

Rudy Adrian
Woodlands
Spotted Peccary Records



After hearing **Rudy Adrian's** latest album **Woodlands**, I am thoroughly convinced that electronics and organics can reside in the same imaginative music and dwell in harmony. **Woodlands** is thirteen tracks of ambient soundscapes that allows the listener an opportunity to forest bathe, or experience what the Japanese call shinrin-yoku, but with an edginess to it. Mr. Adrian is fortunate enough to hail from New Zealand where the entire island is an incredible inspiration of forests, mountains, and valleys that sometimes defy description. Using flowing water, whispering wind, and a great deal of resonance, Adrian give us more than a dozen uniquely styled sound pictures that permit us to realize a multi-colored, many-textured world right from our armchairs. Some are stark and resounding, others are truly orphic. Let me recount my musical exposure firsthand.

Postcard from Karnack (Remix) begins the experience, for that is what this music really is, with a tune that envelops me like a morning mist. A rattling sound shakes me awake. The music lingers in the air; heavy, moist, and cool. There is a sense of altitude, as if I am in the clouds.

There is thunder in the distance, moving my way. It bounces off the nearby peaks. I am down in the valley. I am **Deep Within Forbidden Mountains**. I hear the sound of flowing water, and a mellifluous flute beckons me. The music is hypnotic, ethereal at times, but there is a darkness about it. Not evil, really, just mysterious. Mesmeric flute by **Nick Prosser**.

Rudy's music becomes quite expansive on the title tune, **Woodlands**. The tune swells and shifts, resonates, and fades. It is all encompassing with a thousand shades of green and gray, vying for my attention. Towering trees long for the sun and even higher clouds promise rain. The smell of the earth is fragrant and the moss under my feet creates a unique silence.

In the music of **Autumn in a Forest Glade** the sun sparkles and sifts through the tree tops creating light and shadow, warmth and not warmth. The leaves crackle and crunch around me as I stir them up on my journey. There is a golden light on everything. The wind shifts and the leaves fall like rain skittering along my path.

The night comes quickly. I experience **Stars Between Boughs**. I have no fire, but I have the starlight above me peeking through the branches. It is a comfort to know that the planet is revolving as it should and all is right with the universe. I feel as if I am drifting ever so leisurely as the music slows down time. It is a small forever.

The sound of water trickling close by catches my attention and I find myself with **Three Views of a Japanese Garden**. It is a secretive place of tranquility, of prayers, and transcendence. My first view is a glimpse of two small islands of green surrounded by a sea of gray pebbles. The tiny rocks represent an ocean on land. The islands create an oasis for the soul. My next view is of

green sculptures that are made up of trees. Strong, bold, protective. Trusting. My final view is of my path flanked by anthuriums that are pink, red, and “obake”. Because of the music, I have found my way.

Rudy Adrian, by his music on Woodlands, has created some of the strongest, most vivid soundscapes that I have ever heard. The strong, organic, emotional tie to the verdant landscape was never doubted. Additionally, there was a strong flow and a cohesiveness in the compositions that allowed me to play it many times and still make fresh discoveries with every new listen. Adrian has succeeded in balance of music and Nature. Highly recommended.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews