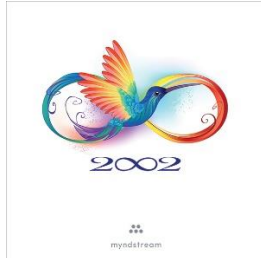


2002

## Hummingbird



For over twenty five years the band known as **2002** has been making music that oftentimes defies description with their Celtic fantasy vibe mixed with New World elements, and rich, unearthly vocals. Their subject this time on album number twenty one is the **Hummingbird**. The tiniest member of the bird family, it is a creature that is revered in many cultures around the world. Some say they are spirits. Others say Gods. But all say friends.

2002's Hummingbird is ten enchanting tracks of peaceful, contemplative reveries that provide endless moments to escape from the world we know into the world of what if. The joy is in the journey. Follow me.

You go past the chestnut trees, down the rocky path, and into the valley. You can hear the falls before you see them. They have a welcoming roar. The voices of the water translate into comforting sounds. After a time you come to **Rainbow Cove**. The cascade of splashing water changes the mists into fanciful rainbows. 2002's melody is adventurous, friendly, and promises a day of sun filled fantasies. Rainbow Cove is the gateway.

Convivial cello, mystical harp, and ethereal voice blend effortlessly together to introduce you to **Walela**. Walela is the Cherokee word for hummingbird. A creature of many myths and legends, the hummingbird once lost a race, but won a heart. Sarah's delicate voice glides freely, giving life to the little bird as it flies from sun up to sundown.

**Sunlight in Rain** is a magical piano tune with a Celtic tinge. Crystal clear drops of water linger on every leaf and blade of grass magnifying the unseen, mysterious, tiny realms all around us. Everything is a world within a world if only we open our hearts and eyes. This is a sweet, gentle piano tune of sparkling notes and calming voices. The dulcet flute takes flight like our little hummingbird, fluttering like a bejeweled butterfly, exploring, alighting for a second, and then on to the next flower.

Once out of the valley, now we climb up and up until we reach the **Sacred Mountain**. This is one of my many favorites on Hummingbird for its complexities and polyphony of instrumental voices. The rocks are slick, the trees are below us, and we can almost touch the sky. The flute rises above all, guitars strum, and just like that, we are on top of the world. The soaring vocal makes the ascension with us, urging us on, but in a friendly manner. We made it.

Our next fantasy is **Through the Rainbow**. Everything sparkles. Everything is your favorite color and all the colors in between. The hummingbird is thought to be a messenger and in this down tempo tune the hummingbird hovers in flight to catch your eye like a bejeweled harbinger. Beauty is with thee. Peace is with thee. Hope is everywhere. Steady, serene guitar and the trilling of a flute fill the air like musical fragrance. Breathe in deeply to enjoy.

Legend tells us the hummingbirds rest at night, so we have time to say hello to the crescent silvery orb that hangs in the sky like a crooked smile in the tune **Courting the Moon**. Very dreamy, but sparse piano notes twinkle among the stars as heavenly vocals drift about, and we are weightless, floating on the melody. The hummingbird in one Mayan tale is the sun and he of course spends all his waking hours Courting the Moon. The music tells us he accomplished his deed.

Sweet voice opens the tune **Jasmin Rain** and glorious harp tells the story of a place of dry earth. A little Hopi boy made a wooden hummingbird and the Hopi girl threw it into the air and the tiny bird came to life. The hummingbird flew away and appealed to the Gods who sent rain onto the land and replenished it and life flourished. The music is hopeful, and I for one, can't wait for the first few raindrops.

Other tracks are Sunlight in Rain, Wind Dancer, and First Day of Spring. All ten songs are delightful and calming, which is a recognized trait of 2002's music. Just put the album on Replay and you might never want to leave the dreamy world where little birds flutter about and bring joy day after day. Just about the best form of escapism, 2002 never fails to create music that is perfect for every mood and every dream. Highly recommended. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews