

LYRICS – LITTLE LEAF – CHRIS MCKHOOOL

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1. Plant a Tree!

Words and Music by Chris McKhool, Holmes Hooke (SOCAN)

Forests are a home for many animals
Providing food and shelter from the storm
Canada's so huge, with many microclimates
Where different kinds of forests come into form

Chorus:

*I'm gonna plant a Tree! Gonna plant a Tree,
I'm gonna plant a Tree! Gonna plant a Tree,*

The Boreal stretches across Canada
Where conifers keep their needles all year 'round
Wolverine and porcupine live among the spruce and pine
And listen, you can hear the wolf give a howl

Southwestern Ontario has my favourite trees
Deciduous, the ones that lose their leaves
Basswood and white ash house opossum and raccoons
And the squirrels chatter in the tops of sugar maple trees

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence mix deciduous with pine
In the valleys and the waters that the glaciers left behind
Bears and wild turkeys and families of deer
Live among the oak, maple, birch & hemlock that grow here

Gonna take a pen to paper
And write a letter to the government
About how much I love Canada
And all her forests
And all her forests' trees

Pacific Rainforests are the wonder of the West
Where giant red cedars scrape the sky where they crest
Bald eagles soar high above the forest floor
And look who's fishing there, the world's largest black bear!

2. Miracle in my Backyard

Words & Music by Bing Jensen (SOCAN)

Winter is gone, the world begins to change
The air is warmer, snow turns into rain
Trees start to bud, they know that it's spring
Daffodils bloom, my heart begins to sing

I grow a garden, in my backyard
I read about plants, I think real hard
What can I do, and what do they need
To grow so big, from such a tiny seed

Chorus: I grow big red tomatoes
And little green peas
Lilacs and roses
Plum and cherry trees
Gladi-ali-olus
And giant Swiss chard
It's a miracle my friends
In my backyard

I get some seeds, and put 'em in the ground
I cover them with soil, and pat it all down
Rain from the skies, light from the sun
It's all they ever need, each and every one

Chorus

Bridge:
No one knows what makes a seed grow
Or the heartbeat in your chest
Or the freckles on your nose,
It's a miracle in my backyard ✂

Summer is gone, the plants are all through
I put them in the compost, so they can renew
The soil for next year, when we'll do it once more
Just like I did, the year before

Chorus

Bridge

3. Cosmic Storm

Words Duke Redbird/Chris McKhool, Music Chris McKhool (SOCAN)
Including original poetry from 'Our Mother the Earth' by Duke Redbird

It's a cosmic miracle, organically spherical
This precious planet Earth,
With a sun to shine, and air to breathe
It's a marvel, that gave us birth

With a sky painted blue, 'n earth painted green
And fresh air sandwiched in between,
And species in the Millions, numbering in Billions
With so many still unseen

Chorus:

Shake shake shake your hands / Together we are stronger

Shake shake shake your hands / We can't wait any longer

Clap clap clap your hands / Together we are stronger

Clap clap clap your hands / We can't wait any longer

You know, we don't choose where we are born,
We are the outcome of a cosmic storm.
Let us activate, contemplate, let us all regenerate
Life in all its forms

And if we march together, hand in hand
We will never stand apart,
As it grows in strength, inside us all
This love inside our hearts

Chorus

4. Little Leaf

Words Duke Redbird/Chris McKhool, Music Chris McKhool (SOCAN)

Including original poetry from 'Little Leaf' and 'Sparrow' by Duke Redbird

Did I see a leaf fall from a tree?
Little Leaf, I do not know your name
Yet, I have seen you fall
You did not drop like a stone
You did not swoop like a great hawk
You drifted, and you sang a song

And now your song is deep inside my heart
I'll keep it as you float out with the breeze
A simple melody
The cooing of a dove
The rustle of the grasses
And the lapping of the water on the shore

Chorus:

Hello, hello, hello, Little Leaf

Hello, hello, hello, your song is in my heart

Hello, hello, hello, hello, hello

We're all a part of a community
So go ahead and name that leaf you see
And name the frogs and bugs
And snakes and turtles and the skunk
The chipmunk and the white-tailed deer
Good morning, my friends I love you all

Chorus

Silent flies the hawk at night
Silent float the clouds in flight
Silent stands the redwood tall
Silent is the mountains call

Laughter in the darkness deep
Laughter in a dream-filled sleep
Laughter is a rainbow sky
Laughter is my sparrow's cry

Chorus x2

5. A Place in the Choir

Words and music by Bill Staines (Mineral River Music, BMI)

Chorus:

*All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws,
Or anything they've got now*

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks, and the ram and ewe
Moan and groan with a big to-do
And the old cow just goes "moo"

Dogs and the cats, they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums, and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls

Chorus

Listen to the top, where the little birds sing
On the melodies, with the high notes ringing
The barred owl hollers over everything
And the jay bird disagrees

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and he's on his way
Opossum hasn't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself

Chorus

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy goat and the hawk above

The sly racoon and the turtle dove

Chorus

6. Five Great Lakes

Words & Music by David Archibald (Rogues' Hollow Music, SOCAN)

Let's talk about Superior
It's cold and deep
And by Thunder Bay the Sleeping Giant
Somehow stays asleep

Yes, you've got five (Five?) Five!
Count 'em...Five great Lakes
They're the Greatest Lakes I know
And once you've visited
Lake Superior
You've got four Great Lakes to go

Let's talk about Michigan
The soil is fine
And don't forget Chicago
Where the harbour lights all shine

And you've got five (Five?) Five!
Count 'em...Five great Lakes
They're the Greatest Lakes I know
And once you've visited
Old Lake Michigan and Lake Superior
You've got three Great Lakes to go

Let's talk about Huron
And Georgian Bay
They've got thirty thousand islands
For your summer holiday

Yes, you've got five (Five?) Five!
Count 'em...Five great Lakes
They're the Greatest Lakes I know
And once you've visited
Lake Huron /Georgian Bay, and Lake Michigan and Lake Superior
You've got two Great Lakes to go

Bridge:

*Let's talk about Erie
It's nice and warm
But shallow waters whip up
Into whitecaps in a storm
And flocks of birds
You hear their calls*

*Above the splashing of the paddles
and the Thunder of the Falls.*

Yes, you've got five (Five?) Five!
Count 'em...Five great Lakes
They're the Greatest Lakes I know
And once you've visited, old Lake Erie,
Lake Huron /Georgian Bay and Lake Michigan and Lake Superior
You've got one Great Lake to go

And what about Ontario
It's last not least
It's where you'll find Toronto
It's your last stop heading east

And you've got five (Five?) Five!
Count 'em...Five great Lakes
They're the Greatest Lakes I know
And once you've visited, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie,
Lake Huron /Georgian Bay and Lake Michigan and Lake Superior
You've got no Great Lakes to go

7. Maple Magic

Words and music by Chris McKhool (SOCAN)

Here in this forest, there is magic in the air
There's a cool springtime breeze and robins everywhere
And I'm warm by this fire that crackles all day long
Making maple syrup while we sing this song

Chorus:

*We boil it down, down, down, all day long
I hope it's done, done, done, by the end of this song*

Tapping trees is an ancient practice of the Indigenous northeast
That helped sustain First Peoples, a sweetener for the feast
Collecting sap in a birch bark bowl from a spout drilled in a tree
With fire-heated stones, to burn the water free

Chorus

Bridge:

*Bubbling kettles over crackling fire
A gift of springtime straight from the tree
You fetch the wood, I'll stoke the fire
Taste some syrup, it's a treat*

It takes 40 pails of sap to make a jug of syrup we can eat
We evaporate the water leaving a sweet and sticky treat
It's a true gift of springtime that comes straight from the woods
Giving life so selflessly, as only nature could

