

# ORFEO & MAJNUN

*Music composed by Dick van der Harst, Moneim Adwan and Howard Moody*

*Libretto: Martina Winkel\**

*Poetic translation into Arabic by Fatena Al Ghorra*

\*Livret dans sa version originale, sans les modifications et coupures apportées durant les dernières répétitions. / Originele versie van het libretto, zonder de wijzigingen en coupures aangebracht tijdens de laatste repetities.

*Note: Layla & Majnun sing in Arabic. Orfeo & Eurydice sing in English.*

*The choir sings mainly in English, with interspersed elements in other languages.*

*The Narrator uses the local language(s). All texts by the narrator are spoken, not sung, sometimes secco, sometimes as a melodrama over the orchestra.*

## ***1 Begin / Of Light & Sound***

*Narrator, choir/mixed.*

*Local language; fragments of English and other languages*

*The orchestra starts. No overture, but the sudden sound of the Big Bang like a shock.  
Then silence again.*

Narrator: If no body was there to listen,  
No ear to hear,  
the world was born  
in silence.  
But that silence  
contained every sound.

*The choir starts softly, building up, the instruments joining.*

*The Narrator initiates the stage by a quasi shamanistic conjuration: the beginning of the world, space and time; images and sounds travelling, from the Big Bang of the scientific 'creation myth', moving through space by the waves of light and sound.*

*The Choir undergoes a development of different qualities from mere sounds, vowels, words, language, expression of contents: a kind of fast forward evolution.*

Choir (*humming, syllables, words*): Mmmmm ma ma ma aya aya maim oyno  
ba ba ba manu mutu kall tika tika udu nur ....

Narrator (*fast, over music*): The wind spreading the words like seeds,  
first born from need, breath and  
singing, the fear and the light  
tongue, mouth, heart, and the blood  
fire, ashes and black and black,  
the eye and the sun, tears and the night  
the roots of dreams, the hunger, the pain,  
the flight of brains, talk, tell, whisper and scream  
filling the hollow; phantoms, pictures, and stories,  
feeding the animal grown human.

*The choir is echoing selected words of the narrator's text.*

## **2 Longing**

*Eurydice, Layla; Orfeo & Majnun enter only at the end; (choir maybe joining the first refrain)  
English, Arabic, some lines together/parallel; local language*

*Evoked by the Narrator the two young women, Layla and Eurydice, appear.*

Narrator: When I look at girls how they laugh together, then suddenly drift into thoughts,  
how they run and suddenly stop, when I see them lift their faces, feeling  
the wind or the sun or the future, how they sit and ponder, paled by a dream,  
blushed by a plan, I sometimes fear what may hinder them, by force or love,  
to become who they freely could be. –  
There two of them come, appearing from the mist of their stories, separated from  
each other and from us by hundreds of years.  
Maybe.

Eurydice: Born out of darkness, born by the night,  
A floating oval, silver and bright -  
An egg, neither moon nor planet.  
But then it happens:  
a crack, a gap,  
the crust is breaking  
and out flies  
Eros  
in a gush of light,  
the God of Love and Longing.  
- I just like these stories! -  
They tickle my brain!  
Take me on your shiny wings  
To my paradise,  
Utopia, love, far away aims...  
Make me an arrow, make me a sling  
To catch my dreams  
How high they may rise.

Layla: How soft is the night,  
A shimmering pasture...  
My grazing dreams  
Mingle with stars  
Wander with clouds  
Dance with the flute  
Drink from the liquid moon.

ما أجمل هذي الليلة  
مرعى يتلالا

يرعى أحلامي  
المغزولة بالنجمات  
تمشي مع الغيمات  
وتراقص النايات

*(the following, if possible, interwoven; in both languages)*

Both: Love has a name,  
Shining, sounding  
through time and space.

Love has a name,  
shining, sounding  
through time and space.

الحب له عنوان  
تشرق في القلوب  
وتسمعها العيون  
في الوقت والزمان

Love has a name  
والحب له ملامح  
Shining, sounding  
وتسمعها العيون  
through time and space  
في الوقت والزمان

Layla: Qays Qays...

Eurydice: ...Orfeo

Layla: Qays Qays...

Eurydice: ...Orfeo

Orfeo & Majnun: Layla Eurydice Layla  
Layla Eurydice Layla

### **3 The Power of Music**

*Orfeo, Majnu; Choir/mixed.*

*English, Arabic; local language*

*The lines of the choir may be interwoven, repeated, remixed, given to different voices/groups.*

*During the scene the animals are lured to the stage by the music.*

Choir: Who am I?  
What is my true name?  
Where is my home?  
Where can I stay  
How can I fly?  
What shall we do and why do we feel  
Alone.

Majnun: A bowl of glass,  
A shining light:

Love is the flame of the world.  
The flame shimmers in every thing,  
through faces, flowers, body and stone,  
Each one a lamp, a vibrating tone -  
The sound of light, the breath of the soul.  
In love.

أنية من الزجاج  
لمعان ضوء  
الحب هو وهج العالم  
وميض النار في كل شيء  
يسافر عبر الوجوه وبين الورود  
في الجسم والحجر  
يحيل كل واحد منا مصباحا  
نغمات راعشة  
في الحب تسمع للروح صوت  
وترى للضوء بريق

Orfeo: I am an echoe.  
I am an echoe of what I feel.  
Every thing has a sound.  
I resound what they sing to me,  
the trees, the ocean, the people around.  
The whole world is tuned in harmony.  
I am an echoe of what I hear,  
You hear your own song inside.

Choir: Every thing has a sound  
Trees, ocean, body and stone.  
We hear our own song inside.  
Each one a lamp, a vibrating tone.  
The sound of the light, the breath of my soul -  
Love, love – breath of my soul...

يحيل كل واحد منا مصباحا  
نغمات راعشة  
في الحب تسمع للروح صوت  
وترى للضوء بريق

*(part of the choir off)*

#### **4 How it all began**

*Narrator, duet Layla/Qays, duet Eurydice/Orfeo;  
Arabic, English; local language.*

Narrator: To love. To be in love. There are so many kinds of love.  
To fall in love... There are so many ways to fall in love.  
Remember? Do you still know?

Eurydice: Birds birds hundreds of birds  
What I saw first was a cloud  
A crown alive circling in the sky  
Above the head of this stranger  
And then: liquid silver  
His voice -  
Up, up in a sudden flutter  
Flew my heart.

Orfeo: You were pale: leaves in shadegreen  
your face –  
Deep, deep like a silent water  
Grew my heart.

*(Orfeo & Eurydice off with animals and rest of the choir during transition to oriental music)*

Layla: Bent over the pages of the book  
I felt a touch on my hair.

Majnun: Meant to write letters I just looked,  
My glance got caught in your hair.

Layla: When I looked up I saw you there:  
The touch was your mesmerized look.

Majnun: Then your lid opened: a deep black snare.  
My fall so endless my soul was hooked.

Both: Love shone in your eyes like through water shines light.  
Sent to school I learnt love at first sight.

ليلي:  
مانلة فوق الكتاب  
وطيفه على شعري ينساب

المجنون:  
كنت قد بدأت في كتابة الرسالة  
وحينما رأيتها قلبي الضعيف عبر شعرها استكان

ليلي:  
رفعت عيناى ورأيتة هناك  
نظراته السكرى كانت هي اللمسة

المجنون:  
وعندها تفتح الجفنان  
عن غابتين عميقتين من المقل  
ووقعت كالسحاب بلا نهاية  
وتعلقت روجي هناك إلى الأبد

كلاهما:  
وهنا تعلمت الغرام مثلما

يتعلم الأطفال أول الأشياء  
وكما يتلأل الضياء عبر الماء  
الحب كان في عيوننا يلمع

## 5 Separation

*Narrator, Layla, (Majnun); Choir, back stage.*  
*Arabic; local language.*

Narrator: See how they bloom in the innocent spring of their love!  
Why rip the fresh leaves, why break the stem, why try to tear out the root,  
why destroy the beautiful blossom? Because love is against the rules?

Hissing Choir (*backstage*): Listen to them! Watch their shameless stare!  
They show their obsession! Indecent display!  
Dishonoured your daughter! -

Narrator: So her father snatched her away.  
She was confined to their tent.

Layla: So my father snatched me away.  
I was confined to my tent.

