

INTRO

(The Knife)

EPOCHS

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

An intersection of the plain
by the bank of some great stream
the animal carcasses and skeletons would be
entombed
aa step formed terrace succession-
embedded years
accumulating so tranquilly small quadrupeds
So perfectly
epochs collected here

Vocals: Kristina Wahlin

GEOLOGY

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

A stream of lava formerly flowed
over the bed of sea,
triturerated recent shells and corals,
baked into hard white rock
A precarious matter.

I found a curious little stony Cellaria
each cell provided with
a long toothed bristle
capable of various and rapid motions
often simultaneous, and can be produced
by irritation.

Vocals: Kristina Wahlin

UPHEAVED

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

Constant earthquakes
the wonderful force
which has upheaved
these mountains
these countless ages
required to have
broken through
removed
and levelled whole
masses of them

Vocals: Lærke Winther, Kristina Wahlin

MINERALS

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

White sand made up of shells upon which rests carious rock,
then prismatic feldspar between these and former ones, hard white rock with
yellow spots. A heap of white balls beneath white sand.
Same process now going on shore, living iron found in it.
Sand white from decomposition of feldspar. In places
every rock is covered with pistiform concretions. In places impossible to tell
whether it is Breccia of modern or older days. Lower
beds of white sand become filled with large boulders of lower rocks.
Beneath this comes a line of another stratum, more
silly and contains large and more numerous shells.
A regular bed of oysters remains attached to the rocks.

Vocals: Kristina Wahlin

EBB TIDE EXPLORER

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

Examine, examine, examine
frame of mind, frame of mind
in following, in following
changes, changes
during
fall of sea, fall of sea
Examine, examine, examine
frame of mind, frame of mind
in following, in following
fall of sea, fall of sea

I'm watching the seaweed dance
upon the moving mountains of foam
collecting in the sand foot prints
I am leaving, leaving here
I'm watching the seaweed dance
upon the moving mountains of foam
collecting in the sand foot prints
I am leaving here

Vocals: Jonathan Johansson

VARIATION OF BIRDS

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

Scissor-beak lower mandible flat elastic
its an ivory paper-cutter
lower mandible immersed some depth in the water
it flies rapidly up and down the stream.

So that there are three sorts of birds which use their wings
for more purposes than flying
the steamer as paddles the penguin as fins
and the ostrich spreads its plumes like sails to the breeze.

Vocals: Jonathan Johansson, Kristina Wahlin, Mt. Sims,
Lærke Winther, Planningtorock

LETTER TO HENSLOW

(The Knife, Mt. Sims, Planningtorock)

Vocals: The Knife, Mt. Sims, Planningtorock

SCHOAL SWARM ORCHESTRA

(The Knife, Planningtorock)

ANNIE'S BOX

(The Knife)

We have lost the joy of the household
and the solace of our old age

She must have known how we loved her
oh that she could now know how deeply
how tenderly we do still
and shall ever love her dear joyous face

Pure and transparent
her eyes sparkled brightly
she often smiled

Often threw her head a little backwards

Vocals: Kristina Wahlin
Cello: Hildur Guðnadóttir

TUMULT

(The Knife)

COLOURING OF PIGEONS

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

Northern forms existed in their own homes
thousand – yellow – cocoons
under – over – through

A few southern vegetable forms
on the mountains of Borneo
under – over – through
donkey – peacock – goose

In the mouth of the river
a strange – scene – it is
every – thing – in flames

The sky with lightning
and the water, luminous
a strange – scene – it is
under – over – through

Six weeks old
Henrietta smiled for the first time
tail – habits – proof
instinct – that – moves

Emma saw him smile
not only with lips
but eyes
Erasmus – grab – a spoon
Europe – hides – wool

Mr Peacock and Captain Beaufort
endemic – alpine – grooves
bread-fruit – cinnamon – tunes

Tonight it's blowing
thick bodies of spray whirled across the bay
Whatever – might – have been
the cause – of the – retreat

Columbia livia
great ages through
course of days
Tumblers, Jacobins
beak shapes, skeletal traits
Runts and Carriers
wooden hexagonal cage
Pouters and Fantails
tail feathers at what age?
grey and white spotted
markings in making
my great amusement

behind Land house a gentral cooing
behind Land house the offspring's moving
The delight of once again being home
The delight of once again being home

Vocals: Kristina Wahlin, Lærke Winther, Jonathan Johansson
Drums: Hjorleifur Jonsson **Cello:** Hildur Guðnadóttir

SEEDS

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

Seeds immersed in salt water
in a tank of melting snow
enduring their full life time
enduring their full life time

10 distinct currents in the Atlantic
14 hundred miles in 42 days
transoceanic pods and capsules
Will old occupants allow for room and
sustenance?

transoceanic pods and capsules
Old occupants allow for room and
sustenance.

