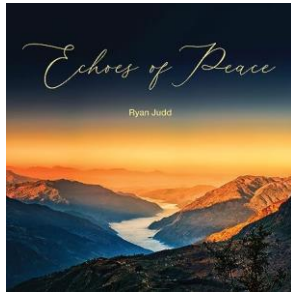


Ryan Judd

Echoes of Peace

ryanjuddmusic.com



I have been listening to **Ryan Judd's** latest album **Echoes of Peace** for several weeks now and I am amazed at what a very talented musician and a six string guitar can accomplish with the perfect muse; pure emotion. Echoes of Peace is ten distinctive nylon string guitar pieces with just a touch of synth (a lá Tom Eaton) that adds background atmosphere to Judd's gentle, impassioned themes. Every tune is very light, seamlessly building a realm of quietude. This is one into which it is very easy to lose oneself. My advice is to go with the flow.

**Blue Sky Within** is an aural time-lapse of scudding clouds against an azure background. Ryan's music lets us forget about our cares and likens to some untethered leaf, drifting with the wind which no particular direction in mind. With Tom's calming drone in the background, Ryan performs an introverted piece called **Searching the Depths**. The tune is rapturous in allowing the spirit to detach itself in a way that allows for deep soul searching. The melody is fluid and flowing and you can just let yourself go with it and be assured that you are safe and tranquil.

My favorite track on Echoes of Peace is one called **Into the Mist**. I can see the foothills from my home and after it rains, the mists arise like gentle spirits and greet the sunrise. Ryan's blissful music was a perfect accompaniment to this mountain miracle. The tune is a never ending spiral of notes that Ryan sent adrift to waft into the tiny crags of the mind and grant peace. **The Lost Summer (Ethereal Version)** sparkles with harmonics like the sun off of a remote forest lake. The air is warm, the sky is clear without the burden of clouds. The day is perfect. Trees wave to us, their leaves silver and green in the distance. Only the oncoming night could end this reverie. Ryan's transcendent music is a welcomed, if not languid accompaniment to anyone's daydreams. The tune segues nicely into the song Never to Return (Celestial Guitar).

Okay, it's blatantly sad. **Never to Return** is graced with a strong, poignant beauty as Ryan unfolds this story of loss. In this sequence of sweet, delicate fretwork, he creates a melody that is an outpouring of emotions so great that even time will not fade them. This is the best cut on the album, and repeated plays just made it better and better.

The last tune on the album is **Hearts Entwined (Ethereal Guitar)**. The melody is sweetly romantic and something that perhaps Bergerac would have played for Roxanne under her balcony. She would have heard the delicate notes as they drifted up to her and whispered in her ear. Ryan's tune, like some sort of musical alchemy, would have compelled the lady to surrender her heart. Truly, there must be an amazing story behind this tender refrain.

Other tracks include Darkness to Light, Nightingale, Moments of Clarity, and Choosing Us. Kudos to Tom Eaton for the audio purity of the recording. It is incredible. Ryan Judd has a flair

for creating heartfelt music and it is no surprise that he is a board-certified music therapist. He shares his talents and his gains with a non-profit organization called Lucy's Love Bus. The agency provides free music therapy services to pediatric cancer patients. He is an award winning artist whose music is heard worldwide on radio stations, internet channels, and satellite radio. It would be an acoustic pleasure to able to listen to him in your living room. Echoes of Peace has more than lived up to its name. It has kept its promise. Excellent.

- R J Lannan, [artisanmusicreviews.com](http://artisanmusicreviews.com)