وانتز عني والدي بعيدا  
وبقلب خيمتي سجت

Majnun: Gone, gone, the only one gone  
Who keeps my heart alive!  
Where, how can I find her,  
My steps beat the stone, the sand.  
Kiss, kiss,  
The trace of her feet I follow,  
I follow, I see her, I flee -  
The world is turning,  
The sky tumbling down.  
God, let me love for love's sake alone.

رحل، رحل، الواحد الوحيد رحل  
من كان يبقى هذا القلب على قيد الحياة  
إلى أين وكيف السبيل إليها  
خطواتي تسبق الحجارة والرمال  
قُبْلُ، قُبْلُ  
ألاحق آثار أقدامها  
ألاحقها، أراها، وأحسها "أشمها"  
والكون والسماء يدوران بي  
أه يا الله  
اجعلني أحبها من أجل هذا الحب

Narrator: One can understand, that the parents of Qays feared for the sanity  
of their son, and for his future. His was a loving father, but how could  
he heal the sickness of this soul, how could he bring peace to this mind.

He decided to approach Layla's father.

*Layla is listening secretly to the talk of the two men; hidden to them, whom we cannot see, only their shadows, she is visible to us. She repeats parts of what she can hear, quoting either Majnun's or her own father (MF/LF), inserting her own emotions.*

Layla: Beat softer my heart, so that i can hear  
Without being heard by them.-  
(MF) I come in friendship and peace to propose -  
Be quiet my heart, keep still –  
(MF) The nuptial feast for our children to –  
Oh God, my wishes fulfilled! -  
(LF) Madness is neither a sin nor a crime –  
What does my father say? –  
(LF) But he who is mad is unfit to marry.  
Your son has a troubled mind.  
No matter how rich, how noble, how –  
How I want him to be mine!  
My love's shining lamp, my soul's soul,  
the moon of my night, Qays -  
(LF) Majnun I call him, majnun he is.  
You have heard my answer, now you can go. –  
  
My father said No.

انبض يا قلبي بهدوء  
حتى يمكنني السماع  
دون لا يسمعوك  
(MF) انا قادم بالحب والسلام لأعرض الزواج  
اهدأ يا قلبي  
لا تفقد الثبات  
(MF) هو عيد العيد لأولادنا  
اه يا الله عندما تتحقق الاحلام  
لا يجرم العشاق  
لا يذنب المجنون  
وماذا قال والدي؟  
(LF) العاشق المجنون لا يليق بالزواج  
(LF) وقال قيس أخطأ الحساب  
ما همني يا منيتي إن كنت أغنى الأغنياء  
وسيد النبلاء  
أنا كل ما يهمني هو أن تكون لي  
يا لوعتي كيف السبيل لأن تكون لي  
حبيبي مصباح منير  
روح الروح وقمر الليالي  
قيس  
(LF) مجنون أسميته  
(LF) وهو المجنون

(LF) هل جاءك الجواب؟  
(LF) الآن غادر  
والذي قد قال لا

## 6. Into the Wild

*Majnun; Narrator.  
Arabic; local language.*

Narrator: Rejected. When Qays heard the message he fell to the ground, then, tumbling up, he tore his cloths, and fled from the compound of his tribe to the mountains.

Majnun: Layla!  
I've lost her, my Layla!...

خسرتها، ليلاي

Narrator (*music*): A madman, majnun, he had become, and at the same time a poet.  
He was the harp of his love and pain. But strange: while he himself was insane, his poems were not.  
So, without home for his body and soul Majnun, how he was called now by the people, was roaming the mountains.  
But what does he see, one glittering day: a tender Gazelle caught in a trap, the hunter raising his arm –

*The narrator turns, acting, into the hunter.*

Majnun: Hold your knife, stop the blow!  
Do her no harm!  
How sweet is all life, let your prey go!  
Don't play with death  
This large dark eye  
Shimmering softly like Layla's. -  
All living beings need liberty.

احمل سكينك ووقف الطعنات  
لا تؤذها  
كم تبدو شهية هذي الحياة  
أطلق سراح فريستك  
ولا تلاعب الممات  
تلك العيون الداكنة الكبيرة  
تلمع بنعومة وكأنها ليلى  
الكائنات كلها تشتاق "الحرية"

Narrator: And what about me?  
I make my living  
As a hunter.

Majnun (*spoken?*): Take my horse  
And let the deer free.

خذ حصاني  
وأطلق الغزالة في الفضاء

Majnun: Gazelle,  
watching me gently with your glance,  
flee to her tent and tell her  
the thirsty words of my longing.  
Leaves, whisper into her ear,  
Wind, as a cloud rush her to me  
raining balm on my longing.

غزالتي  
رقيقةً وانت تنظرين لي بهاته العينان  
طيري إلى خيامها  
قولي لها  
كلماتي العطشى من الأشواق  
أيتها الأشجار وشوشي شوقي اليها  
شوقي اليها  
ويا ريح احملها للغيوم  
وامطريها بلسمًا عليًا

Narrator: To Majnun the world and everything in it  
became a mirror of Layla.  
And of his love.

Majnun: Brother Raven, sharing my grief,  
My light will fade  
In the shadow of death...  
Tell her, take leave!

Raven raven black like her hair,  
Dark like my heart.  
Raven raven yellow your stare;  
Night full of stars.

أخي الغراب يا رفيق ألامي  
قل لها ان نوري سينطفئ  
مادام هذا الموت حول وجداني يحوم  
قل لها  
للمعتم مثل قلبي الحزين من شعرها استعار لونه  
صديقي الغراب اللامع المضيء مثل ليلة تكسوها النجوم

Narrator: The raven flew up into the fading light and it seemed as if the wings stretched across the sky covering it with black feather.

Majnun: What a deep night that night is!

ما هذه الليلة الليلية

## 7 Whirlwind of Words

*Layla, Majnun/virtual duet, Choir, mixed, backstage (choir quotes, if possible, in English).  
Arabic, English; local language.*

Layla: Day and night I sit hidden in thoughts,  
living behind a screen.  
Between two fires  
I am consumed:  
Love shouts: Up, up and flee! -  
Fear disgrace! warns Reason.

في الليل والنهار أجلس بالخفاء في قلب أفكاري  
وأعيش خلف ملاءة ما بين نارين  
ويأكلني الضياع  
الحب يصرخ انهضي هيا انهضي  
وحلقي وحاذري  
فالعار نار؟

Narrator: But Majnun's words knew no boundaries. They traveled with the caravans, were sung in the bazars, floated in the air and echoed in Layla's heart.  
Secretly she bundled her loving thoughts to bouquets of verses  
And, answering his, threw her poems like blossoms into the wind.  
Many who listened to their songs, took them to all horizons  
and sometimes turned into lovers themselves.

## 8 The Wedding

*Layla, Eurydice, Narrator, Choir/ small ensemble, female only.  
English, Arabic; local language.*

*Two wedding ceremonies are interwoven: Layla, forced by her father, is married to Ebn Salam.  
Eurydice marries out of free will her famous lover Orfeo. Partly front stage, partly behind the screen.  
Choir text paraphrases ancient wedding hymns by the Greek poet Sappho; simple, almost dancy.*

Choir (women): Sweet like honey her eyes,  
Her face a rosy sunrise –  
Tenderly take her hand,  
Embrace your graceful bride.  
Let us praise Aphrodite!

Blessed be this marriage, O Beloved!

مبارك هذا الزواج يا أيها الأحباب

Eurydice: The veil between us will rise.  
When you look into my eyes  
Will you see me behind my face,  
Is it my soul you will embrace?

Orfeo: I feel my desire's flame rise  
When i look into your shimmering eyes  
In their mirror I see my face  
Veiled in love's fiery haze.

### **9 The Messenger**

*Narrator, Majnun, Orfeo, Choir/small ensemble female only, short.  
Arabic, English; local language.*

Narrator: Some news from the real world to the lonesome wanderer:  
The girl you are craving for  
has been married today.  
Her father gave her away to a noble young Arab.  
So much for faithfulness, sorry to say.

*Majnun faints and drops to the ground.*

*Orfeo, having left the wedding crowd, has come to the foreground of the stage.  
The Narrator turns to him and looks at him with a silent stare.*

Orfeo: *(spoken)* Eurydice? - She is –  
*(sung)* Gone ....?

Choir *(women)*: Persephone  
Snatched you away  
From our care  
Caged you  
In a dark bridal chamber  
We cut our hair  
With sharpened blades  
Sacrificed our locks  
Laying them unto your grave.

Orfeo: My house my table my bed to share I vowed  
You vowed to follow me  
Now to the House of Hades I follow you.

### **10 Otherworld**

*Orfeo, Narrator.*

*English; local language.*

*The narrator takes on the role of Charon; very dry, even casual, while Orfeo is almost too dramatic.*

Narrator: Passport? Bordercontrol.  
Why do you seek entrance  
To the realm of the dead,  
Alive as you are?

Orfeo: Eurydice! Eurydice!

Narrator: Ah, one of those. An artist.

Orfeo: Tears, tears extinguish my sight,  
Drown my soul.  
Sorrow and grief  
Wash over me:  
My vision is blind...

Narrator: You should decide:  
Weeping or singing.  
You can't have both  
at the same time.

Orfeo: Gone! Gone! The heart of my heart  
I have lost.  
Where -

Narrator: You've certainly not lost your voice. –  
Could you answer just a few questions:  
Is it art? Is it real?  
Is it pain? Is it true?  
Is it beauty? Does it count? –  
He does not hear.

Orfeo: Death, death, you stole her from me  
Like a thief!  
You robbed my soul,  
my mind,  
abducted my muse...

Narrator: Well, you're still singing about her.  
Absent she's still feeding your music.  
I personally prefer the sound of your song  
To the usual sheer whailing.  
I let you pass.  
The test will follow later.

Orfeo: Who are you, telling me this?  
Neither human nor shadow nor god?

Narrator: Charon my name, ferryman.  
I row to the other side.  
Usually souls.  
Just continue, my chap!  
I've seen centuries  
Passing by.

## 11 The Rendezvous

*Narrator, Layla, Majnun.  
Arabic; local language.*

*Layla has written a letter to Majnun. The narrator is her messenger, speaking the letter.*

Narrator: I know a garden like paradise there amongst palmtrees we can hide  
Above us only the swirling sky underneath a breathing green carpet  
Come to me: next to cypresses we will sit side by side.

Majnun (*repeats the last sentence in Arabic*):

Come to me: next to cypresses we will sit side by side.

تعال يا حبي إلي  
نجلس هنا متجاورين  
بظلال شجر السرو

*Majnun, having read the letter, meets Layla.*

ليلي:  
توقف ها هنا  
عشر خطوات بعيدا  
دعنا هنا نبقى

**Layla:**  
Stop right there!  
Ten steps away  
Let us stay here.

المجنون:  
انت قد غيرت رايتك  
مثلما يغير القمر ملامحه

**Majnun:**  
You have changed your mind  
Like the moon changes its face.

ليلي:  
لكن قلبي ما يزال كما هو

**Layla:**  
But my heart is still the same.

المجنون:  
منحته لرجل آخر

**Majnun:**  
You gave it to another man.

ليلي:  
أقسم أنني مثلما الماء نقية

**Layla:**  
I swear I'm pure like the water!

المجنون:  
كم يحرق روعي العطش

**Majnun:**  
How burns the thirst my soul!

ليلي:  
أشرب من عينيك فقط  
وسأشرب كلماتك مع قلبي  
القرب هو الخطيئة  
في دين العشاق

**Layla:**  
I drink only from your eyes  
And I'll drink your words with my heart.  
Nearness is the sin  
In the lover's religion.

المجنون:  
عندما أراكِ ينعقد لساني  
يجفّ الآبار من كلماتي

**Majnun:**  
When I see you my tongue is tied,  
Dried the wells of my words.

كلاهما:  
ذائبين بذلك اللهب النقي نفسه  
نسميه الشغف

**Both:**  
We melted with the same pure flame

Narrator: All of a sudden Majnun turned and rushed away into the darkness.  
He fled Layla to long even more for her.  
Animals started to follow him. Wild beasts, he had saved or fed.  
He himself ate very little. As he said once: I have eaten the eater in me.  
So he shared his food with the beasts and they became his companions.  
Animals mirror the humans: they were as good as he.

