

Meg Bowles

Voices from the Ethereal Forest

[megbowlesmusic.com](http://megbowlesmusic.com)



When I think of sound as waves, then I think of electronic music. When I think of electronic music one of the first names that comes to mind is composer **Meg Bowles**. Her latest album **Voices from the Ethereal Forest** is seven tracks of electronic ambience that just seem to flow into your mind and resonate as if they were waves from an ocean of sound. And you are lost in the middle of it all. The echoing waves on this particular album are wide, tall, long, green, gray, and fluid. All the qualities you would expect from a forest made of aural vibrations. How something that is truly electronic can take on the guise of an unearthly realm is solely produced by the magic of the composer.

The opening tune is the title cut called **Voices from the Ethereal Forest** and it makes a lasting impression as it sets the mood. The flow, the texture, and the blandishments of creature calls that inhabit the forest are ingeniously blended together into more than an eight sonic minute experience. The mind conjures up great expanses of pine green elements swaying, undulating to unseen energies. The point to be made is that it may not be on our own planet.

In order to get to the Ethereal Forest one must traverse a very unique ocean. **Ode to a Fragile Sea** is Meg's reminder that though the sea is vast, it has a delicate nature. Temperature, chemistry, light, and sound all blend together to make it what it is and upsetting that delicate balance is not only dangerous, but unconscionable. The music however, suggests that this "fragile sea" is gentle and forgiving.

**Grove Light** has an ebb and flow. A sort of give and take that creates a sense of balance similar to the previous track. It is a musical pendulum if you will that not only marks time, but also space. Each wave of light carries the vibrations, builds an aural wall of sound, and then disappears. The distance is so infinite, that no echo has ever returned.

**Slow Dance Under a Red Moon** is one of the more livelier tunes on the collection. Quavers of shadowy sound ripple throughout this ambient ballet of preternatural voice and eerie ensemble. The Siren calls to us to dance with her only to learn she is made out of misty dreams.

Unearthly voices croon softly on the tune **Woodland of Sorrows**. The mournful harmonies talk to our souls and reminds that we sometimes enter the forest for succor only to find truth. Meg's music is a like perpetual wind blowing through the trees. It touches everything without leaving a trace. And yet, we are moved by it. Beautiful song and one of my favorites on the album.

There is something hopeful about seeing light through a mist. Meg's song **Winter Fog** promises a clear sky and a more than ordinary day after the fog goes away. But before these shrouded

possibilities take place, we must navigate the grays and gloominess that is on our path. My advice? Follow the sound of the music.

**Evening Chorus** is by far the longest track on the album coming in at almost twelve minutes. Masked within its warm waves of sound are textural ostinatos that offer obscure movement in the night. Then a flowing melody intermixes with Meg's main theme making the tune slightly mysterious. This is no earthly night, but set on a world where colors and light constantly intermingle as does sound and energies. It is place where sleep is elusive. This is another favorite.

I appreciated that most of the tracks were more than five minutes long, giving us plenty of time to lose ourselves in the musical moments. One of these days we are going to fall asleep and find ourselves lost in Meg's wondrous Ethereal Forest, where voices call and landscapes constantly change. I can pretty much guarantee that there is nothing mundane there for the aural traveler. Highly Listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews