

Sufi Concentrations
James Burgess

Wise Earth

Words: Ella Young Music: Nasrudin

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a 'Capo4' instruction. The lyrics are: 'The Earth that is wise and old The Earth that is wise and old The'. The second staff continues the lyrics: 'Earth that is wise and old Dreams in her sleep and stirs'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Dm, G, G, Dm, G, G, Dm, G, Gm, C, Dm.

1. *The Earth that is wise and old*
2. *The Earth that is wise and old*
3. *The Earth that is wise and old*
4. *Dreams in her sleep and stirs*

Hold hands in circle.

- 1 Three side steps left, one side step right.
 - 2 As 1.
 - 3 As 1.
 - 4 Four side steps left, raising arms on "stirs".
- Dance begins again slowly lowering the arms.

Ella Young was a Scottish woman who, around 1920, created a deeply inspiring poem "The Wyrd of Fionavar" which captures so much of the simplicity and pathos inherent within the spirituality of the Celts. She allows an understanding of how that well-beloved Goddess, Brigit, pleaded with Dagda, the Lord of Creation, in favour of allowing the Earth to have existence – if not for its goodness then at least for its magnificent beauty.

Wise Earth celebrates Imbolc – the time of the awakening of life after its season of slumber – when lily and crocus remind us that winter will end soon. The point at which is celebrated the end of winter and springs beginning is Imbolc (can be pronounced imolk) on 1st February (when the Earth stirs towards awakening) whose name seems to derive from "ewe's milk" because at this time the lactation begins in preparation for the lambing.