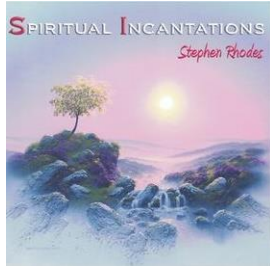


Stephen Rhodes

Spiritual Incantations



It is time to catch up, wind down, and take that pause in your life that you want and so desperately need. Composer **Stephen Rhodes** has the perfect background music for you with his latest release **Spiritual Incantations**. His nine track offering of ambient delight will let you relax and allow you to discover new daydreams with each and every subsequent listen. This instrumental New Age synthesized music is gently flowing and completely calming. Sit back, listen, and relax.

The first cut is called **Eternal Compassion**. As in most of the songs on the album, there is an olde world texture to the sound as if old memories and new thoughts are mixed together to result in calmative music. This is a melody as ancient as the sunrise and just younger than the stars. Stephen's music is a gentle reminder that the world needs compassion right now. It costs nothing and rewards greatly.

Spiritual Incantations are every day prayers that we send up even without thinking. Sometimes they are just a few soft words under our breath. Some of them are a hand thrust into the air with a stronger sentiment. Some of them are questions, some of them gratuudes, but all are heartfelt like this song. This is light music in more ways than one.

On **Peaceful Lament** what sounds like an ethereal, inorganic refrain wavers over this tune like a chorus of angels, and yet in reality it is only a wash of finely-calibrated notes. The mind sometimes adds what it needs in way of comfort. This peaceful prayer pours from the soul and rises heavenward without visible effort. I must say that this was my favorite on *Spiritual Incantations*.

Waltzing In Paradise is one of the more lighthearted tunes in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Left, right, forward and back, a simple pattern that makes life long memories out of music. You dance your way into a world of serene beauty, the nostalgia strong and the melody is rhythmic as the music swirls about. Rhodes inventive theme slows time just enough for two souls to draw near.

The tempo slows to a soft, drifting current of reverence in the tune **Redemption**. Gentle horns bathe the scene as Rhodes' music takes on a respectful tone. This church like theme is peacefully introspective. Careful, you can get lost in this one as your spirit becomes renewed.

Mossy stone walls, glens filled with ferns, and the sunny carefree days in the Land of Eire are present in the song **Celtic Embrace**. There's a bit o' magic hidden in the notes as cool, quiet forests and craggy hills beckon you to a journey of a lifetime. The music in this one had a slightly cinematic feel and could be the basis of a suite. Another favorite.

Stephen Rhodes instrumentals are guaranteed to carry you, at least in your mind, into another place and another time where peace and harmony abide. You can whisper your own thoughts and

words into Spiritual Incantations and be transported elsewhere in the blink of an eye and escape this beleaguered world. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews