

QR Community Live Chat

Transcript

Saturday, February 16th, 2008.

Loreena: Hello and welcome everyone, I'm here with my colleagues Mark and Michael on a wintry February day in Canada, and it is great to have this opportunity to engage with you more closely. I have prepared this note to put up as the chat begins and as I digest the first question of this 'inaugural' chat. As most of you will know, we had hoped to undertake a video chat a few weeks ago, but unexpected travel plans on my part prevented us from undertaking that exercise. In the meantime, we have been learning more about undertaking such a chat and hopefully that will happen in the not too distant future. For today, as you know there will be questions which will come up in order and it is my intention to address them in order. Today's 'line of question' is to be devoted to things related to my travels. Now, we learned from some of the questions submitted for the cancelled video chat that some folks have questions as to if and when we will be touring/performing in their neighbourhood. Just so you know, because our touring plans are still in a developmental stage, I won't be able to respond to any of those kinds of questions except to say, I don't know. The good news is, because you are members of the QR Community, you will be the first to know when we do decide to go out touring again. Thank you all for joining us today. I know some people will not be able to join us today, but hopefully they will be able to on another occasions. Let the fun and games begin!!!! Loreena

2008-02-16 07:56:13.0

Jolanta: Hi Loreena, you connected the song „Dante`s prayer” with journey along Trans-Siberian Railway. The lyrics touch many hearts, especially of those who suffer from dramatic experience. I'd like to ask you if you knew that traveling this way you were following hundred thousand or rather millions of human tragedies. It was this route along which political opponents were deported to Siberian lagers. It was also the route along which the whole population of Crimean Tatars were transported to Asia after the displacement from their homeland. It was the same route along which almost 2 millions of the Poles alone as well as Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians were deported to Asia during II world war. All families were deported including babies and the old. Inhuman conditions of transport (goods carriages, lack of food, lack of space) led to numerous deceases especially among babies. Bodies were left near the rails. You can say that next to each sleeper there is one human body. Were you aware of these facts when you linked “Dante`s prayer” with your train journey across Siberia? Thank you for great pleasure of listening your songs. Best wishes Jolanta from Poland

2008-02-16 07:58:40.0

Loreena: Only in a very cursory way was I familiar with this aspect of history. That has been the most amazing thing about approaching my music in this way or the source of my inspiration, is the of delving deeply into history. Not to bring up controversial subjects only to perpetuate pain, but rather that this day in age we are given an enhanced opportunity to learn from history and that what is necessary is to bring the positive, spiritual and human dimensions of our existence to interpret some of these very painful and difficult times. Excellent, excellent question.

2008-02-16 07:58:53.0

Fabio: Do I really have the chance to chat with Loreena? Is this a second dream coming true

2008-02-16 07:59:19.0

Loreena: Yes, do you have a question Fabio? I will go on to answer other questions and hopefully I can come back to you.

2008-02-16 07:59:49.0

Fabio: First of all, CIAO Loreena, I'm Fabio from Italy. We met in Firenze on march 21, 2007. I am the teacher whose students did the story and pictures book of Secrets... Do you remember, maybe?

2008-02-16 08:00:05.0

Loreena: Yes of course I remember and what an amazing book of material this was.

2008-02-16 08:01:27.0

Bard: Hello from Athens,Loreena!I really hope we see you here soon!My name is Konstantina,I am a law student and first of all I would like to thank you for this opportunity to chat a little with you over your journeys and the inspiration they have offered you.Thus my question is relevant,comes rather in respect to a poem of Kavafis and it is whether any (or all) of the travels you have made,have answered you this question:Is it Ithaca or the “odyssey”,the journeys until we reach it that really inspire a Penelope’s song in us?

2008-02-16 08:03:02.0

Loreena: Dear Bard from Athens, if I understand your question correctly, in so far as this life and all there is to learn in it – it can be an odyssey of sorts. I’m not equipped enough to respond to the Ithaca aspect of your question and I look forward to an opportunity to perhaps clarify this, either in this chat or in another time. I’m sorry this is a rather unsatisfactory answer.

2008-02-16 08:03:27.0

zain: hi Loreena, I'm Zain from Iraq, one can only notice that the eastern effect most dominant upon the mask and mirror and the after albums, was that a reflection for your visits to this region? What certain elements u found in the eastern region that made u choose eastern Celtic music and tunes over western ones?

2008-02-16 08:05:47.0

Loreena: Welcome zain. What a great honour it is to have you join us. As you may or may not know, once I learned that the Celts were a vast collection of tribes dating back to 500 BC or earlier and had fanned out across Europe and into Asia-minor, I have used this pan-Celtic history as my creative springboard. I have not been strict in confining myself just to the Celtic footprint but widening my interests to other geographical and historical regions. As a result of this imprint taking place as far as Asia-minor, this invited creative impulse to reflect a more Eastern dimension.

2008-02-16 08:06:01.0

C A Lancelot: How do you feel about the poor people in russia when you travel?

2008-02-16 08:08:34.0

Loreena: As one feels about poor people anywhere, one feels concerned on a number of levels. The immediate level – how they will survive, how they got there and how they will go forward in the future. As we all know our societies are dependent on a lot of people and processes to take an interest in and take charge of even the most

disadvantaged in our society. It is our responsibility to do that, however it is never a simple thing. To quote a recent politician in this country, "the world has become ferociously complex". However, that should not dissuade or discourage us from embracing the real issues that face us and in this instance, poor people in Russia.

2008-02-16 08:09:06.0

Gianluca: Dear Loreena, I am an Italian fan of your music. Last year, I was in Rome for your concert (20th March 2007). It was a very cold night, do you remember? The rain soaked me to the skin when I reached the theatre near Vatican and you said you felt a little Don't worry, it was not your fault and responsible for the weather music was so delightful that even the sky wanted to thank you, sending its confetti! Thanks. My questions for you are: did your music get inspiration from your journeys to Italy? Do you know Italian folk music, such as old classical music from Naples or folk dance such as "tarantella", "pizzica", "salterello"? Thanks for your art. I hope in your next concerts you will come and visit Italy again, especially south-Italy, that is not only rubbish-crisis or mafia, but also culture, music and beauty. Greetings from Benevento. Gianluca

2008-02-16 08:12:07.0

Loreena: Thank you Gianluca. Don't worry about the some people's ill-informed impressions about Southern Italy. I have visited a few places in southern Italy and can attest to it's richness in history and hospitality, I am moderately familiar with Italian folk music and as always look forward to learning a great deal more. Part of the Celtic connection to history is that they were contemporaries to the Etruscans and were well known and chronicled by the Romans. Subsequently there are a number of Celtic archaeological sites and connections in the regions such as Tuscany.

2008-02-16 08:12:22.0

Annelies: Dear Loreena, I would like to wish you a happy birthday tomorrow and I was wondering if you will be travelling on your special day?

2008-02-16 08:12:45.0

Loreena: Quite possibly, however the weather is looking to be inclement and unpredictable as usual. - so we'll see.

2008-02-16 08:13:07.0

Fabio: I have read "From the Holy mountain" by Dalrymple, and been in Bobbio in 2004. Do you think Italy is inspiring for your music? And also: can you tell about the trip to Mongolia? fabio

2008-02-16 08:19:19.0

Loreena: As I mentioned in an earlier note from someone in Italy, certainly part of my research for The Book of Secrets took place in Italy. As always, even though there is a great deal of research, I always find it amazing how little the final creative result is, relative to all the research. The trip to Mongolia was an amazing trip. I only wished I could have spent much longer there. First of all, it is important to understand that they are one of the last nomadic cultures on this planet and deserves to be appreciated and protected for that. Meaning that this is another modality of living on this planet that deserves consideration and understanding. The Mongolian people are immensely hospitable and optimistic people and as with many people still without strong indigenous traditions and lifestyles – have a very close association with the natural world, the land and the environment. On that alone we have much to learn from them. My interest also, was sparked by learning that the earliest Celtic people had been exposed to and

developed and interest in horsemanship by people in this part of the world. I can't encourage people enough to take the opportunity to learn more about Mongolia and its people and if you ever have an opportunity to travel there, I would highly recommend it. We hope to be profiling, in future months, more of our connections with individuals there who are supporting various cultural Mongolian initiatives.

2008-02-16 08:19:30.0

Cicero: I want to learn whether you have any travel plans to come to Turkey or any concert plans?

2008-02-16 08:21:57.0

Loreena: Welcome Cicero. As I mentioned in my opening comments, our tour plans are still in a developmental phase. It is my sincerest hope and wish that we can return to Turkey to perform very soon. I feel very sorry that given that so much of An Ancient Muse was inspired by history and travels in and around your region, that we have not been able to tour there yet. It is high on our agenda. As for my general travels to Turkey, well, as always seems to be the case, these trips can come up on quite short notice. I have no plans at the moment to travel there, however.

2008-02-16 08:22:29.0

Mask and Mirror: Have you ever visited the most representative places of the ancient pre-Columbian civilizations? I'm referring, particularly, to Chicken Itza, Machu Picchu, Cuzco, Titicaca Lake, Lines of Nasca, Aztec Pyramids etc. With regard to this, would you like to compose an album entirely dedicated to the traditional Andean music and its wind instruments, such as Pan Flute, Incan Zampona, Charango..? Best Wishes-Gianni from Italy

2008-02-16 08:24:15.0

Loreena: Hello Gianni. Although I am presently unaware of any even remote Celtic connection to this part of the world, I have certainly enjoyed and relished in music from Mexico and South America and with these things it is always unpredictable. There is no question that the ancient pre-Colombian civilizations offer us yet another wealth of history which undoubtedly has great value to us, even today.

2008-02-16 08:24:42.0

Alessandro_87: Hi Loreena, My name is Alessandro. I'm 20 years old and from Italy. My friend Arianna and I are crazy for you. You are our goddess. We always speak about you and your music - our paradise. Our biggest dream is to embrace you and tell you in person how important you are to us. Here's our question. Will you come to Italy soon? We know that you love our country. Do you have any plans to do anything here? We would like to have our dream come true :) We saw you in Milan but didn't get the chance to talk to you. We LOVE you, our angel..

2008-02-16 08:25:38.0

Loreena: Again as per my note to our friend in Turkey, my travel plans always seem to be unpredictable. At this present time, there are no plans to come to Italy, but who knows and thank you for your very kind comments. I'm glad the music is good for you.

2008-02-16 08:25:53.0

Orion: Dear Loreena I can't believe myself that I have a chance to talk to you, I want to thank you very much for all your music, they hold very high spiritual value for me

2008-02-16 08:25:58.0

Loreena: Thank you Orion.

2008-02-16 08:27:32.0

greenfairy: Dear Loreena, we met before your concert in Baden-Baden last year, I gave you a book (Mumu der Feenhund) which I had written in German with own pictures. How did the books of L. M. Montgomery "Anne of Green Gables" influence your interest in old texts like "the highwayman" or "The Lady of Shalott?" Which place do you like most in Ireland and South England to get inspired for your songs?

2008-02-16 08:31:54.0

Loreena: Dear "greenfairy" thank you. It's funny that you should raise the Canadian book Anne of Green Gables. I did read it as a child and maybe subliminally the Highwayman and Lady of Shalott entered in my psyche at that time. However, I did not overtly reference that book when I chose to set the Lady of Shalott or the Highwayman to music. When I choose poems to set to music I am looking for, initially some Celtic historical connection. Then I'm looking for imagery, followed by pragmatic criteria such as, are the words sing-able, is the poem constructed in phrases that are sing-able. As for the places in Ireland South of England to get inspired songs, I can only speak to the places I have been, as there are many places in both countries that I have not been. In Ireland, it is primarily the west and the north-west coast from Limerick up to Donegal and the south of England, primarily around where we have recorded over the years, which is around Wiltshire and the city of Bath, close to the ancient site of Avebury.

2008-02-16 08:32:04.0

Danixkj: Hello everybody. Loreena, I'm a Spanish fan of your music and I'd like you to tell me which places have you visited on my country.

2008-02-16 08:35:06.0

Loreena: Hola Danixkj! In actual fact, Spain was one of the first countries outside of Canada which embraced my music in particular, in 1991/1992. We have since performed all over Spain from the north in Galicia, Basque region, through to Catalonia, Andalucía, Castilia and beyond. As you probably know, it was only a year and half ago that we recorded a concert for television, which is available on DVD, at the historic monument The Alhambra in Granada.

2008-02-16 08:35:42.0

freesoul: Emanuela-freesoul from Italy: Hello Loreena, very glad to meet you on line today! It's very exciting!! What do you feel when you begin a new journey and what are your feelings when you come back home? Are your journeys sources of freedom in a way or another? Happy Birthday.

2008-02-16 08:41:15.0

Loreena: Dear "freesoul", thank you for your birthday greetings. My feelings when I embark upon a new journey vary depending on where I'm going. I remember for example when I left to travel to Mongolia and China a few years ago, I had great trepidation as with many of my trips, I have traveled alone, knowing that on one hand there is less security or companionship. On the other hand, there is a vulnerability that seems to elicit or evoke a different kind of experience. Sometimes when you are on your own, you meet people and converse with them in a different way and I like that. At the same time, I realize risk or feelings of being unsettled. Other journeys in more familiar territories don't involve this state of trepidation, particularly if I've already traveled there before. Then I can settle into delving into other things in other ways. When I come back home, of course there's always something always nice about coming back home, but as many

people who travel with their work, be they; journalists, etc., one can become almost addicted to the constant unpredictability that comes with the feast of human beings. I've felt that traveling has been an integral catalyst to my own creativity. As long as I'm doing what I'm doing, the way I'm doing it, I hope to travel – god willing.

2008-02-16 08:41:24.0

Telyn: Do you take your troubadour harp or other instruments with you when you are traveling ?

2008-02-16 08:43:10.0

Loreena: Hi Telyn. No I don't take my troubadour harp when I travel, of course, I wish I could. Believe it or not, I'm still finessing how to travel with an instrument. Because being in a position to share music with those one encounters on the road, is and can be one of the most gratifying things one can experience along with sharing a meal with people.

2008-02-16 08:43:30.0

Drizzt: Hello, greetings from Spain. I've heard that your next travel will be to Norway, Sweeden, etc. What are you seeking in those countries for your next work? Have you done a research of the Scandinavian traditions or legends before that travel or you plan it on the go?

2008-02-16 08:48:15.0

Loreena: Hi Drizzt. Yes, I've recently taken an interest in some of the more Nordic connections of Celtic history and I'm in the process of exploring that. As some of you may know, we used a Scandinavian instrument in Penelope's Song called the nyckelharpa, played by Annbjorg Lien. I loved it's slightly rawer quality in this song which some may feel has a 'sweet' melody. I think many people who are unfamiliar with Scandinavian music, will be surprised of the beauty of it. And for your comment regarding Scandinavian traditions and legends, I am most certainly interested in learning more about it. As always, it is my hope and intention to travel there. I should also mention, we met some wonderful people from the Faroe Islands when we were in Copenhagen last spring. That is also a place I would like to visit.

2008-02-16 08:48:28.0

C A Lancelot: Hi Loreena!Have you tought about a world tour in the future?

2008-02-16 08:49:55.0

Loreena: Thank you C A Lancelot. We are giving a great deal of thought about a world tour, that may be also, why I've taken such an interest in the nomadic Mongolian tradition!

2008-02-16 08:50:07.0

Ben: Hello, Loreena, I'm Ben from Thuringia/Germany. Which country you travelled did you like the most?

2008-02-16 08:51:42.0

Loreena: Hi Ben. It really is impossible for me to think of countries in this way because what I'm interested in, often concerns criteria or elements that are irrelevant to pleasure, but rather of thematic, cultural or historical interest.

2008-02-16 08:52:02.0

Brenda: Hello Loreena and hello everybody in the chatroom from germany

2008-02-16 08:52:08.0

Loreena: Hello Brenda and welcome.

2008-02-16 08:52:25.0

MarkoG: Hello from Pula, Croatia. I am Your fun for almost 11 years. Thank You for great music (i mean masterpiece).

2008-02-16 08:52:45.0

Loreena: Hello MarkoG, great to have you join us.

2008-02-16 08:53:02.0

Orion: 1st - I really would love that you can make a concert here in Egypt, so is it possible that you can make a concert in Egypt??

2008-02-16 08:54:11.0

Loreena: Hi Orion, As I've mentioned, we're still developing our touring plans, please know that touring in the middle-east has been a great point of discussion and exploration, these passed few months. We are hopeful that we will be able to come to your part of the world in the next year or so.

2008-02-16 08:54:36.0

Mihalis: Loreena, I am Mihalis from Greece. First of all I would like to wish you Happy Birthday for tomorrow, my best and deepest wishes for you. Today I have my birthday and talking to you is a really precious gift for me. I would like to ask you just whether its in your future plans a concert in Greece. I have noticed that your music has many of our greek elements. How much Greece and its islands has affected you in your inspiration? Sorry for my bad english. Thank you very much for everything you are offering through your blessed music. We Love You so much!

2008-02-16 09:01:31.0

Loreena: Greetings Mihalis. Don't worry for your English. We would be in a worse spot if we had to rely on my ability to speak Greek. As you may or may not know, with respect to my recent recording, An Ancient Muse, I actually did reference – was inspired by a corner of Celtic history which saw a Celtic tribe try to sack Delphi around 275 BC. Although this fact never overtly made it's way into the recording, most certainly the fact that the Celts had made their way to Greece, did. To that end, I did spend a bit of time off and on in Greece, primarily on the island of Chios as a result of a friend of mine living there. (I stayed in wonderful bed and breakfast called Parleas Mansion) It was April / May, when the orange blossoms were out and I stayed in a wonderful guest cottage at the bottom of this orange orchard. I was equipped with many books and it was there that I listened to a wonderful audio recording of Homer's Odyssey. Only to learn that Homer had likely traveled to that island. This ultimately informed the song I would go on to make, called Penelope's Song. Again, I love the Greek people and have felt some of my most interesting interviews done there and was quite impressed with the range of musical expressions still to be experienced.

2008-02-16 09:02:17.0

Loreena: We will take one more question and we will have to bid you farewell for today.

2008-02-16 09:02:28.0

Mascadan: Hi Loreena - I have just bought your Alhambra DVD and love the atmosphere created so much. How do you decide on the mix of instruments you use to create such magical music?

2008-02-16 09:04:39.0

Loreena: Good question Mascadan. I seldom know at the beginning of the recording process, exactly all the instruments I will ultimately use. In the studio, it is a bit like

developing a new recipe in the kitchen. You keep refining the recipe of instruments and arrangements until you feel it reaches a point which most closely reflects the imagery and idea I am trying to create. I will now write one last comment

2008-02-16 09:06:23.0

Loreena: Thank you very much everyone, for joining us today. I realize there are still a number of questions that are unanswered and hopefully we will be able to do this again sometime soon. As I mentioned earlier, we are still hoping and intending to undertake a variety of chats on different themes, in different technological formats, in different languages and time zones. So stay tuned. Take good care and hopefully we will speak to you again soon. Loreena.

2008-02-16 09:11:47.0

Muselmaus: A very happy birthday for tomorrow and thank you so much!

2008-02-16 09:59:06.0

Loreena: Hello Muselmaus, thank you for your birthday greetings. It's great to be fifteen again!

2008-02-16 09:59:36.0

Marco: Dear Loreena: I met you several months ago through WJCU disk jockey Roger Weist at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium outside Cleveland, Ohio, and found you to be as lovely in person as you are musically and creatively. My question is whether you write your music or your lyrics first and who handles the arrangements? By the way, planning any more concerts or tours for the near future? Stay well. Love, Marco

2008-02-16 10:01:59.0

Loreena: Hello Marco, with regard to which happens first, the lyrics or the music, there's no set way. The assemblage of ingredients is unpredictable. As far as the arrangements, they are achieved through a collective exercise in the studio, which resembles finding a new recipe. I try different musical ingredients, be they instruments or indeed where and how people play until I feel I have got more or less what I had in my mind's eye (or until time and money runs out). As for touring, as I mentioned in my opening note, we are presently exploring where and when we might tour next. It is my sincere hope that we can, for this was a very gratifying experience for us last year.

2008-02-16 10:04:30.0

luke: hello loreena , I 'm from marseille in the south of france, i had the chance to see you last year in paris and roubaix ,you were wonderful . you and all your musicians ., i would like to know if you have ever travel in corsica , It 's such a beautiful place , and i'am sure you would love its traditionnal music

2008-02-16 10:05:35.0

Loreena: Hi luke. No I've not traveled to Corsica and I have heard it is a very beautiful place and that it is rich in its own musical tradition. By the way, I understand Marseille was renowned as a Celtic settlement.

2008-02-16 10:05:47.0

blackroseivy: Are you going to travel more in the Celtic regions?

2008-02-16 10:07:00.0

Loreena: Hello Black Roseivy, In so far as the Celtic region span quite a large geographic region and I've only touched on some of them, it is my hope that I will be able to continue to do so. One of the areas I have not spent much time in yet, is rich with early Celtic history, is that of the borders of southern Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France

2008-02-16 10:07:11.0

GIULIO: Dear Loreena, have you planned any concert in Greece and Turkey?

2008-02-16 10:07:49.0

Loreena: Hello Giulio, We are still developing our touring plans, including the region of Greece, Turkey and other areas of the middle-east. Nothing is confirmed..

2008-02-16 10:08:09.0

Leslie: Loreena, when you visit a new country for the first time, where do you like to go to find out about its people, culture, music etc?

2008-02-16 10:10:36.0

Loreena: Hi Leslie. Before I head off to a place, I try as best I can to research it in advance, either through travel books, websites, travel literature and sometimes these sources will reveal places of interest. Once in a country, I usually just start asking around. It could be like a local café, I like to go to markets. Additionally, it is not uncommon that I would hire an authorized guide in a country for an initial period. Someone who would be conversant in the country's history, economy, politics as well as regional traditions and cultural expressions. And then the journey just takes over and often one thing leads to another.

2008-02-16 10:10:50.0

Jane: Hello from sunny Kitchener! I think that Caravanserai brilliantly illustrates 'Life Along the Silk Road'...I was wondering how much books and literature influences the places that you travel?

2008-02-16 10:12:41.0

Loreena: Hello Jane. Books and literature have played an increasing role in inspiring me where I might want to travel to. As we can all appreciate, books can only take us so far. If one is lucky enough as I have been to actually travel to places all of a sudden a whole range of visceral information such as sound, smells, tastes come into the experience.

2008-02-16 10:13:01.0

Liza: I am wondering if I may submit my question about Loreenas Travels now?

2008-02-16 10:13:26.0

Loreena: Yes Liza, I am here. Please submit your question and hopefully we will be able to get to it.

2008-02-16 10:14:01.0

aaronptrck: Loreena, I was wondering more about your song Kecharitomene, it is an incredible song! And I was wondering where the inspiration or where you traveled to, to arise to this song?

2008-02-16 10:18:10.0

Loreena: Hello aaronptrck. As with many songs, I am looking to match or create a piece which connects with a particular piece of history or theme that I have become aware of. With regards to this piece, I was trying to figure out a way of illustrating the very eastern

connection of my research including; these mummies that were discovered in north-west China who many academics feel were the precursors to the Celts. This in turn connected to the silk road and all those who traveled on it, including right up to the time of Byzantium. As you will see in my liner notes on this song in An Ancient Muse, Kecharitomene was actually a convent meaning “full of grace” where Anna Comnena once lived and who was a major chronicler of the First Crusade.

