

# Our World is on Fire

An Oratory For Our Future

by  
*Rainer Bartesch*

*with libretto by  
Saint Francis of Assisi  
Danny Antonelli  
Rainer Bartesch*





**Nature People**

gentle tears of joy  
from a laughing sky  
soak our mother earth  
bring her fruit to life  
soft upon the wind  
seeds fall to our home  
we, like the seeds  
like the seeds from the earth  
are born



**St. Francis/Boy Soprano**

Laudato sii, mi' Signore  
per sora nostra matre Terra,  
la quale ne sustenta  
et governa  
et produce diversi fructi  
con coloriti fiori et herba

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**English Translation**

Be praised, my Lord  
for our mother Earth  
which nourishes us  
and governs  
and produces various fruits  
with colorful flowers and grass



**Money People**

see potential unfold  
turn your lead into gold  
be both clever and bold  
every soul can be sold!  
squeeze the debtor  
cut expenses  
pump in profit  
slash the losses  
be the owner  
be the bosses  
stop regulation!  
keep away,  
stay away  
keep away  
leave it to the market!  
sell and buy  
defy!  
hurray!  
we say hurray!

ka-ching ka-ching! ka-ching ka-ching!  
leave it to the market, it knows!  
ka-ching ka-ching! ka-ching ka-ching!  
leave it to the market, it flows!



**Money People**

see how money rolls in  
we are smart, so we win  
coins from heaven is true  
god loves me more than you!  
market crashes  
vulture pounces  
sucker rally  
dead cat bounces  
smart investment  
short sell trounces!

**Nature People**

moonlight falls on snow  
snow reflects the glow  
diamonds ring the moon  
earth, sky sing in tune  
wolf howls in the night  
sings to moon and light  
sun • breaks the night •  
to my eyes • brings the light •  
bird melodies • words in air • take flight  
may the warm winds of heaven blow  
soft upon your house  
may our great mother earth  
bless all, who enter there  
may your feet make happy tracks  
upon the sand and in the snow  
and may the rainbow  
always touch your shoulder



**Nature People**

my garden is rich  
how fertile its soil  
furnishes food  
rewarding my toil  
as soil becomes dust  
and dust becomes sand  
fieldstone the fruit  
of invisible hands



**Money People**

hurray! we say hurray!  
ka-ching ka-ching! ka-ching ka-ching!  
leave it to the market, it knows!  
ka-ching ka-ching! ka-ching ka-ching!  
leave it to the market, it grows!  
You can't make an omelette  
without breaking some eggs!  
come on, let's roll the dice  
everything needs a price  
buy on margin  
short the broker  
off-shore banking  
profit-shifting  
put the assets  
in a shell corp



### Nature People

glaciers melting into seas!  
 leaves no longer on our trees!  
 no more honey, no more bees!  
 wild tornadoes carve the land  
 rain and flood now take command  
 soon our farms will all be sand  
 pestilence and famine spread  
 war adds numbers to the dead  
 Amazon on fire for profit!



### Virtue

our world is on fire!  
 permafrost in arctic melts!  
 as we march with eyes wide shut  
 towards our own apocalypse!  
 business as usual - at what cost?  
 hold on! hold on! listen!  
 listen to the scientists!  
 a mass extinction is spreading fast!  
 hold on! hold on! listen!  
 listen to the scientists!

### extinction means forever lost!

now it's time to see clearly.  
 see it clearly! see it clearly!  
 see the truth and see the lie!  
 ignorance will guarantee  
 millions more will have to die!  
 it will start  
 an irreversible chain reaction

### Virtue (cont.)

don't you! won't you! listen!  
 stop the chain reaction  
 don't let it spin out, spin out of control!  
 don't you! won't you! listen!  
 stop the chain reaction  
 we must awake  
 or we destroy our future!  
 this is as plain and is as hard  
 as truth can get!

### Sprechgesang [spoken singing]:

we all still have a choice:  
 act now and protect our future life  
 on this planet,  
 or continue with our fossil-driven  
 economy and fail.  
 and fail? and fail?  
 it is up to all of us.  
 it is up to all of us.

we can change, change the way we live,  
 change the way we live in our societies.

carbon management can be done,  
 yes it can be done  
 to halt greenhouse gases.  
 climate justice and equity  
 is the policy we want to see!  
 carbon management can be done  
 yes it can be done  
 to halt greenhouse gases.

### Virtue (cont.)

where are the politicians we need?  
 we don't need just words,  
 we need people, that act!  
 we need leaders, that understand,  
 what global warming means to all of us!  
 our future is already burning!  
 can't you smell the smoke?

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