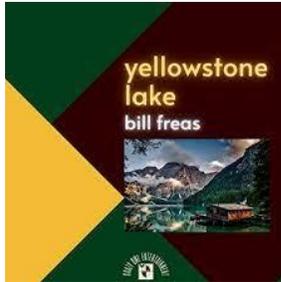


Bill Freas

## Yellowstone Lake



Having just returned from Yellowstone National Park myself, I can attest that **Bill Freas'** new album **Yellowstone Lake** is right on the mark. Freas' compilation is ten tracks of ambient tributes to the beauty of the park and the lake that sits high above all else. Yellowstone Lake is the lake with the highest elevation in North America. Bill's music is created by keyboard, piano, and synthesizer and the Cottage City Symphony Orchestra. There is also a good use of environmental sounds throughout the album. Wind, rain, and water make an appearance as well as some notable wildlife. Mr. Freas is a composer from Philadelphia that has garnered numerous awards and has several albums to his credit. Let's get on the Grand Loop Road from the west entrance and explore.

**Sunset Majesty** offers a sense of awe as the daystar takes its leave. The sky glows with primary colors as the clouds disappear. Freas presents bold horns to herald in the twilight. Heat and light fall away just as the sun slips behind the mountains. On this album the end is the beginning.

A pattering of drops begins the tune **Forest Rain Lullaby**. The air is perfumed by the mixture of rain and Douglas firs. Like chiming bells, the music settles in, the tempo like a rocking cradle, and then the melody quietly diminishes lulling the listener to sleep. Yes, that's a lullaby, but the thunder makes it a reality. With a blustery breeze and the jingle of wind chimes, the tune **Violet Valley Blessing** awakens. Inorganic chorus takes the stage as winds sweep through the valley. Flowers are a bloom and blue skies are here to stay. Bill's nostalgic sounding piano tune promises peace in that valley. **Fire Blessing** has a light, pipe organ feel with the background sound of a crackling blaze. The tune is simple, just a prayer to keep away the cold and allow the fire to penetrate right down into the soul.

**Lakeside, in Stride** is a jazzy tune with a surprise of a bit of scratch and a chant in the mix. The tempo is lively, the bass track jovial, and the melody is persistent. This is a little driving music please. It is just the energy we need to pull off into the east entrance and start again the next day.

Bill Freas has some happy and appropriate music for the Yellowstone National Park Loop or for your imaginary trip starting in your own backyard. Just put it on and enjoy the background accompaniment to the prairie lands with their bison dwellers, the snowcapped mountains in the distance, and the ubiquitous, gold, eye catching aspens throughout the park. Well done.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews