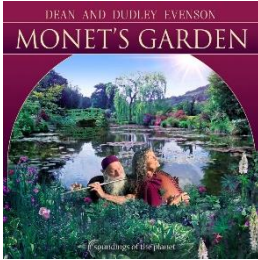


Dean and Dudley Evenson

Monet's Garden



I wasn't aware of the scientific breakthrough of someone inventing a time machine. Apparently, that is just what **Dean and Dudley Evenson** did, because their new album, **Monet's Garden**, whisked me back through time to Giverny, France circa 1883. The flowers, the pond, and the trees represented in Monet's paintings are here to enjoy transformed into luxurious sounds. The album made a terrific impression on me. The music is not just about colors and textures. It is about diversity, balance, and perspectives. More importantly, the music is medicine. It is music that comforts and heals as only heartfelt vibrations can.

Dean and Dudley Evenson are two of the founders of New Age Music having spread their message of healing using not only music, but also every other kind of medium for well over three decades. There does not seem to be any end in sight. Or Sound. Let's take a stroll.

Listening to **Monet's Garden** I feel like I am sitting on a leaf, watching Monsieur Monet stroke a sun drenched canvas with vibrant oils. The Evensons' music is more than three dimensional, giving each song a soulful element. The first song **Water Lily Nymphs** is a delightful play of sun and water and hide and seek among the lily pads. Waves of delicate flute and strums of resonant harp cavort just near the surface of the pond. A splash here, a glimmer of light there, and the whole day is ahead.

**Wisteria Foot Bridge**, or what was once referred to known as the Japanese Bridge, is a song that allows you to cross into quietude. The echoing flute keeps you mesmerized. Just a few steps over the green boards and you are under the lavender umbrella of billowy wisteria. You linger for a moment and it becomes a day. It is the best kind of lost.

The cool calming colors of purple and blue are represented in the tune **Splendid Irises**, a reference to the Master's Lilac Irises, a tall painting of azure sky and violet flowers frolicking cheerfully in the afternoon like some kind of exotic birds. Did you just hear a dove?

A strum of harp, a breath of flute and sound waves replace liquid waves in the tune **Pond Reflections**. Your spirit becomes a single leaf caught in a concentric ripple of sound, a castaway on unseen flows of calm. You hear a tiny chirping bird, you catch a ray of sunlight and you drift, you flow, and you dream. This is one of the more languid songs on Monet's Garden and a favorite.

More bird song, a wisp of wind, and the fluttering of long, slender leaves are brought to mind when you listen to **Cascading Willows**. Willows were one of Monet's favorite themes as proven by his dozen paintings on the subject. As in the Master's painting the Evensons invoke light and shadow creating their own "May Light" or Maeinschein. The tune, created in muted sound, is idyllic, lyrical, and you can just feel the breezes that ruffle the leaves. The day is quite perfect.

It is hard to imagine such a war torn place in north western France held an incredible region of peace and beauty. Monet knew the area had a special light and he used this natural illumination masterfully to transform plants and water and sky into works that will delight the heart forever. Dean and Dudley's final cut is called **Evening at Giverny**. It is farewell to a magical place. Yes, the irises delight, the water soothes, the sky comforts. However, it is this final piece of blissful, fluid music that we are reminded of the myriad pathways that allow one's soul to wander among the grounds, taking in the all that vibrates, all that heals. Just follow the flute and get behind the harp and you shall see.

Monet's Garden is another successful album by two of the genre's more notable composers. The peace is pressed into every note, every musical nuance is like low hanging fruit, and like a wonderful bouquet, these dozen introspective tunes are gifted to us by Dean and Dudley. Never has the saying, "Take time to smell the roses", been more applicable than now. Highly recommended.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews