My passionate essay ;)

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What does the river say?

This will be my first concert fulfilling a dream of mine to connect my new album ‘The Canoe’ with the theme of river and water.  
I’m touched and concerned about many enviromental/social issues of our times, and I have in me a calling to want to bridge together my passion for the health of this world, with the love I have for music.  
  
Music is such a beautiful bridge for such things, as it unifies us into the same frequency, as the water inside our bodies resonates and responds to each other and to sound.  
It’s so incredible!

Being a lover of water and wild places, I have spent many days these last years on my canoe in England and in other lands on my travels, exploring the edges where land meets water,

where river winds and turns,

where tide flows.  
And it always brings me to the deeper sense of knowing,   
that all rivers connect and are drawn back to the sea.  
  
To be with water is very relaxing. It’s mysterious. It’s very connected to dreamtime.  
It taps into a place of devotion and care inside me to want to make sure our waters are in a good place.  
Some rivers I see are glimmering in the sunlight with swans and coots living their lives along the river banks.  
  
But other rivers look frothy, yellow, oily, smelly..   
plastic and beer bottles collecting along the edges in little stagnant places   
where the tide couldn’t bare to take more out to sea.  
  
And I see pipe lines,

man-made straightened river banks,

a sign of our ongoing obsession for convenience

without honouring consequence.

Tree’s stripped away from the river bank for as far as the eye can see

for cattle to graze.

And I hear concerning things sometimes…

Not much, as not many people talk about it…

but I hear whisperings of how polluted our waters are.  
  
And it makes me wonder - how come I know so little of a place I love so much?  
How is the river?  
If it had a voice what would it say?  
  
And now I come to Amsterdam - The land of water!  
And I wonder with a curious heart - how are the canals and rivers there?  
  
If those watery places could speak what would they tell us?  
What does the river say?  
  
With this concert we are so happy to be inviting guest speakers to help us explore this question.  
It is one that I want to journey deeply into, and it will take time.   
A lifetime infact, to keep learning and tuning into water and just the immensity of what it gives to us and how important it is to us in all of our lives.  
  
But this is the beginning of this journey…  
  
We have found a wonderful guest speaker - A water engineer and passionate water worker in Holland - Marlise …?  
She has worked for years with the waters and has some fascinating information to share with us about the water of those lands.  
  
As practical as water also is, it is never far from the mystical, and throughout the ages, myth, story and placement of life has been enriched and grounded in story of river, ocean, and water.  
We have invited a beautiful storyteller Marike who will be bringing short stories of water to quench our thirst and help us to feel closer to the water spirits.

EQUINOX - BRIDGING THE CONCERT WITH A MUSICAL WATER CERMONY

This concert is being held at a potent time on the wheel as the seasons change.. It marks the quietening down of the Summer and the welcoming of Autumn.  
These quarter points are always powerful times to tune in more deeply to what we want to let go of, what we want to call in, what we want to nurture. How we really are.

To nourish this powerful time, we wanted to carry the energy created by the Canoe concert, and of all of us coming together in heart and song. So we are holding a musical water ceremony the day after on the Equinox day, 21st September.

It will be a chance to go deeper into the question of river, but bring the question into ourselves… The inner river leading to our beautiful hearts.

As we know, what is inside is mirrored outside. We are such an amazing synergy of earth and spirit. Body, heart and mind.   
This will be a relaxed and intimate event where we can be together in honesty of where we are at,  and give a little time to the waters of our heart songs.  
  
Water doesn’t judge us. It takes our energy and has the power to transform it. To carry it to source. To give tide and direction to our prayers. to respond and be cleaned by our love and gratitude.  
  
At the concert in Vondelkerk we will make an alter with water from different rivers ( i will bring some from my river also to connect my home).   
If you would like to add any water from a special place you come from, please feel free to bring some and just pour it gently into the bowl at the alter of the concert.  
  
Water is so receptive and responds so well to positive energy and intention, so throughout the musical night we will send our love to that water!  
  
At the ceremony the day after, we will have that water with us also, to continue filling it with our love, voices, our tears, our laughter, our honest present hearts.   
At the end of the ceremony we will take the water to the lake and give it back to the bigger water, knowing that in it’s own way, it will receive our love and prayers and that they will help to clean and honour it also.