

For Minak Khangtzen

In its own way, Minak Khangtzen represents the unbreakable spirit of Tibetan Buddhism.

Minak Khangtzen, one of the groups that makes up Drepung Monastery, is famous for having great teachers and abbots; it also gave birth to the head of the yellow hat sect of Tibetan Buddhism.

For more than 500 years, since its establishment in 1416 a.d., Drepung Monastery in Tibet was the largest monastery in the world with more than 7,000 monks.

But beginning in 1959, the monastery was systematically destroyed by the invading Chinese Communist armies. Its artwork was destroyed, and most of its teachers and students, young and old, were killed or imprisoned.

Only one monk from the Minak Khangtzen group was able to escape this brutal holocaust. From many to just one, but it was enough. Minak Khangtzen was reborn in India.

Today, Minak Khangtzen has grown to 30 resident monks, many of whom escaped from Tibet, leaving behind families they may never see again – not as long as China controls Tibet.

Proceeds from this CD will help these monks continue their education in Tibetan Buddhism and culture. The money will also help house them and provide them with food, health care, and books.

It is sincerely hoped that whoever listens to these chants will have a calmer mind, more inner peace, and will be able to participate in ancient healing rituals.

This project is dedicated to world peace.

1. Supplications to Tsongkhapa With this chant, we ask Tsongkhapa, a manifestation of three qualities of Buddha: compassion, wisdom, and power, for special blessings for physical, mental or spiritual healing.

2. Recitation Preliminary to Buddhist Teaching and Shower Purification Ceremony The recitation recognizes and honors the Buddha through prostrations and supplication, and the ceremony increases merit by invoking the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, showering them with precious jewels, perfumed waters, lotus flowers, and silk and brocade clothing.

3. Invoking the Merit Field With this chant, all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are visualized in order to gain merit.

4. Seven-Limbed Prayer These are the seven preliminaries for carrying out a Dharma practice.

5. Dedication for Enlightenment This chant is to help all sentient beings become free from suffering.

6. Song to Move the Dakinis' Hearts This chant directly asks the Dakinis to help all sentient beings.

7. Long Life Chant for H.H. The Dalai Lama This chant asks His Holiness, the living Buddha, not to pass into Nirvana, but to remain, to help all beings achieve happiness.

8. Offering to Palden Lhamo Palden Lhamo, the wrathful form of Tara and a protector of Dharma students, defeats hosts of enemies by turning the Wheel of Dharma.

9. Mandala Offering This offers the essence of the whole universe to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

10. Request to Tibetan Protector Deities A chant to protect Tibet, written by the 14th Dalai Lama after the Chinese invasion.

11. Tara Mantra This chant asks Tara, a female manifestation of the Buddha of Compassion, to help us gain freedom from samsara, the eight terrors, and illness.

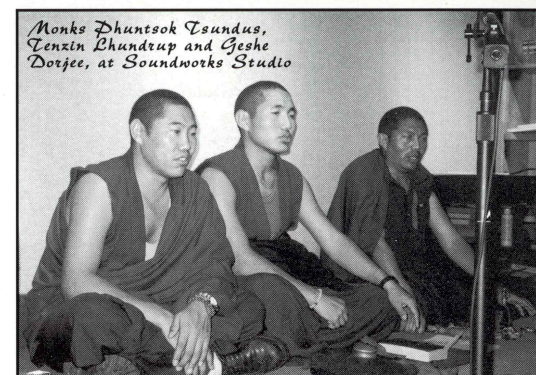
Chanting by: Geshe Thupten Dorjee, Phuntsok Tsundus, and Tenzin Lhundrup

Musicians, members of Silverwood Quartet:
Tom Morley/violin, octave mandolin, percussion – Andra Bohnet/flute, bansuri (bamboo flute), harp – Jonathan Clark/viola – Holly Compton/cello

Silverwood Quartet appears courtesy of Flying Frog Music. www.silverwoodquartet.com

Quartet arrangement on 'Tara Mantra' by Andra Bohnet

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Monks Phuntsok Tsundus, Tenzin Lhundrup and Geshe Dorjee, at Soundworks Studio

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Co-produced by Andra Bohnet
Engineered by Dennis Gould & Rob Olsen
Mixed by Dennis Gould
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