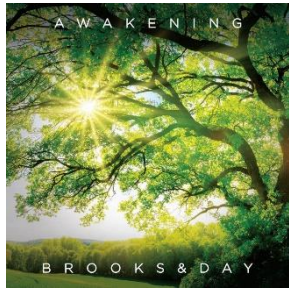


Brooks & Day

Awakening



Brooks & Day is the partnership of **Ben Brooks** and **Peter E. Day** who created this music during the Covid pandemic and managed to achieve a fine album of contemporary, New Age music while doing it by remote hook up. The concept of recording in multiple locations and then putting together the different parts of a music project started quite a while back and now seems to be the norm, rather than the exception. On **Awakening** Brooks plays flutes and keyboards and Day plays guitar and keyboards. They reminded me somewhat of Andy Mitran and Al Jewer. The album is ten tracks of soothing music against a theme of revival and restoration, a miracle that occurs daily on our planet.

The recording starts with the song **Rising Sun**. It is an upbeat tune with a lot of Brooks' swirling flute, some tom-toms, and a sparkling background. You know how the sun always likes to make an entrance. This isn't a quiet gentle rosy fingers of dawn piece, but a bright, dramatic sunrise that heats and lights the planet. And you are a witness.

Next stop Ojai, California. The air is sweet, the sun warm as we embrace an **Ojai Morning**. More strong flute lead and gentle layers of sound suggest the green fields, the open valley and the mountains behind every landscape. Wait for it, Ojai has some of the most picturesque sunsets around.

Day's guitar comes into bearing on the tune **Oneness**. Slow, peaceful, and a wonderful sense of drifting along with the day (Literally). Brooks' flute chimes in, the bells sound in the distance, and the song becomes an idyllic soundscape for your dreams and thoughts. A little me time is just the thing.

There is one song that I had a hard time getting into. It is called **Entwined**. It features a polyphony of two flutes, and the melody was pleasant enough, but I could not find a balance in the two flutes. It is as if one is played by a professional and the other not.

I really didn't expect any space music on the album, but then **Red Planet** showed up. Brooks and Day's music did allow me to wonder what our cosmic neighbor is up to in a musical sense. Dreamy flute flourishes, a warm bass track, and some synthesized elements combined in a scenario that begged to be explored.

Next is a rapturous version of **Send in the Clowns**. This song is getting to be like Amazing Grace. More artists are including it in their repertoire for its familiarity and its sensual splendor. Day's stylistic guitar rendition captured the nascent beauty of the piece while Brooks' flute complimented every note.

Brooks and Day saved the best for last. The final tune is called **Eternal Journey**. A simple drone, glittering keyboard sounds, and an echoing flute paints this serene scene for the spirit. The

music sounds like you are living inside a fantasy and there is nothing but calm around you. This tune epitomizes the album for me. Quiet, peacefulness for dreaming.

There is a lot of tranquil music on this album. The melodies permeate your spirit like sunshine or gentle rain. Brook's flute seems to be the dominant factor in almost every tune, but that's not a bad thing. The accompanying sounds balance it all very well into a recording that listenable for long periods. Just press PLAY. Recommended. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews