

In ancient times, the Sacred Feminine Energy was ever present. There are many historical references that prove the importance of women. They were respected and revered for their ability to give life and for their wisdom and knowledge. It was the time of goddesses, priestesses and queens. There was an equilibrium between male and female that was in perfect harmony with Creation.

Masculinity and femininity are as important as each other, but somehow, in the throes of history, this beautiful balance was gradually tipped in favour of the male energy, which has been prevailing ever since. Women were discouraged from seeking prominent positions in society, and although a few were able to acquire important leadership roles, especially in the Middle Ages, most women held the position of wife, mother, peasant, artisan or nun. Roles that kept them housebound and away from the male dominated world that lay beyond the confines of the home.

Unfortunately, today, women are still very far from being where they belong in terms of equality. I hope and pray that the next generation of daughters and granddaughters will succeed at regaining their position.

The music on this album honours the Highest Feminine Energy; the energy that increases the flow of Love in the universe with unconditional oneness and understanding and with an empathy that vibrates through the hearts of all.

With this album, I wish to bring homage, not only to the great women in history, but also to all those women who took it upon themselves to go against the tide. I pay tribute to those who showed intellect and vision, defended their cause, followed their calling irrevocably and were persecuted or killed for their exceptional knowledge. May their spirit shine brightly forever!

### **Fragrant Mountain**

Quan Yin is an East Asian deity of mercy and compassion. There are various mythical accounts about her. The one I chose for this song is the Legend of Miaoshan, the daughter of a cruel king who wanted her to marry a wealthy but uncaring man. When Miaoshan refused to obey, her father forced her into hard labour and even attempted to kill her. Miraculously, Miaoshan survived and in her endless love she forgave her father. She transformed and began her journey to heaven. When she turned around and saw the suffering by the people of the world, she decided to stay on earth, vowing never to leave till all suffering has ended. The temple where she used to meditate still stands on Fragrant Mountain (Putuo Shan).

### **Anchoress**

In medieval Christianity, an anchoress was a deeply religious woman who chose to withdraw from the world to live a solitary life of prayer and mortification. She was enclosed within the confines of her cell which was attached to the parish church. The anchoress was not cut off from the world, instead she was “anchored” in it. She would receive people who sought her advice on practical and religious matters. Then, the anchoress would offer prayers for these people and pray with them.

### **Boudicca, Heart on Fire**

Most of Boudicca’s life is shrouded in mystery. She was born around AD 25 to a royal family in Celtic Britain and became queen of the Iceni tribe by marriage. After her husband’s death, the Iceni court was taken over by the Romans. Boudicca starkly objected to this and set up an army to fight against the Roman invaders. Her army overran Colchester and defeated an entire Roman garrison, legion and cavalry. Next she headed for London with her troops, but found herself outnumbered by a fierce Roman army. This battle ended in an overwhelming Roman victory.

### **Hypatia’s Universe**

Hypatia (AD 360 - 415) was a Greek mathematician, astronomer and philosopher in Alexandria, Egypt. She was the head of the Neoplatonic school. “There was a woman at Alexandria named Hypatia, daughter of the philosopher Theon, who made such attainments in literature and science, as to far surpass all the philosophers of her own time.” (S. Scholasticus)  
According to various sources, Hypatia was murdered by a Christian mob.

### **O Aeterne Deus**

The original Latin text was taken from an antiphon composed by Hildegard von Bingen. The chant speaks of God’s passionate love for mankind. Hildegard (Germany, 1098-1179) was a medieval mystic and visionary. She was an abbess and the first female composer known in history. She wrote books on spirituality, medicine, nature, health and nutrition. Hildegard accepted many of the assumptions of the time about the inferiority of women. On the other hand, in practice, she exercised considerably more authority than most women of her time and she celebrated feminine community and beauty in her spiritual writings.

