

Suzanne Teng & Gilbert Levy

Whisper



Flutist **Suzanne Teng** and multi-instrumentalist **Gilbert Levy** have created a New Age and Contemporary music album entitled **Whisper**. Teng brings to bear her incredible composition and performance skills on multiple flutes while Levy adds his experience on a plethora of ethnic and World instruments to produce nine tracks of reverent, calming music. Sometimes you whisper to keep a secret. Sometimes a whisper is used so as not to disturb. And then there is the whisper that speaks directly to you, and hopefully, gets your attention. Let us do some deep listening.

Whisper, the title tune, wafts into your mind like a gentle vapor. You can feel it, but you can't really touch it. Levy introduces an unusual instrument, the Saz, a Turkish lute. Teng's mellifluous alto flute dances like a wraith made from notes of pale light. All the other instrumentation you hear is the physical augmentation. Soon you will know what the whispers mean.

If you are standing on the obverse side of the looking glass, you might hear the tune **Watching Us from Other Worlds**. It calls, it cajoles, it beckons you to step through and become immersed in an experience of the mind. The watchers want what you want. Your hope for quietude. Your want for succor. And your deep desire for peace. Your spirit travels on the notes of Teng's ethereally fluid flute and Levy's muted Novapan drum with the accompaniment of Jon Ossman's Dilruba (a kind of bowed fiddle from India).

The sense of **Winter Prayer** is a cold west wind, an azure sky, and Nature's mural of painted rocks in the desert. Teng's sinuous serenade is a plea for peace for all. A slow motion realm spins gently around you as you become the center. Waves of affirmative vibrations embrace you like a comforting cloak.

Genesis feature's Levy's delicate hand pan introduction to Teng's earthy bamboo flute. The Beginning of All must have something quite exquisite if the music is any indication. The hand pan sets a pace, a tempo whereas the flute is like a dancing dragonfly, everywhere and anywhere.

She Dances with the Sea has a minimalist's impression with harp, flute and synth, but there is no lack of musicality. It is a fog shrouded mystery of a woman standing on the shore. The scene only becomes evident when the clouds release the moon. Then the dance begins. A silvery being created from foam, salt, and water that sways with every wave and partners with the woman, creating a duo that lives in separate worlds, but they dance as one. Teng's murmuring flute is like a drug, hypnotic, intoxicating, and literally, transcendental.

Teng's flute character is definitely Native American in the tune **White Buffalo**. A wave of sound hangs in the distance, but close to your space is the flute song of the Sacred Buffalo wafting in the wind in the most respectful way. Revered for more than two thousand years, this omen, this

harbinger, represents many things in spirituality. Once you communicate with the Creator in a heartfelt manner, you may witness the White Buffalo, the sign of plenty and also a sign of change on the earth. If we saw the Sacred Buffalo today, would its coat still be pure white?

Other tracks are Sweet Jack, Brigitte on the Steps, and Gammanna. The softest whisper speaks the loudest. Whisper is the voices of cultures, of lands, of people from everywhere. It is the ancients, it is the contemporaries, and it is posterity. Teng and Levy's entrancing music reminds us to listen to the most important whisper of all. To quote Dee Waldeck, "Listen to the whisper(s) you hear from within, give your soul the voice to be heard." Highly recommended.

-R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews