

Ryan Judd and Kristen Miller

## Soaring Together



This is the kind of music I can listen to for hours and hours, and of course, I did. The latest release from acoustic guitarist **Ryan Judd** accompanied by cellist **Kristen Miller**, **Soaring Together**, is stunningly divine. Not two words you see together often. This is music for warm rooms in candlelight, starry nights on the back porch, and introspective moments of contemplation. There is a subliminal text hiding in there. The love of life.

The love of family. The love of friends. The feel, the sense of the entire album is one tenderness. This collection has ten tracks of contemporary music that gets into your mind and clears out the frenetic scenarios of your daily life. It also makes you think of good things that happened and can happen.

The first track **Innocence Lost** is a musical glance back over your shoulder at the road once traveled. It is the water wings at the pool, the first goldfish, and that brave encounter with the monkey bars. The music plays like a photo album of nostalgic sounds, precious memories every one. You can still hear the giggles.

**Sharing the Joy** is a wayfaring, warm world of sound made just for two. This free and easy contemporary duet is a balanced combination of merry cello and blissful guitar. The cello is the moody clouds, the guitar the azure heavens. Together they artfully combine into the most beautiful canvas of the imagination. Love songs abound on **Soaring Together**, cached in common titles whose music is anything but common. The music of **Hearts Entwined** is the single breath of two souls. It is the smile made out of soft eyes and warm touches. It is the knowing. It is the wordless talking that only the heart can hear. Ryan's music is the soundstage for all the things you can see and can't see.

The song **On Her Wings** is for Ryan's mother. The melody is emotionally inspiring. This is a song for one who is loving, devoted, and caring. Her whole life has been a gift to others. You can hear that in the music. One of my favorites on the album is called **Waltz with Jena Lynn**. Two steps forward. Two steps back and a slight twirl and off you go again into a place where there is love and comfort. Sometimes though, you don't have to move at all. The earth sways under your feet. This tune helps you keep the rhythm. Sparkling nylon stringed guitar harmonics open the title tune **Soaring Together**. It is two birds gliding through the air, side by side, watching the landscape below. Everything is mellow, everything is right with the world. From the warm world below, the music is uplifting and keeps them aloft. You can barely feel the earth turning. Such is the power of love.

Kristen's eloquent cello opens the final tune, **A Look in the Mirror**. The tune is a gentle one, just like the entire album, but there is a note of sadness wafting about. One cannot know happiness without knowing sadness first. The reflection you see is not at all bad, just tempered with the experiences of a lifetime. Very introspective.

Ryan Judd is a special kind of musician, one that intentionally uses music to heal. The care and devotion of his craft is obvious with every note. His work in music therapy is a daily reminder and a valid proof in the healing power that music possesses. Kristen Miller is a Shamanic sound healer that performs her miraculous music therapies using the vibrations of music as well as those available in the universe. For both of these musicians we might think their talents extraordinary. If truth be told, it is something much more inexplicable and true. It is magic. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews