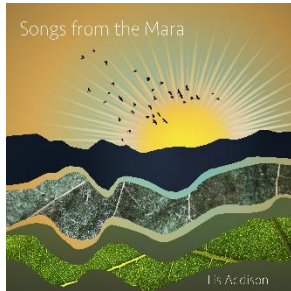


Lis Addison

Songs from the Mara

lisaddison.com



Lis Addison gets in step with nature and perhaps the universe on her new album **Songs from the Mara**. Her chronicled journey through Africa is a six track adventure of symphonic delight. And it was created to serve a purpose of humanitarianism. The music is a post classical foray of keyboard, ethnic instruments, and whispery voices that describes the beauty and splendor of the well-known game reserve Maasai Mara in Kenya. Along with the very splendiferous music, the album has little animals and insects scurrying about to keep your interest and enough environmental sounds to let you know you are in the middle of real life. As a composer, Addison seems to have mastered the magical mix of story and music and every song has an ethnic sensibility along with a flowing, cinematic theme.

Sunrise on the Mara, the first cut, begins as if Lis is a director of some monumental motion picture and gives the cue to start the day. The music swells as light and heat vie for your senses. Like the day, the music gets busy with humming voice and ostinatos of piano and kalimba. It says get ready, something miraculous is about to happen. And it does.

Sunset on the Mara is next in the cue and I would have preferred it to be last, but then, what is light without dark? Mournful voice sings to petition the stars to arrive quickly. Soft, echoing piano blends with the voice in a chorus to bring on the night. There is coolness, there is succor in the night as your dreams overcome your fears. This is the best song on the album and a favorite.

Kitui, ancient home of the iron makers, place of the magic in the rocks, is a county in Kenya noted for its mythology. The stories are as old as the rocks. Blessed is the **Kitui Rain** that appeared when someone special came to abide here. The music is a mellow symphonic tune and at the same time, a tribal celebration of the arriving rains, long gone for more than three years. Lis' music has the aridity of the sun, and the life giving moisture of the gray, cloudy skies, and the gratitude of prayers answered.

Elephants on the Mara is a song about life on a long, dusty road, with a parade of giants, and a reassurance in the cycle of life. Guardians of the land, the elephants walk on the trails, contributing to life in the reserve. Insects scamper, birds form symbiotic relationships, and the elephants patrol. Addison's tune is a musical walkabout paying tribute to the elephants on the Mara using a marimba intro, repetitive lyrics, shimmering piano, and a sensitive theme. We can feel the power of these majestic animals. The music itself is a beautiful, elegant piano tune.

Little chirps and chortles are scattered among the tune **Lioness and Three Cubs**. Lis' realistic music has turned the title into a breathtaking scenario for the mind where we can imagine a sunny day, a hidden refuge in the bush, and a family of lions that hold promise of the future.

Once again, Addison demonstrates the addition of convincing cinematic themes where none actually exist. She does it so well, however, that we as listeners have no trouble imagining what is going on.

A muted gong begins the final tune **Dream of the Mara**. The sound of live giving water permeates the song. The music comes in waves almost like a musical mirage. This tune has an immersive quality. Calm and quiet. Think soaking music. The music flows in the background, but life continues to run on a separate track in your mind. This is musical dualism where mind and matter are distorted, but yet together they form a path that is easy to follow by the spirit.

Songs from the Mara is a half a dozen instrumentals that offers up chapters of life on a unique location in Africa and an unparalleled place on our planet. It is more than just music however. It is collection that represents struggle, endurance, and sometimes triumph. Lis Addison's music is vivid, with enough variation to make every tune a bold adventure. Honestly, I wanted more. Highly recommended.

- R J Lannan, ArtisanMusicReviews.com

Lis Addison, composer, vocalist, keyboardist and producer takes her listeners on a symphonic safari as she offers up her latest heartfelt album Songs from the Mara. I know you going to love these "good vibrations" as much as I did. My review is on the front page of www.artisanmusicreviews.com