, too pure for words
Deeper than instinct, beyond my reason

I am lost in wonder at what fills my gaze
Lost in my thoughts of such infinite ways
I am found in mercy, I am found in love
I am found in the flow of water and blood

There is no fear in love
There is no self to gratify
There is no argument to win or lose

Love is beyond the mind
Love is beyond its reasoning
Love is the path that leads to paradise

Like this great arc of sky, a window to infinity
A bright and deathless morning waiting for me
Love to be imprinted on my heart, like notes upon a score
'The music eager to open heaven's door
There is no fear in love
There is no self to gratify
There is no argument to win or lose

Love is beyond the mind
Love is beyond its reasoning
Love is the path that leads to paradise

On this distracted planet
So wounded by our greed
Where we have taken more
To satisfy our need
Where love is our salvation
The perfect mystery

There is no fear in love
There is no self to gratify
There is no argument to win or lose

Love is beyond the mind
Love is beyond its reasoning
Love is the path that leads to paradise

8, 9, & 10. wind, water & fire

(Bainbridge, Van Essen, Hogg)

The Circling hour
And the flaming gate
Release the fire
Of Heaven's Sun
To birth the new
Consume the old
To purify the heart's desire

The Circling hour
And the flaming gate
Release the fire
Of Heaven's Son
To birth the new
Consume the old
To purify, purify

11. fragment (of a fiery sun)

(Hogg, Bainbridge. Lyrics from the hymn 'How Wonderful This World'
by Frederick Pratt Green - Church Hymnary, Oxford University Press)

How wonderful this world of Thine
A fragment of a fiery sun
How lovely and how small
Where all things serve Thy great design
And life's adventure has begun anew
The life of all

Where life's adventure is begun
In Thee the lamb