

Elysian Peace Bill Canty

I've never much meditated to music before. So it was quite a shift putting on this CD and settling in to discover that it was nigh on impossible to go blank and empty when listening to

such fantastic, textured, uplifting music. The music is visually stimulating, evocative of shape-shifting moods. Angels singing, lounging on comfortable clouds, their busy glowing fingers effortlessly cascading up and down their harp strings. A giant in rubber boots, humming to himself as he waters his floating garden, his watering can causing a summer sun-shower to fall. A space ship bursts through the atmosphere, then another. They burst like comet-flowers, spraying spores of pink across the ocean, the sun shimmering like a dance.

Track 3 has a catchy hook and a classic feel, as does track 4 which suggests a movie set in colonial-era tropics until a jovial string section starts to jig, and the scene flips from sunset plains to a ballroom dance – long dresses swishing below stiff collared chins.

Track 5 is my favourite, for the sheer strength of the main dramatic hook, but it is track 7 that affords me the headspace to meditate. The music widens, the scope expands, and my mind follows suit.

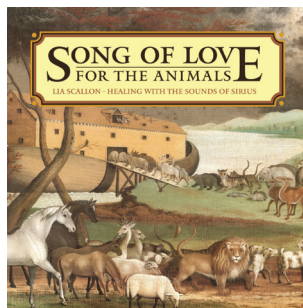
Later I am listening again, trying to do some work, but the music is powerful. It is the stuff of daydreams, not mundane details. I put down my pen and stand to stare out of the window at the autumn trees.

"No more work today", the music seems to say, "Not now".

I close my eyes and I am flying, Peter Pan style. I swoop down into the valley, then up and over the hill...

Check it out at BillCanty.com

Reviewed by Seamus Anthony



Song of Love for the Animals CD by Lia Scallon

I might as well say it, I have a homicidal cat! That is I did, until I played him the pure sounds of this beautiful and calming CD. Our normal scratching and biting maniac, aka Jinx, was stretched out on the floor purring as the sweet sounds flowed over him. I will be playing this as much as possible in the hope we don't have to put a straight jacket on him!

Even if you don't have a pet, it's worth having this CD to hear Lia's beautiful voice yet again. Take it outside and play it to soothe the animal kingdom in your garden as well.

Reviewed by Simon Burke

RRP: \$29.95

*Distributed by: Planet MGM and
Brumby Books and Music*

*Published by: Lia Scallon, The
Sounds of Sirius*



Magic Sounds CD by Dean Frenkel & Linda Laasi

This music CD is wonderful. The vocals are naturally resonant and powerfully uplifting, and yet also soothing.

The tracks comprise of Linda's pure sonorous voice and the harmonium, Dean's amazing harmonics, the didgeridoo and a jaw harp, and crystal bowls by Arrayah.

It's beautiful to meditate to or to prepare you for sleep. However, because it is so rich and varied in texture, it is also perfect to simply enjoy for its music. Indeed, I don't normally enjoy 'relaxation' music, probably because my love of classical music has trained my ear to listen for complexities and fullness in music.

I also get SO irritated by repetition in most relaxation music that it drives me to distraction and has the opposite effect. So I played this CD with a little trepidation, and was delighted. It lives up to its name.

Distributed by Move Records

RRP \$26

Reviewed by Elizabeth Stephens

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