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# The Labyrinth Song

Composers, Suzannah Doyle and Nan Dudek

Suzannah Doyle is a Corvallis-based performer and composer whose work appears in numerous videos, compact discs and multimedia presentations. She performed at the White House in Washington, DC in 1997 with her instrumental duo "Another Dave," whose two albums contain many original songs by Doyle. She is co-founder of the Corvallis Composers Group, and has created original music for such clients as OSU Austin Family Business Program, Orchard Hill Productions, Unity of Corvallis, and OSU Anthropology Department.



Nan Dudek is a Massage Therapist and healer in Corvallis, where she has practiced for over 10 years. She has only recently branched into songwriting. Dudek says she has always enjoyed writing, but finds that collaborating with Doyle involves an inspired creative synergy that allows music to flow and words to dance.



"The Labyrinth Song" is an original choir piece composed by Suzannah Doyle and Nan Dudek especially for the opening of the community Labyrinth at the 1999 da Vinci Days. The song is written to reflect a typical experience one might have walking through a labyrinth. It begins with a departure from the everyday world to a

more mindful, intentional state. This is reflected musically by pulsing Native Americans drums and the use of simple unison melodies and chant-like chordal harmonies.

The center of the song finds the music, like the labyrinth, at its essence: It moves from a soft dissonance to a pure solo voice, which then continues in a somewhat ethereal vein above a very focused chant. All this feels like what one may find at one's own center, in the labyrinth, which might be described as a higher part of oneself.

The rest of the song represents a returning to the everyday world from the center of the labyrinth. The first half of the song is actually sung "backwards" at this point, with a musical structure that reflects a greater wisdom, a weaving together of one's higher clarity and the everyday world. It ends with a lucid chant, more proactive than mesmerizing, with a final musical resolution that feels uplifting and positive.

We plan to create a true "community choir" to perform "The Labyrinth Song," inviting numerous community, church and school choirs to join in the presentation of this piece. We hope to reflect the diverse cultural and philosophical influences that have contributed to the resurgence of Labyrinth-walking the modern day world is enjoying. Above all, we encourage every community member to experience the Labyrinth in their own unique way.

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## **The Labyrinth Song**

From the Earth  
rises up a Labyrinth

Walking sacred circles,  
timeless journey to the self

Every step an echo  
of ancient footfalls.  
Those who've walked  
this path before

unweave the mind  
unweave the mind  
unweave the mind

Revealing stillness  
From all things one, from one thing all  
From all things one, from one thing all  
From all things one, from one thing all

Revealing stillness

Unweave the mind  
each step an echo  
of ancient footfalls  
each step an echo . . .

those who've walked this path before

Timeless journey to the self,  
walking sacred circles  
rises up a labyrinth  
from the Earth,  
rises up

a labyrinth

from the Earth

Would you like to be a part of the community choir or be a volunteer for the labyrinth? Click [here](#) to find out more.



### Labyrinth and Mud Oven Details

Photographs of labyrinth scale model of the approximate final design.  
Photo Credit: Bowman Photography of Corvallis, Oregon.

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