

Aureliaslight

A Mystic's Winter



The main concept of **Aureliaslight's** new release **A Mystic's Winter** isn't new. Evidence the blended sounds of memorable music and the definitive touches that produces a collection of music that is soothing, healing, and comforting. Many have done it. But few have done it this well. The eight track album of New Age, contemporary, fantasy, and sometimes sacred music comes under the heading Winter Music, one of my favorite genres that you can listen to anytime of the year. You might sense the cold in every tune, but in a way it is the cold of the soul searching purity, the soothing cold of ancient words, and the unmistakable cold of distant stars. And all are accompanied by some very artistic music. Aureliaslight was once known as Jennifer Zulli.

The album opens with **Winter Solstice**. The tune unveils the December wind blowing upon the land and it is somewhat familiar. I say familiar because it sounds like it contains a refrain from an old 16th century English round called *Hey Ho Nobody Home*. Aureliaslight's cooing voice makes this a soft, worldly carol. It is a prayer of faith that the Light will return. That spring will continue into summer. Aureliaslight's voice is surely the voice of hopefulness.

In the second of eight tracks I hear the familiar chorus of another old world tune, *Greensleeves*, in the song **Archangel Gabriel**. Aureliaslight is the master weaver who blends the coarse, yet colorful threads of the old and the new to create a fabric of comfort and peacefulness. Gabriel is the angel of dreams, the angel of light, and the angel of revelations. Let us seek those revelations so that the Divine and the human will converge and become known.

Looking for the source of winter's vitality, **Dance of Spirit** courses with a powerful force of crystalline energies that approach like waves, but envelop like ether. This is a dynamic, wondrous piece of music that had subliminal tendencies. It bastes the spirit in warmth and solace. It is a pronounced orchestral work that is written and performed for a soul of one, yet all can partake.

The precious gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold are revealed in the echoing chant **The Magi**. In a time when silver and gold was the currency of most lands, the spicy resin of frankincense was truly a gift of good health for body and spirit. Myrrh was used in ancient times for wellbeing as well. In this instance, it is the song that is the gift as chorus after chorus echoes with a sanctified purity. The cold of gold coin is insignificant when compared to warmth of the heartfelt ideals of wellbeing in all things.

Invoking the lyrics of *Oh Tannenbaum*, Aureliaslight manages to instill a soupçon of emotional angst in her reimagined version called **Evergreen**. It is a prayer for spring thus far not seen, but always in dreams.

The title track and one of my favorites is **A Mystic's Winter**. It is a soft winter dream that features a gentle piano, glass harp, keyboards, and the call of the owl in the distance. It has a minimalistic approach that produces a cold softness, a kind of sound of fallen snow which is no sound at all. The strong piano lead draws you into the fantasy of snow, the woods highlighted by moon glow, and the beckoning call of that owl.

Light of Light (Lumen Lumine), another favorite is quiet prayer Latin prayer with Middle Eastern elements mixed and with Tibetan singing bowl that gives it an otherworldly quality. It may very well be the song of the stars as they lie like sacred diamonds in the black of a night's sky. Each star a wish, a hope, a prayer.

The final song also with Tibetan singing bowls is **Womb of Compassion**. There are beings among us that, rather than ascend to the highest of enlightenment, decide to stay among the many and give of their empathy and kindness so that others may rise as well. This is the feminine in Womb of Compassion. The Tibetan bowl makes waves and waves of sound that buoys the movement for the spirit, like water under a boat. Aurealiaslight's delicate, powerful voice is the unseen energy that moves the boat forward. This tune is simply one of the most meditative tune I've ever experienced.

The entire album has the unique quality of suspending time. What I thought was ten minute song was less than five and half minutes. It was a welcomed, but an eerie feeling. Great music does just that. It builds a metaphysical universe where physics always runs second. Aurealiaslight managed to do that repeatedly. And to do it splendidly. Highly recommended.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews