

Below are questions for Charlottemarie's interview by a Czech magazine called CHANGES.

Here are the questions;

I know about you that your own experience led you to heal yourself by your voice from a car accident. What did exactly happen?

Charlottemarie: What happened was, my head went through the windshield of the car I was riding in. I had, what is known as a "death experience." My soul went through an energetic tunnel then I was in what was like the sun. It was brilliant and bright light, every part of what I call me was absorbed in this intense brilliant light. I saw my body and others around me while suspended in this light. When looking at my body, it was glowing, I was in perfect condition, immediately I saw how consciousness takes form. This is very difficult to describe. Then I heard singing and sound. My soul re-entered my body... I felt brilliant and alive. However, my physical body was severely damaged. I was told I died and came back to life. I am not sure when I decided to come back into my body because the memory of that experience in consciousness and light is strongly calling me every day. Ever since then, everything I do from creating music, performing, writing and teaching opens a portal to that experience. I deeply long to share it with everyone... it is beautiful and I saw and experienced who I am ...what and who we all are... the brilliant sun of consciousness and love.

My head was badly injured and cut. My legs were also injured. What I experienced in the light was the source of my healing. I elected not to use conventional medicine, however, it was necessary to see many doctors. They diagnosed there was brain and nerve damage as well as depression and severe physical injuries. There came a point where I stopped seeing the doctors, it simply felt they could not help me. I changed my living situation and put myself in seclusion. I found a doctor of Chinese Medicine and acupuncture who taught me a system of sound to heal and transform the pain. From there, many revelations and insights about sound surfaced. While practicing meditation and using sound, I could actually feel the nerves responding and connecting again. I could witness my emotions and mind changing. I experienced the alchemy of pain to peace. What heals us, has an inspirational effect on others. This is why I do music especially through my voice. In my healing process, I heard 5 dimensions of harmonics that vibrated through my nervous system, in my head and brain, the sushumna, chakras, nadis, and magnetic field. The only way I can ever communicate or share this is through singing as it is limiting to capture in words but fully experienced in sound. I think this is what audiences experience as well.

How long did your healing take and what did you find out during this healing? (Please describe in detail)

Charlottemarie: True healing is the process of transformation from a pattern of vibrations to a flow of prana or life force. This could range from the cessation of pain to restoration of balance. In conclusion, my experience of the healing process touches the depths of the soul while accessing the subtle realm of consciousness. The transformation of energy affecting the physical, mental, and emotional states. The injuries and subsequent difficulties healed in a short time. I was pain free and fully functioning within 4 months. The deeper healing process took a lot longer and was profoundly enlightening... "pain in it's own design, heals itself." I've experienced the origin of karma through witnessing the transformation happening in my complete system. I experienced the how every aspect of my being... physical, mental, energetic, soul, spirit has a multi dimensional, interdependent cosmology that beholds the identity of the true Self. All this to conclude my healing process was my journey to my spiritual awakening and purpose in life. The only way I am able to effectively share this is through the vibrations of sound through music.

The accident led you for sure in some way to isolation. What did help you at that time? How did you perceive your state before and after healing?

Charlottemarie: Meditation, Chanting, Yoga, Sound and Singing were all I knew to heal. Pain has a way of keeping one present and introspective. Not only to heal but to understand the complexity of what was happening from genetics to past life imprints.

Before the accident, I had many spiritual experiences that were enriching my life. I had a solid meditation practice and was studying naad, laya and kundlini yoga. On a practical level, my career in music and theatre was going quite well however, there was this haunting feeling that something was not complete.

After the healing... it felt like I was being reconstructed by a force beyond description. It was a reparation process surrendering to the currents of spirit rather than will... I really had no choice. Anger, frustration, sadness, hopelessness surfaced and transformed in the light of love and purpose. It was not easy and yet the richest experience in my life. My perception and experience of myself, enlightenment, happiness, spirituality, healing, life and most of all love, changed. It was like a cloud burst revealing the brilliant sun where joy is the gateway to the rest of my life. Joy became a conscious choice with every breath. It was at this time I experienced the fine line between spirit and science.

Healing by voice is an ancient method. Did you know it before your accident?

Charlottemarie: I did with a knowing rather than learning. The vibration of singing, music and sound always had a profound effect on me. I used sound when I was a small girl remembering my grandmother's voice, the songs of the cantors and the chants my 1st vedic teacher taught me. Singing was my medicine through a difficult childhood. Singing to my siblings had a soothing effect on them. Later I found many indigenous cultures use sound for a multitude of reasons from healing to peace keeping to elevating the vibration in the land, sea and air.

You set an example for others and you are giving strength to those who were in such demanding situations too. What is the focus for those who had a similar accident? Where should they search for a strength and help?

Charlottemarie: I am not sure if I set out to set an example. I simply went about the processes in my life as best as I could. Sound always was there for me. Singing and sound was my medicine making the difficult and challenging times livable and uplifting. I don't think what happened was anything special. I did the only thing I had and knew to do. It is that simple.

I feel the true calling in one's life is their transformational journey back to themselves. Realizing we are designed for enlightenment and Love. The end of pain and suffering is the alchemy of karma to the experience of Love and pure cosmic presence. I say the experience of love being the cosmic glue that permeates and unifies all existence. Love the nectar of healing from the gap in consciousness. Love the place of being nothing.

At this point in life, my work is an expression of the journey. It feels like there is a multi-dimensional wave of vibration that rides on a song through my voice.

How this may help people, I hear many comments. However, I know how it effects me and it has to effect others as we are all connected to the core. How people can find strength and courage is not searching but discovering who they are. Searching keeps one from being present. The discovery process is enlightening and revealing of the universe within. The only way I have been able to find strength is through meditation, changing my mind, transforming pain, yoga and performances that go deep within. I feel what is most important in the discourses and teachings is to convey to people how they can help themselves through meditation, sound, and chant. The performances do this in a profoundly subtle and powerful way. They open many dimensions through pure vibration. Thank goodness genetics and spirit gave me a gift through which I am able to convey the unspeakable... and give a direct experience of love.

What is it voice? How could you describe it?

Charlottemarie: One's voice is the ability to think, speak and act from their authentic source. How can I describe? Best to come to a performance to feel and experience. It is all about the experience.

What is your repertoire? Do you sing sacred songs, songs written by a different author or do you create your own text and melody?

Charlottemarie: The majority is my repertoire, I am a composer and I sing my own. Some songs are traditional chants in Sanskrit, Aramaic, Hawaiian, and Ave Maria... perhaps I do a few familiar classical pieces... for the most part I do compose my own music, write my own stories and poetry.

I heard India is very dear to you. How did you get there and what is the most interesting about this land for you? Are you still in contact with India. What is your goal of your visits and stay there?

Charlottemarie: I love India. I was invited on a pilgrimage. Since then, India is a place of frequent visits over an 18 year period of time to present. It has everything in extremes. It is like living in a cosmic cartoon. It is harsh with poverty, and antiquated prejudices. India is light and vibrant with color, energy and creativity. It is delightful spending time in an ashram/school for village children doing music programs and telling stories. Collaborating on music and film projects is also a highlight. To this day, I still consult with a Master who resides there.

What does chant mean to you? What would you like to share with people?

Charlottemarie: Chant to me, is an expression of communion with the divine, with nature and with myself. Preparation for performances is a 3 day process of meditation, practice, introspection and yoga. It is a vibrational communion of spirit and sound riding on the wings of breath that resonates on all dimensions. The passion of giving of oneself is a natural expression and so very fulfilling.

In the past, I have created choirs and composed choral chanting music for large scale concerts. I found that the rehearsal process developed into a body of teachings and spiritual experiences. So now, I have started retreats integrating music, chanting and drumming with meditation and yoga. One will be in Croatia in July 09 and the other will be in the Sahara desert winter 09. These retreats are designed to open creative pathways to experience spirituality in moment to moment life. They provide a course of activity that gives individuals autonomous realization in the creative process. The Sahara Desert retreat is going to be exceptionally special.

Do you use any musical instruments during your performances? In which space (type of building) do you prefer to sing?

Charlottemarie: I use a piano for composition and drums to compose rhythm patterns. I do not play on stage. For larger performances and my world beat operas, I have an ensemble of drummers, indigenous instruments and western instruments. Right now, I've been guided to keep the performances simple with solo voice so that audiences can experience the full range of the voice. I love performing in venues with excellent acoustics. Large theatres and churches are perfect. Performing in an environment where I feel a current of connection with everyone in the audience gives a very rewarding experience for all. The sound is vitally important.

Did you visit Czech Republic for the first time? How do you perceive Czech mentality?

Charlottemarie: Yes, my first visit to the Czech Republic started in October 08. I have found the Czech people are like all people everywhere in the world. They have the same basic needs and concerns. The Czech people seemed soft and kind ...Very friendly. There is a deep thirst for spiritual growth that I don't see very often. Every audience and person I met was a blessing. It was wonderful. Prague has a special energy that is growing in light.

I received from you photos which are very stylized. Is it a certain type of your marketing? Or is it something like Greek – katalogatia, harmonic balance of spirit and the body?

Charlottemarie: They are simply photos that are suitable for professional situations. My work as a film, music and performance artist is my career that serves as the platform of sharing spirituality through the arts. The photos are suited to display this theme.

In Prague you will perform during the festival Prague Gateways. How will your program look like?

Charlottemarie: Yes, I will be doing two “Fields of Joy” performances during the Prague Gateways festival. As well as Courses. The first performance will be solo, the second performance, I will have accompaniment.

Could we look forward to your CD? Where can we obtain it?

Charlottemarie: I have 6 CDs that are available on my website charlottemarie.com /CD store and they can be purchased at the performances.

Please write here a text of your song. (We will include it to the article as an example)

Charlottemarie: I walk in the sky ..moving in fleeting moments.... but you never change
Still and awake I see your face in mine...
I walk in the Sky ..open to the wave, you take me to your breath...
still and awake I feel your soul in mine.
My heart has wings in golden dreams beyond time
I wait for your return
lovers give in surrendering rhymes
with eyes inside you quench my thirst..
oh this feeling....

Where are you originally from?

Charlottemarie: Hawaii

How did you start to sing?

Charlottemarie: Music is in the genes. I started singing at a very young age. My first professional singing job was at 14 years of age.

What is the history of your study?

Charlottemarie: Naad and laya yoga (yogas on the cosmology of sound chant and mantra) over 30 years. I lived in indigenous environments where I learned traditional music and chants. Studied at the American Conservatory of Music. Experience.

Which countries have you toured in so far?

Charlottemarie: I have toured in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Africa and Asia.