

Tom Caulfield

the whisper resistance

Caulfieldmusic.com



You never know in what direction composer Tom Caulfield is going to explore, but I was never once disappointed in where or how far his music took me. Contemporary guitarist Tom Caulfield releases **the whisper resistance**, a new body of work that offers more richness and more complexities than one six-string should be allowed to create. Luckily, Caulfield incorporates the warmest backgrounds and most intricate violin phrasing with a just hint of vocals to accompany his esoteric guitar. It is very easy to get lost in this eight track recording of incredible post classical fare. After listening I learned one important thing. There has never been a better time to join *The Whisper Resistance*.

Tom is noted for the subliminal simplicity hidden in his complex instrumentals, so putting a vocal in a Tom Caulfield song is like someone colorizing a single element in a vintage sepia photograph. The experience completely changes. It is thought provoking to say the least. You gain a new viewpoint as I did when I heard the first cut on the album called **whisper one**. Songstress **Maya Rosenbaum's** voice is soft and her modest vocal understated as her echoing lyric permeates the tune. It draws you in and gets your attention. This worked very well as the echoes reverberate away from you as the guitar gets closer. They gently blend and the melody comes into full perspective.

Navigating the Fall is my favorite on the album. The instrumental features Tom's alchemic tinkering of melody, his perfect timing, and his balancing of composition with these unexpected elements that creates some sort of ambivalent bliss. **Richard Downs'** fluttering violin is like a butterfly taunting a beehive. In this tune Tom is able to have his way with timing and especially phrasing, but he gives us the opportunity to dream the daydreams of the hopeful.

Another notable tune is called **pocket cathedral**. What at first seems like a simple ballad blooms into a kind of bittersweet waltz created by wistful orchestral elements and a doleful violin interlude. This cathedral is much more than stone and wood, but perhaps the entire universe set among the stars. And it goes wherever you go. Hence the "pocket" part. I like this one very much for its creativity as well as its possibilities.

The title tune **the whisper resistance** opens as some kind of primeval calling, but with modern voices. The violin and a bass generate an exhilarating duet of polyphony with a hint of ...get ready for it, swing. That's okay. It's all in the timing. What the music actually accomplishes is that it creates converts, swelling the ranks of the true believers. Count me in.

the balance of the road is when the distance traveled equals the distance that is to come. Maya Rosenbaum's voice is a like that of the old friend that decides to make the journey with you. The piano melody has a medium gait, unhurried but very sure. This melancholic account is full of ache as you realize what you left behind and the unknowns ahead. Caulfield surprised me with

this one as piano is not his forte, but this ballad has a scenario that tugs at the heart of every traveler on every journey. Bear in mind there are many kinds of journeys.

*“So now I see the balance of the road
It used to be so easy but now I’m getting older
Good times and hard times, oh they flash before my eyes
I know I won’t be back this way again
I won’t be back this way again”.*

The finale of the whisper resistance is the tune **fold in slowly** again with Downs’ contribution of blissful violin as Caufield infuses his idyllic guitar. Mixing gentle elements of cascading violin and textured six-string refrains, they create a homogenous, well-expressed experience. The instructions are plain, something you do for every recipe, but the sentiment is that a touch of gentleness, of love will surely make things turn out just right. As in all things, care must be taken. This is a beautiful piece. Other selections include **grace and cascade** and **the first and last day in the garden**.

Well, I went with Caufield in his new direction and I enjoyed every ambient moment of it. The music herein is a product of environment. Of life experiences. If you stacked up all of Tom Caufield’s twenty albums and played them one after another, you would hear the chronicle of a talented perfectionist that takes the creation and experience of music very seriously. I for one cannot wait for the next chapter to begin. Very Highly Listenable.

- R J Lannan, ArtisanMusicReviews.com