Ask the Planet

Get Out

Get out
get out
get out
get out

Get outside!

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Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Amy Martin
Drums & Percussion - Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
I want to be like a tree
I want to dig down deep in the dirt
Make my home right here on Earth
That’s what I learned from a tree

I want to be like a tree
In the sun and rain, sleet and snow
I give shelter to everyone I know
That’s what I learned from a tree

Hey, look at me!
I’m wild and free, free, free
I’m reaching out, I’m rooted deep
Hey, I’m like a tree

I want to be like a tree
With my brothers and sisters all around
Passing notes to each other underground
That’s what I learned from a tree

Chorus

I want to be like a tree
Changing colors right before your eyes

I might even photosynthesize
That’s what I learned from a tree

Chorus

I want to be like a tree
Even after I fall, after I’m gone
The seeds I made will keep living on
That’s what I learned from a tree

Chorus

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Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Amy Martin
Drums & Percussion - Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Ask the Planet

You got a problem?
Are you having doubts?
You got a question that you can't figure out?
You'll find an answer
Or two or four
All you got to do is step out your door and

Ask the planet
Pose a question to a posy
Ask the planet
Don't worry, it won't think you're nosey
Ask the planet
Ask the ocean or the prairie
Ask the planet
Something scaly, something hairy
Ask the planet
It's been here a really long time
Yeah the planet can help you with
Whatever's on your mind

How do I stay warm in the cold
and the snow? (ask a snowshoe hare)
How can I travel over the Gulf of Mexico?
How can I build a house under the sea?
(ask an abalone)
How do I get my friends to listen to me?

Ask the planet
Interview an ibex
Ask the planet
Take a lesson from a T-rex
Ask the planet
Ask the tundra or the desert
Ask the planet
Something slimy, something feathered

Ask the planet
It's been here a really long time
Yeah the planet can help you with
Whatever's on your mind

I want to stand out
I want to blend in
I want some time alone
I want to make friends
I want everybody to learn how to get along
I want to sing my own special song

Ask the planet
Get a lecture from a lemur
Ask the planet
Get subliminal messages from your femur

Ask the planet
Ask the swampland or savanna
Ask the planet
Maybe something that eats bananas

Ask the planet
It's been here a really long time
Yeah the planet can help you with
Whatever's on your mind

© 2007 Amy Martin
Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Amy Martin
Drums – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Trumpet – Tanya Darby
Also featured – elephant
Hey there sunshine  
Are you getting warmer?  
Hey there glacier  
You’re melting too soon  
Hey there ocean  
Are you getting higher?  
Oh what can we do  
To keep our cool, cool, cool

Hey there songbird  
We haven’t heard you singing  
Hey there polar bear we’re worried about you  
Hey there penguin  
Is that a warning that you’re bringing?  
Maybe it’s time to choose  
To keep our cool, cool, cool

La la la...

Hey there sister  
Looks like stormy weather  
Hey there brother  
Here’s a hand to hold onto  
And hey everybody  
We can make it together  
But we need to choose  
To keep our cool, cool, cool

La la la...

Hey there future  
We’re singing for your seasons  
Hey there creatures  
We’re singing for you  
Hey there children  
Do we need another reason  
Than our love of you  
To keep our cool, cool, cool

La la la...

Hey there sunshine  
Are you getting warmer?  
Hey there glacier  
You’re melting too soon  
Hey there ocean  
Are you getting higher?  
There’s a lot we can do  
To keep our cool, cool, cool
School of the Wild

There's a school I know that's kind of crazy
The principal is a chimpanzee
The teachers are turtles and tigers and storks
And some of my buddies have tongues that fork

School of the wild
School of the wild
Everybody's living in the school of the wild

I never know what clothes to wear
'Cause sometimes we have class
in the ozone layer
Then it's into the ocean for gym
with the sharks
And music in the meadow
with the pines and the larks

Chorus

Have you ever asked a flea
how it jumps so high?
Or studied navigation with a butterfly?
Have you listened to a speech
given by a rock?
Or interviewed the insects
living on your block?

Chorus

Sometimes things get a little loud
What with the juncos and the jaguars and the mandrill crowd
So the sea horse and the serval
and the rabbits say hush
You'll scare us away
if you talk too much

Chorus

Like the birds and the bugs and the big blue whales
The scallops and slugs and everything with a tail
Be like them, get educated, child
Spend your days in the school of the wild

Chorus

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Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Laura Love, Bill Sims Jr.
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Also featured – chimpanzee, ape, meadowlark, baboons, elephant, marsh
Riddle 6

Sometimes I disappear right before your eyes
I fall down to the earth and float up to the sky
I can move mountains with enough time
I join places together
I am also a dividing line

What am I? What am I?

I look through your windows
and come into your home
I belong to no one
everyone can call me their own
I sit very still and I run over the ground
I have many voices but I don’t make a sound

What am I? What am I?

I was just born today,
I’m a billion years old
I live where it’s very warm
and where it’s terribly cold
When there is too much of me
I can make things tough
But you won’t last long
if I am not enough

What am I? What am I?

Every single living thing
depends on me
I’m over half of the planet
over half of your body
I know you will ask for me
when the days get hotter
Do you know my name?
Call me by my name
Do you know my name?
I am ___. I am ___. I am ___.

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Vocals – Bruce Cockburn
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Violin – Jenny Scheinman
Take care of the place that
will take care of your children*
Take care, take care.
Take care of the place that
will take care of your children

*This line paraphrases Janine Benyus' statement that successful life forms “take care of the places that will take care of their offspring.”

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Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Violin – Jenny Scheinman
Cello – Marika Hughes
Wise Like You

Grandma, Grandma and Grandpa sing to me
Grandma, Grandma and Grandpa sing to me
I want to know how to grow wise like you

Tuatara
You are a-mazing
You’ve been here for 200 million years
And you can hear without an ear
You’ve got three eyes
If we sit at your knee
will you tell us a story or two?

Chorus

Oh ginkgo
I think you know a secret
One of your trees lives
for one hundred human generations
While our nations fall and rise
you have survived
If we sit at your knee
will you tell us a story or two?

Chorus

And tortuga
I know you-a been swimming
In our beautiful seas
since dinosaur times
How do you find your way back home
After you roam the globe
If we sit at your knee
will you tell us a story or two?

Chorus

© 2007 Amy Martin
Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir,
Laura Love, Dar Williams
Drums – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Cello – Marika Hughes
Ask the Planet

The Great TV Rebellion

Have you heard the story of the day the kids broke free
From the evil oppressor known as the TV
Yes, there used to be these boxes inside every home
That melted kids brains and turned them into drones
The kids they were helpless in front of the tube
Whatever TV told them they would go do
They never went outside except to go to a store
And no matter how much stuff they bought they always wanted more
Until the great TV rebellion of 2010
When all the kids turned off their TVs and never turned them on again
They said enough with all this ya-hooey
I’m going out to play
And all the TVs could do was sit there and watch them walk away

Well most kids were held captive in this TV-induced haze
Except a few of the very wildest ones that no TV could tame
There was Britney of the Badlands and Joshua of the Swamp
Maria of the Desert and Mike of the Vacant Lot
This noble band joined forces with the pigeons and the squirrels

And sent a message of revolution to every boy and girl:
“From the bondage of the black box let everyone be free
Kids of the world, rise up!
And turn off the TV!”

