

Open Field
(© Mia Friedman, BMI)

Where the sycamore grows and the wind is soft
Twilight rests in the leaves
I find my heart in a box of golden
Fastened with a silver key

I find it here in the sweet wood
Finally let free
Winding through and dancing
Come back to me

Chorus:
Honey thoughts, soft green moss
I kneel and kiss the ground
And I find my heart in the open field

City scapes just don't take me
Where I want to go
Silent stares from strangers there
Make me want to know

Where are you, dressed in green?
Wrap me in your arms
One with all and in between
Stretched out to the stars

Bridge
Meadowlark, it's getting dark
So run inside and stay
But then again, the days are crowded
So stay outside and play

Hundreds of Ways
(© Ariel Friedman, BMI)

On the stoop by the door
In the dying embers glow
You say "I'm not tired yet, so what's one more duet?"
On the stoop by the door
You've told me this before:
There are hundreds of ways to sing round a fire

Chorus:
I'll keep walking though there is no place to get to
And though each day I wake afraid.
But there's music by this fire
And the darling I desire
On this rough and rocky road, I'll stay

Don't tell lies
They say, keep your head high
They say buck up, and bootstraps up
And look me in the eye
They say, "how many times have we whispered in your ear:
Move, baby, move towards your fear"

If the strings of your guitar
Were strung like high wire
If falling meant giving up your balance for a while
If love didn't scar
Then, darling, show me more
Of those hundreds of ways...

Across the Water
(© Mia Friedman, BMI)

Step on through to the other side
I am not prepared to die
I'll travel o'er these raging seas
To bring me home to thee

This boat is packed and tired
We're all aboard to climb higher
In this life where we were caught
In a land sick and distraught

Chorus:
I'm deep in sea-sick love
I wanna be in a warm house with you
Left alone

Your taylor shop was burned
As strangers we were hurt
A people without a home
Left to wander the unknown

Now you're on your own
In the new world that I've never known
But the wind is blowing west
And these sails will never rest

Suspended through the night
Fits of restlessness and fright
I am alone, and I am waiting
My old life is slowly fading

Hold on, flow with the tide
I'm a passenger on this ride
Bound for freedom, bound for glory
I think of you, you are my story

Unruly Heart
(© Ariel Friedman, BMI)

In the beginning, when the sun wasn't up,
You would write out your wishes
With the leaves from your cup.
And you'd leave them at the table,
With your artist's hands and unruly heart
And you'd sing, and you'd say:

Chorus:
While you and I got lips for kissing and to sing with.
I don't mind if some fool invents a tool to measure spring with.

In the midst of the morning, amidst farmlands and yearnings
Will I find you intertwined
With the feathers of my pillow or the songbird at the window
Or your heart, wrapped up in mine?

If your nights were made of armour
And the preacher never lied,
If this ground were slightly firmer
And this rosebush reached the sky,
And if instead of picking apples we were catching fireflies
And in the winter set them free, watch them survive.

Montville

(© Mia Friedman, BMI)

Oh, sweet music I hear
Voices rise up and out
Be joyful and dance
Around and around and around

The summer night's air
Calls to birds everywhere
There's no lamentation
Tonight is a night to be free

And as the sun goes down
Behind mountains to the west
This day is done
Bring sweet sleep and peaceful rest

In the valley so low
'Neath the sky's starry glow
The fiddles drone on
A circle of voices in song

The fire burns bright
As day turns to night
The last tune is gone
As quietness waits for the dawn

Painter

(© Mia Friedman, BMI)

I've gone through the world below
And I've seen its brilliant colors
On canvas I will paint my weary days into sunshine
On canvas I will paint my weary days

I'm growing old and getting ill
In this house I built for comfort
But I'll stay here till I pass to the other shore, where I can move
I'll stay here till I pass to the other shore

Chorus:
And I'll sing hallelujah
To the place in which I dwell

Outside there is a tree
Planted years before I came here
A small bird singing there, she's in love with the sky
A small bird singing there, she's in love

This wall was built at first
All white that housed no color
But my brush with spirit flew, splashing green, yellow, blue
My brush with spirit flew

Bridge
I'm old and worn
Like the wood I used to build this home
Breath's around me
In everything find beauty

Freedom isn't hard
It rides the wind, blows through this window
A flag to mark my home, a place to watch the show
In time we're all living here below

My painting's almost done
Many strokes of brilliant color
A life of loving strong, I'll paint it till I'm gone
A life of loving strong till I'm gone.

North

(© Ariel Friedman, BMI)

The sky is getting smaller
and there ain't much room to breathe.
It's hot as hell and I can't tell
What is up down or in-between.
The suffocated springtime will soon give up her fight
But I'm headed north, and it's alright.

This little city dweller has no want for things to see,
But the hills and lonely farmstands just can't help but call to me
Soon I'll be escaping into mountain ecstasy
'cause I'm headed north, and it's alright.

Chorus

To the north
I'm headed north,
Where the songs fall down like fruit from trees
and my sweetheart rolls them back to me.

My hands wrap round the steering wheel
As the urban lights grow dim.
The highway lanes will narrow
but my heart will soon begin
To open wide and put aside all the trouble it was in
I'm headed north, and it's alright.

The queen anne's lace and your pretty face
Will greet me at the door
As summer rain turns earth to mud to make my bedroom floor.
And just before the sun goes down, I'll set off to explore
I'm headed north, and it's alright.

White

(Lyrics: Edmund Dumas via *The Sacred Harp*, Words: Mia Friedman, BMI)

Ye fleeting charms of Earth farewell,
Your springs of joy are dry.
My soul now seeks another home
A brighter world on high.

I am a long time traveling here below.
I am a long time traveling away from home.
I am a long time traveling here below,
To lay this body down.

Farewell my friends whose tender care
Has long engaged my love,
Whose fond embrace I now exchange
For better friends above.

I am a long time traveling here below.
I am a long time traveling away from home.
I am a long time traveling here below,
To lay this body down.

Freight Train
(Elizabeth Cotten)

Freight train freight train goin' so fast
Freight train freight train goin' so fast
Please don't tell what train I'm on
So they won't know where I've gone.

When I die, Lord, bury me deep
Way down on yonder Chestnut street
So I can hear old number nine
As she goes rollin' by.

When I'm dead and in my grave
No more secrets will I crave
Place these stones at my head and at my feet
Tell them all I've gone to sleep.

Amelia

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[Mia/Lev Friedman]

'Tis joy enough, my all in all
At thy dear feet to lie
Thou wilt not let me lower fall
And none can higher fly

Oh, lord, the sorrows i've endured
Are great beyond my control
No other hand but thine can cure
The anguish of my soul

Chorus:

To thee I sing in my dark hour
To thee my eyes are cast
My heart lifted by redeeming power
All fades, but thou shalt last

All my desires to thee are known
Thine eye count every tear
And every sigh and every groan
Is noticed by thine ear

Thou wilt display thy sovereign grace
Whenst all my comforts spring
I wilt employ my lips in praise
To thee salvation sing