

WINTER 2018

Song of Spring, an Environmental Film

by Linda Beers



If there is something you feel strongly about, don't wait to act upon it or your opportunity may be lost forever. Allow your imagination to soar.

My story started when I performed a folk song for a Chinese New Year celebration. It was my initial inspiration to create *Song of Spring*, an environmentally focused, metaphorical animated short film about saving species from extinction. The experience enabled me to see how music can transport us to a completely different place and time.

Other experiences brought more awareness and helped the creative process. Viewing the documentary *Racing Extinction* on the Discovery channel, I was deeply moved by the site of shark fins as far as the eye could see and the haunting image of a shark with severed fins tragically struggling to survive. Also in this documentary, I learned about the Kauai O'o bird, essentially loved to extinction. Both added to my growing concern about environmental tragedy. The O'o bird went extinct in 1987 after being hunted for its beautiful feathers. Both the male and female O'o birds were song birds. The final male bird sang for a female bird who would never reply.

The experience of captured animals put to death, frequently in gruesome ways, exploded through me as the physical experience of being carried away in a dreamlike state to finally turn to dust. Although my film does not portray the slaughter, I hope its beauty helps to send its message.

The violin solo "Song of Spring" was written in the spring of 2016 for an Earth Day program I performed with Joan Kantor who read nature inspired poetry from her collection, *The Magic of Moments*. The script and scene descriptions were next, followed by collaboration with animator, Susan Lee.



Hualing, the beautiful Chinese girl who is carried away in a dream.

Around the time I first contacted Susan, Tyrus Wong, the animator for Disney's *Bambi* had just passed away. Wong's water color-like animation was innovative and I thought this style would be a good fit for *Song of Spring*. It was Susan's idea to have an O'o bird turn into the character Chaoxiang at the beginning of the video. In mid-February, actor Cecilia Lee recorded the voiceover narration. The quotes by Allen M. Solomon and Robert Swan were used to clarify the message of this film.

View *Song of Spring* here: [Song of Spring](#)

Linda Beers is writer, director, producer and composer of "Song of Spring," an official selection in the New York Short Film Festival 2017 and the Zero Film Festival New York 2017.

[LindaBeers.com/Song-Of-Spring](#) is a member of CT Chapter Sierra Club.