

Two songs from

Oh My Tiger

Adapted from *The Hungry Tigress, a Tibetan myth*

Written by Sibyl O'Malley

In collaboration with Mira Kingsley, Sarah Leddy, Darius Mannino and Kristen Smiarowski

Music composed by Daniel Coral

(Performers enter as themselves)

Kristen: This is how the story begins:

Sarah: Formerly, in a time long past, there was a king who possessed chariots, wielded great power, and overcame his opponents with unobstructed power and strength. He had three sons, who were like the sons of the gods.

Darius: One bright day the King, accompanied by his three sons, went to a park for sport. Drawn by the enchanting features of the park, and wanting to find flowers, the princes walked about here and there.

Kristen: This is how we begin

(Performers exit and re-enter as the three brothers)

Opening number:

Refrain

Smell the flowers!
Here, in the park!
Their fragrance almost breaks our hearts!
Three princes are we
And brothers
And lovers
Of flowers

First Verse

Oldest: I am the oldest brother!
I was born before the others.
I try to be very good
As an older brother should
I know the names of all the flowers
And I have almost no fear
Someday I'll have great powers
Over places far and near
And we, we love each other sincerely, dearly, brotherly.

*Kristen roars. Roars. Roars!

(Performers as themselves, to audience:)

*K: That's the tiger.

*D: We're not at the tiger yet.

*K: I know. But this is all so upbeat.

*D: It's the beginning.

*K: I don't want them to be surprised.
*S: Thank you.
*K: It's going to get more complicated.

Refrain

Second Verse

Oldest: This is the middle brother!
Middle Brother: I'm in the middle of the others.
Once a blue transparent butterfly landed on my shoulder and I wanted to keep it as a pet but it flew away before I could catch it.
I like being with my brothers
And this park is pretty cool
We have a beautiful mother
When I look back, she waves at me (He looks back. He waves)
And we, we love each other sincerely, dearly, brotherly.

(Spoken, to audience:)

*D: It's hard to show how they love each other.
*K: It's hard to show sincerity
*S: Yes

Refrain

Third Verse:

Middle Brother: This is our youngest brother!

Youngest Brother:
Perfect Purple
I love you.
Flower next to flower next to brother next to brother
I consider you
Your miracle is made of dirt and rain
Your feet walk places I can't see
Your death (is)
My breath
The falcon's nest
Is mouth and mouth and mouse and bones
Fur empty of flesh
Becomes flower
Becomes falcon
Becomes feet
Becomes everything
More than everything
We know

All-brother Verse

Our parents are a Queen and King
They often do important things
We pick as many flowers as we like
We run fast and feel deeply
Now the adults are almost out of sight
We run fast and treat each other sweetly

Refrain

Smell the flowers!
Here, in the park!
Their fragrance almost breaks our heart!
Three princes are we
Three princes are we
Three princes are we
And brothers
And lovers
Of flowers
And brothers!
And brothers!
And lovers!
And brothers!
And flowers!
And flowers!

(They dance until the fear of the forest overtakes them)

Woods Song

The woods are the gray light that is neither night nor day
Where shadows are real
And the air is still
The woods are as far away as the caves of Afghanistan,
And as close as your own heart
Where what you know but don't want to know lives
The forgotten wards of Walter Reid
The ninth ward before it rains
The downcast eyes of a father
As familiar as your own hands
And as strange as what they are capable of
They speak your fears
Each one
By name

(Pause in song:)

Youngest brother:
Flower feet underfoot
Even here
My heart raises its head
To see where my light
Might plant a song
Woods
I want you

(Sung:) The woods are the light inside each brother
And the darkness inside each brother
The woods are the other
The woods are us

(Immediately they meet the tiger)