Chorus

8. Walk and Roll

Words and music by Chris McKhool (SOCAN)

We can make energy from water, wind and sun
Biogas and people power get the job done
I feel chills when I'm trying to be
A more sustainable, renewable, reusable me

Chorus:

We're gonna walk and roll,
We're gonna rock and roll
We're gonna walk, we're gonna walk,
Let's rock the world today

Why take a car when you can take a bike
Why take a 4x4 when you can take a hike
Why take a plane when you can take a train
Or a people packed bus that'll get you there the same

Chorus

There are way better ways to try to get to school
Then jamming up our roads and burning more fuel
You can skateboard, rollerblade, bicycle too
Or pick me up at eight and I will walk with you

Chorus

Bridge:

*If we all work together,
We won't feel alone.
Write your government leaders
Don't let them postpone.
Cause there's a movement afoot
Look how it has grown.
We are the new wave, Let's do it with style,
Tread lightly on our Earth, If we want to stay awhile*

Chorus

9. Rivers, Lakes and Seas

Words and music by Chris McKhool (SOCAN)

There's a turtle that's two hundred years old
She doesn't mind the water's icy cold

Chorus:

The rivers, lakes and seas
The rivers, lakes and seas
Oh, how I love the rivers, lakes and seas

There's a beluga whale swimming free
He's only one year old but bigger than you and me

Chorus

I love to listen to the call of the loon
As I paddle to the light of the moon

Chorus

The lakes turn to clouds and then to rain
Then run into the rivers once again

10. Hungry

Words and music by Chris McKhool (SOCAN)

A great white bear lives in the North near the Hamlet of Arctic Bay
Where her favourite meal, the black ringed seals, splash about and play
This great white bear fishes with her claw for the slippery arctic seals
For hours she waits by the edge of sea hoping to catch her meal

It's the great floe edge where ice meets sea where the white bear hunts alone
It's a place of risk where the loose floe drifts and hunting skills are honed
But today she waited, and waited still, and she waited even more
And feeling bored she fell asleep on the snowy, cold ice floor

Now the black ringed seals, though they hunt their meals swimming beneath the sea
Must break through the ice from hour to hour to breathe air like you and me
They hide their holes with a little snow and they're careful when they surface
For any sound or smell of bear waiting with hungry purpose

But this young seal, hearing not the bear slumbering in the snow,
Came up for air, greeting the day with a wet and cold black nose
The seal saw the bear and laughed out loud "Ha! She fell asleep!
What a lazy bear, a pitiful sight, this so called 'Fearful Beast'"

And the seal laughing all too loud woke up the bear, who rose

And furiously lashed out her claw and caught the seal's nose
The seal wailed and cried "You fiend!" before dropping back to the sea
And the great white bear, although well rested, was all the more hungry

Now she missed her chance and worse than that she missed another meal
And she wandered off back to her lair thinking about that seal
And although the seal was incensed, he felt lucky in the sea
For a bloody nose he earned that day but at least he was not hungry

11. Won't You Buy Me a Pony

Words and music by J.P. Harrison (SOCAN)

*Won't you buy me a pony, that I can ride
We can stand and look out, from upon the hillside*

Well, the Pony you got, looks just like you said
With your hair hangin' down, all over your head

*Won't you take me to the seaside, so I can hear the waves sing
And I can watch the sun shinin', from a seagull's white wing*

Well, just close your eyes, and the ocean you'll hear
When I hold this shell up to your ear

*Won't you write me a song, about nothing at all
About the thoughts in your head, or a mockingbird's call*

Well, the song that you got, just came out of my head
And there's a mockingbird a sittin', on the edge of your bed

*When I get older, can I be like you
Can I write songs and sing em', and play guitar too*

You can do all those things, you can start in your dreams
Goodnight, sleep tight, I love you