## ***12 Walking Dead / Layla's Life***

*Layla, Eurydice / virtual duet.*  
*Arabic, English.*

Eurydice (*quasi con coloratura, vivace, but with sudden changes of tempo and mood;*  
*bubbling surface, dark undercurrents, nano moments of irony*):

I am free!  
I am free!  
He did it again!  
His magic,  
His music miracle!  
I should have known  
Even gods would give in.  
They took my dead hand  
And put it into his palm.  
It did not get warm.  
You may take her with you,  
you won her back,  
the gods said over my head.  
Then to me,  
that I have to hold my pace,  
Follow him up,  
One step behind,  
Silent under your veil.  
Well, I am used to,  
I will not fail! -  
Plus a minor rule for him:

He must not look at me.  
I am free! Almost!  
I shall have a new life!  
Maybe even without  
him.  
A new life is a new beginning.  
We will see...

Layla: (slight changes to come)  
Kill me! Kill me, I said  
I'd rather be dead  
Than touched by you.  
My father forced me  
Not my own heart,  
I'll never belong to you. -  
My husband by name gave in  
held me in his prison of love  
never again tried me to win  
but kept me a caged dove. -  
Now he has died. I am free.  
Free to mourn openly  
Finally I can weep  
not hiding the tears anymore  
They think I cry for him  
My cheeks are crusted with salt  
More majnun than Majnun,  
More Layla than before.

خد بيدك السيف الان واقتلني  
لان يسيل دمي على الطرقات  
اهون من ان تدنسني يداك  
لو كان قلبي صاحب القرار ما اقتربت  
لكنه أبي جرحي اللي في الكف  
لذا لن أنتمي يوماً اليك  
يا من سموك في الأوراق زوجي  
خبأتني في سجن حب  
اسكنتني سجناً من الظلام  
ققصا حديديا يموت به الحمام  
لا لن تحاول سلب روجي من جديد  
فانا الان استنشق حرية  
انا حرة في الحزن مثلما اشاء وفي البكاء مثلما اشاء  
فدموعي لن اخفيها بعد الان  
في ظنهم هذا الانين عليه  
وجنتاي أذابهما ملح البكاء  
مجنون أكثر من أول  
مجنون

### 13 Ascending / Layla dies

Layla, Narrator as her mother, Orfeo, Eurydice.  
Arabic, English.

Layla and the narrator as her silent mother are in the foreground of the stage,  
Orpheus with Eurydice in the back, probably behind the translucent screen.  
The two text-levels shall be more interwoven...

Orfeo: Say  
something. -  
Eurydice.  
Speak to the blind.

Layla: Mother, I will reveal my secret  
I draw back the curtain  
because I will leave.

أماه يا أماه  
الآن سوف ابوح لك بحقيقة السر الذي خبأته  
وأزيح ستائر لي لأنني سأغادر

Orfeo: Are you there?  
Next to me?  
Can you hear  
Me?

Layla: Qays always has been my sole love,  
more dear than the sunlight  
fading now in my eyes.

قيس هو حبي الوحيد على الدوام  
أعز من شعاع شمس  
يغيب في عيوني الآن

Orfeo: Can you see?  
Do you look?  
Do you watch  
Me?

Layla: Adorn me like a bride;  
My shroud shall be red as blood.  
Red is a festive colour  
and is not my death a feast?

زينبني كالعروس  
ولوني كفني بأحمر كالدّم  
أحمر كلون الاحتفال  
أوليس موتي يوم عيد

Orfeo: May I touch?  
Take your hand?

Can you feel  
Me?

Layla: Cover me with the veil of earth  
I will not lift it again.

غطني بحجاب الأرض  
انني لن ارفع هذا الحجاب بعد الآن

Orfeo: Are you here?

Layla: When will you follow, my wild one, my love,  
When will you come, Qays...

متى ستلحق بي  
مجنوني الوحيد، حبي  
متى سنأتي قيس

Orfeo: Eurydice?  
(Is it you?)  
Who  
are  
you –

*(Orfeo turns to Eurydice, who, dying again, vanishes. At the same moment Layla dies too.)*

#### **14 (Re)Turn > The Scream**

*Orfeo, Majnun.*

*Instant black.*

*In complete darkness we hear a desperate double scream of Orfeo and Majnun.*

#### **15 Double Lamentation**

*Orfeo, Majnun / virtual duet 2; Animals gathering cautiously.*

*English, Arabic.*

*(Lights slowly up again.)*

Orfeo: I see the void.  
The void watches me.  
All words are burnt.  
Ashes  
under my tongue.