2008-02-16 10:18:22.0

Celtickat: Hi, Loreena, and happy early birthday. Can you tell us, of all the places you've traveled, where would you most like to live, assuming you had to move, and why? -- Jeanne, from Texas

2008-02-16 10:20:54.0

Loreena: Hello Jeanne. Interesting question. I feel that there are different places possibly for different times of one's life, if one is privileged enough to have the choice. It is impossible to choose a preferred place in one sense because every place has it's riches of history and culture. This does not necessarily mean they are easy or comfortable places to live. In order to answer this question more fully, one needs to take in other parameters.

2008-02-16 10:21:02.0

Liliesfair: Thank you for providing us with this opportunity, Loreena and the QR staff. It's good to be here. Donna Betts

2008-02-16 10:21:17.0

Loreena: Thanks Donna, it's great to have you with us.

2008-02-16 10:21:29.0

Pan: hello, Loreena! I would like to ask... within your travels to various countries you may have encounter varying cultural and religious ideas, How have these ideas shaped your creativity?

2008-02-16 10:23:03.0

Loreena: Hello Pan. There's no quick answer to this. I think that the answer lies in my recordings. There is no question that all the cultural and religious considerations I have been afforded the opportunity to be exposed to has only modestly been reflected in my recordings/ These travels and this exposure most certainly has caused me to grow as a person and clearly I have a lot more growing and learning to do.

2008-02-16 10:23:17.0

Lachance: Loreena, do you remember this first moments of inspiration which led you to do the traveling you have done? Can you describe the Impetus at all?

2008-02-16 10:25:11.0

Loreena: Hello Lachance. I don't remember the first moments of travel inspiration. I really feel through my life, my curiosity has at times been a blessing and a curse. Mostly a blessing and it has been the singular most thing that has drawn me to travel. I am grateful for it and I hope that my curiosity has lead me to and will continue to enhance a better understanding of the world, my place in it and in what way I can play a positive role.

2008-02-16 10:25:39.0

Bob F: Hello Loreena from Arizona. I listen to your music every day, it is a part of my life for the last 10 years. THANK YOU!! Never Ending Road was not inspired by travel to any particular place? I'm wondering about the motivation for this very moving song.

2008-02-16 10:28:11.0

Loreena: Hello Bob F. With regards to Never Ending Road , it is true as per the liner notes that it was not inspired by any particular physical journey, but more a composite of physical journeys and most importantly, I would like to think a spiritual and philosophical journey. As one moves along in their life, I like to feel it is good for “stock taking” and I suppose this song represents an observation on the road that there are a lot more mysteries than this life will ever afford us, in understanding and there is great humility in that.

2008-02-16 10:28:25.0

Showado: Hello. (I just have to say this, but I am your #1 13 year-old fan!!) I have a question that has been bothering me a long time, how do you choose were to go? Do you follow the Celtic timeline or something?

2008-02-16 10:30:05.0

Loreena: Welcome Showado. You are our youngest participant yet – that I am aware of. It is true I have referenced Celtic history, but I’ve not been strict in following a straight and academic timeline. It is like getting on board a train in London and thinking you are going to go to Istanbul, but at the same time you have given yourself permission for diversions and all that you can experience through that way of traveling. It is simply one of many ways of traveling and learning.

2008-02-16 10:30:32.0

Liliesfair: My question: I often wonder what the world would be like if everyone listened to your music on a regular basis. The arts have the power to unite people of diverse backgrounds. As an artist with heightened awareness of the richness and variety of the world's cultures, you are in a unique position to bring people together in an atmosphere of peace and unity. In your experiences traveling and performing abroad, to what extent do you think your music has brought people together – can you share with us your thoughts about creating unity through the arts and instilling world peace?

2008-02-16 10:33:51.0

Loreena: Hello Liliesfair. Obviously it is not for me to say what the world would be like if everyone listened to my music, that is for others to say. But as a music listener myself, I marvel at the way music can transcend cultural boundaries. What I can observe in my own instance as a musical artist, my music seems to resonate with many people around the world. If I were top have a modest hope, and sometimes I think I don’t deserve to have that, I would like to feel that even forums like this one allow people to come together on a point of common interest. And living in a time of complexity and some strife, I am a believer that the future lies, for all of us, in those things of commonality.

2008-02-16 10:34:02.0

era: Loreena, for those of us who can travel very little due to our circumstances:I wonder if you could tell us what your 3-4 favorite (inspiring?) places and paths have been.

2008-02-16 10:36:33.0

Loreena: Hello era. It is difficult even to distill places down in terms of preference of inspiration as I have found that even the darkest and most difficult places can be rich with experience and inspiration. It would be just too easy to say that “oh Ireland is so beautiful or, Tuscany is so beautiful” and forget about so many other places around the world that are beautiful in different ways.

