

# Lullaby for a Polar Bear

from The Stone&Tara Songbook

As we were working on our Songbook, melodies just kept coming to Stone. He had been revising some instrumental works to arrange them for choir and composing new voicing and themes.

One evening when we were on Zoom talking about our work that day, he told me he had written a new song.

'Again!' I exclaimed. He'd only just finished the gospel 'My Sweetest Lord' and there was already another work on the way.

'This one is a *Berceuse*,' he announced. That's French for lullaby.

I considered briefly to write French lyrics but dismissed the thought quickly. My French isn't very poetic.

But an idea took shape – I don't have a lot of affinity with babies, but I love wolves and bears. And the very word Polar Bear in itself has such a soft and sing-able sound to it.

Plus, we thought it would be nice to imagine a world in which a mother bear is singing to her baby without any worry about her or her child's future. In this big polar bear's mind, tomorrow's world will still be the vast, unchanging plain of white and ice that she has always known. As long as it lasts.

Sanna, or Sedna, is the Inuit goddess of the sea, and Nanuq is simply the Inuit word for polar bear.

*Tara, November 2021*

*Silent now, my furry one, sleep until the light comes,  
Safe within your cave of ice and my warm embrace.*

*Little angel, soft and white, curl up close beside me.  
Slumber in our crystal cave till the break of day.*

*One day you will venture out where the icy winds blow,  
Where the mystery of life lights the Arctic bright.*

*One day you will walk the ice, wonders all around you:  
Clear blue sky and endless seas where you turn your eyes.*

*Lu-la Nanuq, Sanna will guide you home.*