Sitting at  
an abyss  
too deep to be filled  
with love

too dark to be lit  
by memory.

Majnun: Eternal new moon.  
Someone blew out the sun.  
The world is growing cold.  
Night is all  
and night I've become.  
Soundless sound  
fills my soul.

قمر جديد خالد  
أحدهم يطفىء الشمس  
العالم يزداد برودة  
ليلة هي كل شيء  
والليل أنا أصبحت  
صوت بلا أي صوت يملا هذي الروح

### ***16 Is this the End?***

*Narrator, choir, mixed.*  
*English, Arabic; local language.*

Choir (*parts, split up*): A cloud, a wind, a thunderstorm,  
Majnun flew down from the mountains.  
He fell as if struck by lightening.  
There he lies, embracing her grave.  
Wonder of love!  
See the wild ones, the beasts  
Gather around him as guards.

Choir: Do not come near,  
they may tear us apart.

Narrator: Orpheus (they say) retreated to the mountains, far from the homes men and women share, and there he sang to the beasts of the forest, tamed by his melodies.  
But look: a crowd of women storms through the woods. They worship the god of ecstasy. In wild trance and frenzy they punish Orfeo for his solitude.  
They fall upon him and hack and tear him apart, scatter his bloodstained remains.

Orfeo (*spoken over the music*): His head was carried away by the river,  
the waves took the lyre along;  
Floating downstream both exhaled their soft songs;  
Hear the riverbanks answer: echoe to singer and strings.

Choir (*parts, split*): A year has gone by,  
smoke in the sky.  
The animals leave one by one.

Empty the space.  
Silent the air.

Majnun (*spoken over the music*): Still at her grave  
Majnun is spread.  
Time changed his shape:  
white and shining his bones,  
the shimmering soul is gone.

واقفا عند قبرها  
مجنون يتبعثر  
الوقت غير شكله  
وعظامه وضاءة بيضاء  
وروحه المتألئة غابت

Choir: Let us open the grave  
and lay him next to Layla.  
Side by side they may sleep  
now in peace.

Narrator: It is told, that a wise man in his dream saw Layla and Qays, how in paradise  
they sat on thrones, exchanging kisses of blissful love, united at last. -  
Others tell that Orfeo was lifted to the place of the Gods to dwell there amongst  
Them, while his lyre was transported up to the sky and turned into a stellar  
constellation.  
You can see the figure when you look up at night: an instrument made of stars.

### ***17 Lovers in the Sky***

*Narrator, Layla, Majnun, Eurydice, Orfeo, choir, all.*  
*English, Arabic; local language(s).*

Narrator (*music!*): Close to our planet, an Asteroid is travelling through  
space. It was named Eros, and the craters covering its surface carry the  
names of starcrossed lovers, told in old stories, written in books, sang all  
over the world. There is a crater called Pelléas, nearby Mélisande can be  
found, Shah Jahan near his wife Mahal,  
Layla, Eurydice, Orfeo, Majnun ...

*During the text the choir, the soloists and others join and say/sing the names of lovers, from history, literature, opera, names of friends, Romeo & Juliet, Tristan & Iseult, etc.*

Their names are different, their love is the same.  
Inscribed in the map of the sky we share, they have become shimmering signs. -  
But: why did they first have to die? Why could they not live their love?  
We have to change our minds.

Orfeo and Eurydice: Time goes by  
but Love remains.  
Love reigns the earth  
and the sky.

Choir (female): Why did they first have to die?  
Why could they not live their love?  
We have to change our minds.

Tutti & Choir (Partly with Soloists): Time goes by  
but Love remains.  
Love reigns the earth  
and the sky.

It is not only a heavenly thing:  
Give it a place in the world.  
Make it a part of our lives.

الوقت يمضي إنما الحب يبقى  
الحب يسود البلاد  
والسمااء

وهذا ليس من ضرب الخيال  
امنحوا للحب موطننا في هذه الدنيا  
واجعلوه واقعا في يومنا وحياتنا

Time goes by  
But love remains  
Love reigns the earth  
and the sky.

THE END

Martina Winkel, 2017  
Poetic translation to Arabic by Fatena Al Ghorra