2008-02-16 10:36:43.0

Michael McKenney: What styles of music have influenced your writing in the last few

years compared to earlier in your career?

2008-02-16 10:38:49.0

Loreena: Hi Michael. I think in recent years as I have become acquainted with the more eastern reaches of Celtic history that it follows that I would take an interest in more eastern sounds, musicians, etc. Early on, I listened to more overtly Irish, Scots, Briton Celtic music of such musicians as Alain Stivell, Bothy Band, Planxty, Steeleye Span.

2008-02-16 10:39:15.0

Liza: Hello Loreena, My Name is Liza:) Pleased to speak with you. Of all the places you have traveled what one place stands out in your memory that inspired you to compose any particular song? Also, Where did the inspiration for the song "the Pines" come from, in other words do you remember where you were and what you were doing? Brightest Blessings, Liza

2008-02-16 10:41:07.0

Loreena: Hello Liza. I suppose one of my travels that sticks out a bit beyond others would be my train trip across Siberia or indeed my journey to Mongolia a few years ago. As for the inspirations behind Ancient Pines, it was inspired by a film project I was working on for the National Film Board of Canada, part of their Women and Spirituality series.

2008-02-16 10:41:15.0

litharosemoon: Happy Birthday Loreena!

2008-02-16 10:41:26.0

Loreena: Thank you.

2008-02-16 10:41:40.0

Marty Mc: In one of your interview - BBC I think - you spoke of perhaps traveling with other musicians and taking only instruments that you could physically carry. Is this in the works? What would you take - your voice of course, but anything else?

2008-02-16 10:42:40.0

Loreena: Hello Marty Mc. Yes it is a project we are presently developing. The criteria would most definitely be "if you can carry it – it qualifies". My instruments would be; harp, accordion likely.

2008-02-16 10:42:47.0

Malin: Yes, thanks for this great opportunity! This chat is a very good idea.

2008-02-16 10:43:33.0

Loreena: Good and glad you have been able to join us. We certainly would welcome people's feedback on this experience as we try to improve it. For future, please be sure to check back to our messageboard for an opportunity to post your comments.

2008-02-16 10:43:53.0

era: Loreena - I have become interested in the writings of Sakyong Mipham and his forbears. His ancestry is Tibetan. Have you ever visited Tibet and/or can you recommend it as a destination?

2008-02-16 10:44:43.0

Loreena: Hello era. His writings are new to me and I have never traveled to Tibet. I'm grateful that you have mentioned it and we will certainly put it in my personal list of things to pursue.

2008-02-16 10:45:06.0

Anondlynn: Lorena, I have all your CD's and saw you when you came to Sheas in

Buffalo last September, Please, Please, tell me you do plan to come back in the near future.....

2008-02-16 10:45:21.0

Loreena: Hello Anondlynn. If there is any way that we can, we will.

2008-02-16 10:45:59.0

Shan-Lyn: Hi Loreena. Aye, I'm going to make you think really hard now ;-) ... this is probably an irrelevant question, taking into consideration that you've done quite a bit of extensive world travelling, but have you at any time experienced 'jet lag' symptoms during your Concert Tours? I'm taking into consideration your having to pack and then move onto another country in a day's time. No easy task. How would you cope with the symptoms, if any? Thank you. - Montreal, QC

2008-02-16 10:48:03.0

Loreena: Hello Shan-Lyn. This is always a consideration. Usually we rehearse in the territory before we begin a tour and one of the benefits is that our time clocks become acclimatized. It's been interesting to learn more about jet-lag and people who undertake shift work and what happens physiologically and how the body is like a carefully times symphony and what steps one can take to minimize the demand on themselves. For my part, it is remaining to a strict regime of exercise, a lot of sleep and a strict diet in terms of no junk food etc.

2008-02-16 10:48:23.0

Fiosaiche: Hi Loreena, thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. As a remarkably independent stronghold of a vibrant and unique Celtic culture, what are your impressions of your time spent on the Isle of Man and your dealings with the Manx people? Thanks in advance from a fellow Manitoban now pursuing Celtic studies abroad!

2008-02-16 10:49:31.0

Loreena: Hello Fiosaiche. Thank you for joining us. In actual fact, I have not traveled to the Isle of Man and this indeed would be yet another place I would like to spend sometime. Maybe when we can get to an "I ask you chat", you could help enlighten some of us to what you are learning.

2008-02-16 10:49:41.0

Marco: 15 can be a very confusing age so if you need any advice ...

2008-02-16 10:50:12.0

Loreena: Thank you Marco. I'll be sure to be in touch should I need any tips!

2008-02-16 10:50:22.0

Don: Hello Loreena, this is Don, Iowa's greatest Loreena fan.

2008-02-16 10:50:26.0

Loreena: Hello Don.

2008-02-16 10:50:45.0

Loreenya: Hello, Ms. McKennitt!

