

Karen Lyu - Original Songs

NO MORE HICKS N HACKS N HOGS

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Note: Thanks to Jess, Katie, Diana, Paula, and Marquette - a fabulous group of women who helped me fine-tune my No More Hicks n Hacks n Hogs song ;) BTW - I found someone wonderful (a songwriter too) who fits this song, and thinks I'm special ;)

He's gone and burst my bubble!
I'm in a heap of trouble.
What more can I do?
He's a honky tonk man,
Flirtin' just 'cuz he can.
It's the last time I'll be blue!

Chorus

No more hicks and hacks and hogs!
No more slick and slimy dogs!
No more boys who think they're men!
How 'bout someone genuine?

Now I'm sick of phony guys,
Who size you up with their eyes.
Want a man that's got a clue
'Bout what a woman needs,
Without her even saying please.
He knows just how to do it to her too!

Chorus

Bridge

We all have flaws, yeah, that is true,
You just need someone right for you,
That's makes you laugh and listens too.
Not just someone to make-do!

A guy who's better than he seems,
Who really wants to live our dreams,
A man to hold and see me through.
I know he's out there like the stars,
Just hope he's not on Mars!
A man who's more than his hairdo.

Chorus

ELEPHANT PERSPECTIVES

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Note: Elephant Perspectives is inspired by the story of the Blind Men and the Elephant http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_Men_and_an_Elephant This was written for the original multimedia performance, Memories and Media Myths of Iran and North Korea. I collaborated on creating the show with Maryam Yusefzadeh, a Persian jazz and world music singer, and we received a 2007 Minnesota State Arts Board grant.

A - Verse jazzy/funky 4/4

A Snake, a wall, a tree; a fan, a rope, a sword?
What is this thing we see, a new visual explored?
When all we See is what we've known; all that we care to own
Decisions do get made that this world cannot afford

B - Chorus 6/8 waltz

Could we all just admit that we each have a part
Of this whole we call truth, that would be a good start
Each one of us sees things others just can't seem to get
And we all need to learn, we don't know everything yet

A - Verse 4/4

There's the Smell, the touch, the taste; the things that get ignored?
The eMotions that we face, the "absolutes" that cause discord?
There is More to reality than the little that we see,
Please open up to other views, so harmony can be restored

A - Spoken 4/4 - Vamp

What if our decisions were made wise with intuition?
Imagine the Impact of those decisions on the next generation
Helping each other to heal the world
Each choice for growth preventing destruction

B - Chorus 6/8 waltz

Could we all just admit that we each have a part
Of this whole we call truth, that would be a good start
Each one of us sees things others just can't seem to get
And we all need to learn, we don't know everything yet

C - Bridge 6/8 Korean drum rhythm

What if we could see possibilities for new allies.
In people that get thrown away past our eyes. In this
Existence of joy, confusion, fear and life,
With allies, we can make a future that flies.

D - Modified Chorus 6/8 waltz w/ Tag

Come let us listen to each other's hearts
Let go of assumptions that keep us apart
In this world of commercials, microwaves and soundbites,
Let's make time to listen
and respect each others rights,

B - Chorus 6/8 waltz

Could we all just admit that we each have a part
Of this whole we call truth, that would be a good start.
Each one of us sees things others just can't seem to get.
And we all need to learn, we don't know everything yet.

I HAVE A CHANCE

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Note: I started writing this in college during one of the toughest times of my life. Since then, I've learned so much more about life, and keep adding new things as I continue grow.

I have a chance to change my life.
And if I want a better life,
I have a choice,
I have a voice in where I'm going.

I used to sit at home alone,
Stuck in a box, my comfort zone.
I used to say
There's just no way to get it together.

Wake up! No drug can make your troubles disappear
Wake up! It's time to stand and face your fear
Take care of your life, Get over the strife
And work, to make it better

When we open up our eyes to see the world around us
When we open up our hearts to the people that surround us
When we open up our souls and let the spirit guide us
That's when we open up our minds
To the possibilities, Yeah.....

We all have a chance to change our lives.
And if you want a better life,
You have a choice,
You have a voice in where you're going.

We don't have to sit at home alone.
Tear down the walls of your comfort zone.
There is a way.
This is the day....

Come on let's get it together!

FYI - I'm thinking of adding a line to the Bridge - something like "When I take care of my health, and listen to my body". It's important and rhymes, but doesn't fit the "We open" pattern. Any thoughts or suggestions would be appreciated.

MEADOW WITH NO DEW

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*Note: Here's a song inspired by a guy I had a crush on all year in 9th grade, who walked me home on the last day of school! My family moved 2 days later and I never saw him again, but it was always a happy memory for me. BTW - I realized this is also about growing up strict Seventh-Day Adventist and finally getting some freedom. This is *not* about cheating on anyone.*

A - Ballad Intro

After hours, while the day sleeps,
Unconscious when the night speaks,
Asking him to dance in meadow dew
You know that her cool embrace,
Does not touch his beaming face,
Nor does she steal a kiss or two,
But...

B - Uptempo Swing

Once, when the night came wandering in
The day woke up and gave her a spin,
They danced 'til all the dew had gone,
But then the day had to leave to make dawn.

SCAT

C - Tag Ending

If you wake up one morning to find there's no dew,
You know that Night,
Well, you know that Night,
she won't be so blue!

SMART GIRLS KNOW THEIR LIMITS

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Note: Here's a song I collaborated on with Stephen Lu of Asian Media Access for a show called The Story of Temple Street. I shaped the song, created the melody and basic groove. He wrote most of the lyrics and did a great job adding Garageband instrumental tracks. It was sung by a group of 8 girls.

Whooo will buy such Lies? Yooooou?
Whooo will buy such Lies? Yooooou?

Smart girls know their limits!

Girl, take care of yourself, say what you need to say.
Girl, boys are cute but don't let them have their way.
Girl, sex is only good if you're ready and you're safe.
Girl, boys come and go, but you're the one to stay.
Girl, you got a future waiting, don't let him take it away.
Girl, be smart and safe, every time and every day.

Whooo will buy such Lies? Yooooou?
Whooo will buy such Lies? Yooooou?

Smart girls know their limits!

Girl, remember,
Smart girls know their limits!