Chorus

It was planned for April 22nd, 4 o’clock in the afternoon
Every kid in the whole world knew exactly what to do
Act normal, just sit there
Like a lump on the couch
But the when the clock strikes four
Run for the door
And turn the TV OFF on the way out

Oh the TVs tried to fight back but they had been unplugged
And all the kids were out in the wilderness with their toes in the mud
They were climbing trees and scraping knees and making secret forts
They were collecting stones and bruising bones and making sculptures of all sorts
They were acting out their own stories singing songs in their own style
After the great TV rebellion Kids...went...WILD

Chorus

© 2007 Amy Martin
Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Ani DiFranco
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Accordion – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Trumpet – Tanya Darby
Here we sit in primordial stew
Doing what bacteria like to do
Although there are billions and billions of us
You will notice we don’t make a muss, ‘cause

There’s no such thing as garbage
It hasn’t been invented yet
There’s no such thing as trash you stash
and then try to forget
There’s no such thing as garbage
We make what we need and no more
One critter’s waste is another one’s
entrée du jour*

We are mammals and insects
and amphibians
Birds and reptiles and fungi, man
We’ve no need for landfills
or stinky trash cans
‘Cause what one of us can’t use
another one can

There’s no such thing as garbage
We’ve been recycling all of our lives
One species’ junk is another one’s lunch and
then becomes fertilizer
There’s no such thing as garbage
We make what we need and no more
One critter’s waste is another one’s en-
trée du jour

Oh remember when humans
were terribly plagued
By the syndrome called
“throw everything us away”
For a few hundred years there

they just didn’t think
Thank goodness that garbage
has now gone extinct

There’s no such thing as garbage
We learned it just in time
Back when the planet
could hardly stand it
we started to learn this rhyme
There’s no such thing as garbage
We make what we need and no more
One critter’s waste is another one’s
entrée du jour

* This line, the best in the song, was
written by Adam Levy

© 2007 Amy Martin
Vocals – Adam Levy, Allison Miller,
Amy Martin, Bryony Schwan, Janine
Benyus, Julie Wolf, Jon Miller, and
Todd Sickafoose
Drums – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Thanks for the oxygen
Thanks for the frogs
Thanks for the fleas and thanks for the dogs
Thanks for the sunshine
Thanks for the ice
I gotta say the color scheme you’re using here is really nice

Thanks for the butterflies
Thanks for the laughs
Thanks for armadillos and thanks for giraffes
Thanks for the rain
Thanks for the wind
You’re so dang amazing gotta say it again
Thanks!
Yeah thanks!

Thanks for the swoosh
Thanks for the plunk
Thanks for the stripes on the back of the skunk
Thanks for volcanoes
Thanks for earthquakes
The motion of the ocean and the music that it makes

Thanks for the rainbows
Thanks for the stars
Thanks for what we was and thanks for what we are

Thanks for my belly
Thanks for my heart
For giving every living thing a special kind of smarts
Thanks!
Yeah thanks!

Thanks for bacteria
Thanks for the rocks
Thanks for a little black cat with white socks
Thanks for the geysers
Thanks for the bugs
When I look at all the beauty oh my heart just fills with love

Thanks for the continents
Thanks for the poles
Thanks for the mountains and thanks for the moles
Thank you for gravity
Thank you for night
For weasels and wallabies and eagles in flight
Thanks!
Yeah thanks!

Thanks for the buffalo
Thanks for the tick
Thanks for the way that the gecko feet stick
Thanks for the flippers
Thanks for the fins
The paws and the claws the teeth and the chins

Thanks for the puddles
Thanks for the sky

Thanks for the how and thanks for the why
Thanks for the honeybees
Thanks for the flowers
For cow’s milk and spider silk and termite towers
Thanks!
Yeah thanks!
Thanks!

© 2007 Amy Martin
Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Erin McKeown
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Do I belong here?
Where are my friends?
Who is my family?
Am I one of them?
Sometimes I look around
And I feel so alone
Sometimes I can’t find my way home

Open your door
Come outside
Take a deep breath
Open your eyes
Every creature
every leaf, every stone
Is singing this, this is your home

I am listening
I’m trying to see
A path I can walk down
And the lights to guide me
What I need is a stillness
So I can hear an old song
What I need is to know I belong

Chorus

My heart gets heavy
My mind gets tired
Everyone’s so busy
Everything’s so wired
Where can I lay down?

Chorus

I know I have gifts to bring
I can feel them growing inside me
But where do I go
To find my place in things
I need a path
and someone to walk beside me

Open your door
Come outside
Take a deep breath
Open your eyes
Every creature, every leaf, every stone
Is singing this, this is our home
This is our home

I know I have gifts to bring
I can feel them growing inside me

© 2007 Amy Martin
Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Cello – Marika Hughes
I know a place
Down by the creek
Where it’s messy and muddy and free
I sit real still
And drink my fill
Of the silence that speaks to me

We can start from here
Through my hands and feet
I can feel the Earth’s heartbeat

Start from here
Open my ears and my eyes
And I start to come alive

I know a place
Like a table top
Where the sagebrush
and cactus bloom
I climb up
Like a coyote pup
And howl at the rising moon

Chorus

I have a dream of the human family
Living clean and healthy
All nations, all creeds and all races
Learning and loving our places
What Kind of Animal Are You

Roll up like a hedgehog
Flap your wings and fling yourself into the air
Like a duck or a goose
Go ahead and let loose
Quack quack quack quack, honk

Sharpen your claws like a tiger
Wiggle and squirm
like a worm working hard in the dirt
Shake your fin and your tail
Like a humpback whale

What kind of animal are you?
What does that animal do?
Where is that animal found?
How does that animal sound?

Paddle around like a dugong
Kick the ground like a kiang
What’s a kiang? (I don’t know!)
We can find out though

Galah and galago
The world is full of critters
that you may not have considered

Stick out your tongue like an echidna
Go for a run like a vicuña
en los montañas de Peru

You’ll be a cutie
When you’re an agouti
Listening for the fruit
falling from the forest canopy

Chorus

Do a somersault like an otter
Or take a dive into the water
like an osprey catching fish
Or just hold really still
Like a wapiti will
When it happens to be trying
not to get noticed by a lion

Read a book and play the banjo
Take a look through a telescope
at a distant star
Paint a picture of
something you really love
Throw the ball in the basket
Think of a question and ask it

Chorus

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Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Bill Harley
Drums – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Violin – Jenny Scheinman
Also featured – duck, humpback whale, lion, otter
"Bios" means life
"Mimicry" means imitate

Life runs on some basic principles
Deep patterns
Deep deep patterns
We can study and follow those rules
Change our tune
sing along to life's beautiful song

Chorus

Every species that survives
Fits in here
Hey Homo sapiens
it's our time
We might be young
but it can be done

Chorus

It's our turn
We can learn
Life is all around us

If we listen
To their wisdom
Teachers surround us

Chorus

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Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir, Amy Martin
Drums – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose
Keys – Julie Wolf
Guitar – Adam Levy
Tuba – Sam Pilafian
We Are Not Alone

Sometimes I get scared
And I need to cry
Problems of the world
Bearing on my mind
Pressure I can’t take
It’s too much for me
What if I make a mistake
or try to fake it and everyone sees

We are not alone

Everyone was born
Of someone before
It’s a fact of life
It’s a metaphor
A baby can’t survive
All by its little self
And neither can a species
We all need some help

We are not alone

I forget to look
I forget to ask
I forget to notice
Because I go so fast
It’s not all up to me
Guidance all around

Just gotta admit what I don’t know
I gotta humble down

We are not alone

It’s a miracle
A gift that we’ve been given
That we’re here at all
Singing breathing living
I can melt the walls
I make in my head
And remember that together is how it is – and how it’s always been

We are not alone

We have an effect
Everything we do
You matter to me
I matter to you
It’s called community
It’s called relationship
That’s why we clean up our mess
and treat each other with respect

We are not alone

© 2007 Amy Martin

Vocals – The Missoula Coyote Choir
Drums & Percussion – Allison Miller
Bass – Todd Sickafoose