2008-02-16 10:50:54.0

Loreena: Hello Loreenya!

2008-02-16 10:51:34.0

dlaws99: Dear Loreena...I want to thank you again for making me fly England to see the show. Can you believe it's coming up on a year already? I saw your comment on the previous chat about southern England. The day after the show I rented a car and drove southern England with the specific intent to see the neolithic sites, particularly Avebury.

I'm going back next summer to spend more time there for I have climbed Silbury Hill. That country felt like home to me. Everyone asks "will you come to Italy?" or "Will you come to Turkey?", but my question to you is, where ARE you off to next, and is it to continue to chase down that inspiration on the Celtic trail? It'd be silly to assume you don't already have some plan in mind, and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we're all holding our breath for that next record. PS...Happiest of Birthdays Breathelss Moon.
Dennis "dlaws99"

2008-02-16 10:52:43.0

Loreena: Hello dlaws99, great to have you with us. In terms of where I might be traveling to next, this is still undetermined at this time. We are presently in a reconsolidation phase here at Quinlan Road given the state of the music industry. As soon as I can, I hope to be out traveling and researching again.

2008-02-16 10:53:13.0

Juliana: Hello? Is the chat on already? I can't see any messages?

2008-02-16 10:53:26.0

Loreena: Hi Juliana, I hope you are able to see our chat by now.

2008-02-16 10:53:33.0

Loreenya: Hello, I am Natalie Bohay, from Sterling Heights, MI. Happy Birthday, Ms. McKennitt!

2008-02-16 10:53:38.0

Loreena: Thank you for the greetings.

2008-02-16 10:53:49.0

JK10003: Dear Loreena - What single place that you have travelled to has been the greatest inspiration to you music? What songs has it influenced? John

2008-02-16 10:55:53.0

Loreena: Hello John. It would be difficult to pick the place that has been the greatest inspiration as they all have their own qualities and aspects. One may only need to seek for them in different ways, but just for starters as my recordings will imply; Russia, Mongolia, Turkey, Greece, all over Europe.

2008-02-16 10:56:13.0

joan: Loreena, In all your travels, what has been your favorite place and what song did that inspire? I also am hoping you will be touring again and closer to my home in upstate New York. Look forward to your future endeavors. love joan

2008-02-16 10:56:48.0

Loreena: Hello Joan, Because this is very similar to the previous question, may I refer you to my answer there. Great to have you with us.

2008-02-16 10:57:06.0

angie: Dear Loreena, one of the new features to the QR site I appreciate are the pictures from your various travels. How much does photography factor in to your travels in terms of fun and necessity for song inspiration, and would you consider adding an enlargeable "slideshow" feature on the site so visitors can fully appreciate the beauty of the pictures? Sorry for the lengthy question, have a wonderful birthday tomorrow. Angie

2008-02-16 11:01:14.0

Loreena: Thanks Angie, for the greetings and wishes. I'm not a very good photographer (yet), but I have great aspirations. My struggle with photography on the road, is that sometimes I feel when a camera enters into my psychological landscape, I am formally

positioning myself as a spectator rather than a participant of the experience and sometimes that's good and sometime it just changes the paradigm that one is experiencing it. As many people probably know by now, I have mixed feeling about cameras and how they are used, particularly when people are in them and not simply landscapes. There have been many situations I would have loved to have taken a photograph, just out of fear that I would forget the image, but have chosen not to as I felt there is an aspect of invading people's public privacy. Of course, that gets into a whole other subject. At the same time, of the photos that I do have, I often do refer to them in the creative process and sometimes are directly connected to the songs themselves, therefore, your suggestion of possibly creating a slideshow is a very good one and something we would welcome looking into.

2008-02-16 11:01:24.0

Loreena: Hi everyone, we'll just take one more question...

2008-02-16 11:01:41.0

GaryP: Hello to all. I am grateful to have this opportunity to participate in this chat. Loreena, you have spoken of a book which is in the works describing you your journeys and musical inspirations, is there an anticipated publication date? Love the music. Take care.

2008-02-16 11:03:07.0

Loreena: Hello GaryP. The book is still in progress along with some other initiatives which are tied into the same direction of inspiration. Subsequently, things have not moved as quickly as I had hoped, so I hate to make any promises, but because you are a member of the QR Community, you will be one of the first to know.

2008-02-16 11:05:27.0

Loreena: Thank you very much everyone, for joining us here. I realize there are still quite a number of questions in the queue. I and my colleagues will now try to assess this experience from our end. We certainly would welcome your thoughts and comments as well and we will open a new forum on the messageboard shortly to allow for them. As you can appreciate, technology only allows us to go so far and we are trying to seek the methods of communication which allow the greatest number of people in the most pleasing way possible. Thanks again, take good care. Loreena

2008-02-16 11:13:45.0