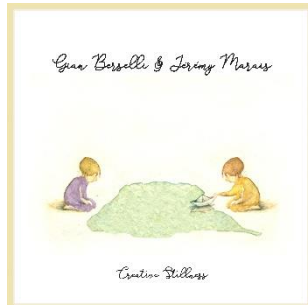


Gian Berselli and Jérémy Marais

Creative Stillness



The fact that **Gian Berselli** and **Jérémy Marais** are world travelers is quite obvious in their new collaboration **Creative Stillness**. Born on separate continents, Berselli in South America and Marais in Europe, they seemed to have meshed well in creating a contemporary and ambient album that is both soothing and imaginative. This is going to be an incredible undertaking. Follow me.

Rasa Silvia, (perhaps the essence of the forest), has Marais playing the dreamy alto saxophone over a rhythmic theme of soft percussion, blowing wind, and incorporating a medium tempo. The swaying melody is hypnotic, allowing for the listener to get into that mind opening trance state. A good beginning.

Wind and rain, the sax, and a dramatic undertone of sound are found in the track, **Insight**. The melody is mildly labyrinthine as it edges toward a place where thoughts go to be pondered and developed. The music is infused with a subliminal calmness and it echoes without bounds. My favorite track on the album is called **Acrobaleno All'Interno**. The upbeat, loping tempo is fun and entrancing and the sensual, saxophonic theme just sort of grabs you and away you go. It has a suggestion of making the listener take stock and reflect on the future.

Mouna has a desert dwelling, Middle Eastern flavor courtesy of the vocal by **Shivpreet Singh**. The album theme of creative stillness is complementary to the idea of Mouna, or silence. The search for a truly quiet environment is ongoing. Outside forces are strong. Berselli & Marais' music offers a hidden path. Ironically, a musical road to silence.

Dalat is filled with the sounds of people talking, working, and interacting. The expansive solo sax tune creates a vivid, colorful picture of life. On the tune **In the Beginning There Was Water** the Tibetan bowl pulsates among sounds of rain and the dainty tinkling of an mbira, a kind of finger harp from Africa played by **Eyal Freedman**. Murmuring background and echoing sax fills the tune with waves of thoughtful nuance.

Mossy rocks, lush green plantings, and nature sounds make up the tune **Zen Garden**. The pathway is there to take or not take. The quiet is there to be appreciated. A cascade of rain from the tiled roof makes a tiny waterfall, but you can still hear the soft, background drone, the harp, and the gentle, bell-like tones. You can easily get lost in this Zen Garden.

Gian Berselli and Jérémy Marais' thought-provoking music allows you to take a trip around the world using your mind as a conveyance and your spirit as the well-traveled passenger. All eight tracks share the theme of creating an environment that fosters escapism, even if it is for a short while. Pretty much everyone on the planet needs a little respite from recent events. You could not spend your time any better than listening to and enjoying **Creative Stillness**. Highly recommended. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews