

Paul Adams and Elizabeth Geyer

Deeper Imaginings



The collaboration between multi-instrumentalists **Paul Adams** and **Elizabeth Geyer** turned out to be sublime. The musical partnership seems to mesh like gears in a musical clock as gentle breath powered implements, piano, and other instruments produce a symbiotic relationship that delivers on every track. *Deeper Imaginings* is a sequel to Adams' award-winning album called *Imaginings* and the tone is virtually the same, but the delivery is quite different. The music is more peaceful, more flowing. There are many underlying complexities and a noteworthy facility to produce harmony and calmness. The placid themes are brought about by the use of Native American flute, piano, balaban (Azerbaijani wind instrument), guitar, trumpet, and an abundance of other flutes. The music crosses the threshold of many genres including New Age, ethnic, ambient, chill, and more. Yeah, even jazz.

Endless Horizon, the opening track, gathers all the instruments on the album and blends them into a wondrous concoction of textures and sounds. Seraphic voice and flute join in an inviting collage of warmth and unfathomable, textural beauty. It is the infinity mirror of music.

It is strange how music affects you. When I first heard the refrains of **The Unfolding**, my mind transported me to the shores of Gitche Gumee and to Longfellow's poem, *The Song of Hiawatha*. Then the song took a sudden turn eastward and my whole perspective changed to one of a visit to the Alhambra where star studded skies made for a night of quiescent beauty.

The sound of water flowing opens the tune **Acceptance** and continues to run throughout. Water is one of the most powerful physical forces on earth. It touches, it changes, and over time, it creates. It touches you to nourish. It changes you to betterment. It creates a different version of you every given moment. Therefore, we accept the power of water. Resistance is useless.

With the deep tones of Paul's flute and the relaxing nature of the Elizabethan piano, **Still Meadows** sounded a bit improvisational, but it did not suffer for it. Instead, it had an intricacy that invited you deep into the music. There is an undertone of an instrument that sounded almost like a voice and it added an organic element to the mix. Although I could imagine all sorts of colorful grasslands and vast, open prairies suggested by the melody, it was my own inner peace on which I could focus. And I did. *Still Meadows* was one of my favorites.

There is a cathedral like tone to the song **Awakening**. It is the cathedral of the mind that needs no buttressed timbers, no stain glass windows, and most of all, no doors. It a place of complete and utter openness of the soul. As far as my meager knowledge goes, in every religion on earth there is a point where we surrender and say yes, come into me, I accept You. It is the enlightenment. It is the surrender. It is the Awakening. This song was my most favorite and I replayed it many times.

All that I Am and **Hope for the Game** have a spoken word vocal that, along with the music, gave it a beat generation jazz poet feel. It is a sound not heard very often these days, so it was a welcome change. As in all the tracks, the idea that love will find a way, heal our wounds, and give us optimism is cached in the refrain for us to discover.

Paul Adams has more hats than a haberdashery. He plays the part of composer, multi-instrumentalist, luthier, and producer. With his longtime friend, veteran performer and trumpeter **Dave Hoffman**, who appears on this album, he has created many albums. Australian **Elizabeth Geyer** is a songwriter, a vocalist, and a multi-instrumentalist, which includes the flugelhorn, and who dabbles in the finely tuned arts of jazz and contemporary music. Joining the group on Deeper Imaginings are **Gary Green** (Gentle Giant) on guitar, world-renowned **Pravin Godkhindi** on bansuri flute, and **Alp Akmaz** on the balaban.

The intentional mixture of eastern and western subjects is what makes this music so great. I think the underlying theme of the whole album is go with the flow. No one song overwhelmed another. On this meditative mélange of musical poetry there was harmony, there was balance, and there was unity in every tune. Highly recommended. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews