



## Song of the Nightingale

By Lisa Despain & Melisa Tien

### Synopsis

*By Maestro Daniel Kleinknecht*

The Collector lives in a mansion high above the city. There is a forest nearby. The Collector and Curator go into the woods to look for the Nightingale, a bird that sings beautifully.

The Curator sings, "I wonder if collecting animals is fair to the animals?"

The Collector sings, "Everything wants to be gathered and shown in a special light."

Verbal "ah" forest sounds come from the Frog, Nightingale and Cow over the question; the Curator and Collector "ah" in awe of the beauty of the forest.

They meet up with the Cow who dances for them.

They meet the Nightingale. She sings "They looked past the bird," (self-reference), "...too plain in their eyes to carry the voice they perceived. The humans withdrew, they never knew, the one they were seeking, the nightingale had been hiding in plain view."

The Collector invites the Nightingale to live with her in luxury; she wants the city to be able to hear her beautiful sounds. The Frog counsels against the move; the Cow sees it as an opportunity.

The Nightingale says yes to the Collector's offer and signs a contract stating that she'll write and perform a new song in public.

The Nightingale is miserable inside the Collector's house.

The Collector sings, "Isn't it interesting that what we once found beautiful we now find ugly?" This refers to the sad Nightingale.

The Nightingale sings for an audience. The song illuminates the many sides of her personality.

Next the Cow and Frog discuss the Nightingale's plight of living in the Collector's home. The Frog decides to try to rescue the Nightingale from her situation.

A package is delivered to the Collector. Inside is a Mechanical Bird covered in jewels (this is really the Frog in disguise).

The Mechanical Nightingale sings a repetitive phrase that the Collector does not like.

The Cow arrives on the scene and frees the Nightingale, bringing her back to the woods; the Mechanical Nightingale remains in the Collector's house.

The woods and the Collector's house merge; the Curator reveals that his real place, his heart, is in the woods. He returns to the woods leaving the Collector alone with the Mechanical Nightingale.

The Collector goes into the woods to find the Curator, singing "I thought I knew what I was doing," to which the Nightingale sings, "Why do you collect?"

Together in the woods they all sing "Listen for a tune only you know. Listen for the song felt in your heart, in your bones, in your soul. Listen in your soul."

The end.