Vocals: Jonathan Johansson, Kristina Wahlin

TOMORROW IN A YEAR

(The Knife, Mt. Sims)

An intersection of the plain
by the bank of some great stream
the animal carcasses
and skeletons would be
entombed

Tomorrow in a year
tomorrow in a million years
Ages resting in
the rings of a tree.

Fossils in lay in slate
marking the old forest's edge
I've stood on a mountain
dividing three regions.
Then it was just a pebble
that I held inside my hand
In between each flap
of a butterfly's wings,
countless changes
that have gone on unnoticed
A cricket rubs it's forewings
together and I am forced
to think of the time that it's taken
to build

Mountains fossils

Larva lava

As Algae moves through water.

Cupping the soil

Ages move across epochs.

Within my hands

There's grandeur in this view,

It teams with life

a constant succession

these endless forms

My heart beats 70

times per minute

Stretching out over years

a wilderness

layer on layer life embedded in stone

stretching out before me

a wilderness

Vocals: Kristina Wahlin, Mt Sims,
Jonathan Johansson, Lærke Winther

THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER

(The Knife)

In the morning I went down to the beach
and gazed out to the sea
Suddenly I was only a leaf
and you were an ancient flower

When I'm away do you think of me
or is it only when I'm present
on the cliff I lay my head down
now where the sun is

How is Charles

I haven't heard from him for a long long time

A thousand years seem to pass

So quickly

We wash our hands in water
and we rub them with the cloth
I have an idea what comes after
what will happen when I'm gone

Along the coastline we sow some seeds

It is lemon it is mint

Then the buzzing cicadas

rock us to sleep

How is Charles

I haven't heard from him for a long long time

A thousand years seem to pass

So quickly

Vocals: Lærke Winther

ANNIE'S BOX – (alt. vocal)

(The Knife)

Vocals: The Knife

Cello: Hildur Guðnadóttir

This is the music we made for the opera Tomorrow, in a Year, commissioned by Danish performance group Hotel Pro Forma. The work is based off of Charles Darwin's On the origin of the species, his notebooks and other randomly selected Darwin related literature and articles, for example The Selfish Gene and The Blind Watchmaker by Richard Dawkins, Annie's Box by Randal Keynes, How to Read Darwin by Mark Ridley, and Emma Darwin: The Inspirational Wife of a Genius by Edna Healy. This is a studio version of the piece with slight differences and variations from the performed opera. In the current performed version all vocals are sung by mezzo soprano Kristina Wahlin, actress Lærke Winther and pop singer Jonathan Johansson. Originally The Knife were commissioned to make the music, but to try out a more collaborative way of working they invited Mt. Sims and Planningtorock. Not only to have a more fun and interesting process but also to capture the huge width of the theme Darwin and evolution. What we found most interesting about Darwin was his way of describing evolution in a non hierarchical way. Never using the word evolution, he instead chose to write about "variation" or "descent with modification". Another fascinating thing when reading his journals is how necessary it was for him to not only question everything around him, but also himself in order to formulate his theories.

/The Knife, Mt. Sims, Planningtorock

RECORDED, MIXED AND PRODUCED BY THE THE KNIFE, MT. SIMS AND PLANNINGTOROCK IN BERLIN, STOCKHOLM AND COPENHAGEN 2008-2009. LIVE PERCUSSION PLAYED BY HJØRLEIFUR JONSSON, RECORDED IN SOUNDS STUDIO, ICELAND, BY KYLE GUÐMUNDSON AND RE-EDITED BY THE KNIFE, MT. SIMS AND PLANNINGTOROCK. HALLOOROPHONE ON EBB TIDE EXPLORER AND COLOURING OF PIGEONS PLAYED BY HILDUR GUÐNADÓTTIR AND RE-EDITED BY THE KNIFE AND MT. SIMS. OUTDOOR SOUNDS WERE RECORDED AT THE MAMORI ARTLAB WORKSHOP ON THE AMAZON RIVER, BRAZIL. VOCALS ON COLOURING OF PIGEONS WAS PARTLY RECORDED BY JOHANNES BERGLUND.

MASTERED BY RASHAD BECKER, BERLIN

ARTWORK BY BOLD FACES

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HOTEL PRO FORMA

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KIRSTEN DEHLHOLM (CO-DIRECTION)
ANDERS JØRGENSEN (SOUND DESIGN)

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/THE KNIFE