

From the Inside...Looking Out *DeeDee Tibbits*

What a pleasure it is to write a review of the latest CD created by DeeDee Tibbits. I purchased this CD while at the Buckeye Dulcimer Festival this past Winter and it continues to be in my regular mix of "go to" listening.

I have all of DeeDee's CDs, but this one is now my most favourite; it is absolutely beautiful. There is a refreshing blend of instruments and voices.

This CD will appeal to many audiences as it has a variety of music verging on contemporary, classical, traditional, vocal, spiritual, and even jazz! It is a CD that features the hammered dulcimer, along with many other instruments including Irish whistles, piano, cello, percussion, guitar, bouzouki, harp, xylophones, and steel drum.

What makes the CD even more special is that it is a joint effort of the Tibbits family, Melody and Megan, DeeDee's daughters, and her husband Russ. They all play a prominent role in the vocalizing of various tracks that have been creatively arranged and produced to entice you to want to listen. Their participation enhances the entire collection.

Steve Schneider, a well-known musician and hammered dulcimer player, and a friend of DeeDee's, adds so much of his own creativity, and expression to many of the tunes. On track 14, "Sweet Goodbyes," Steve accompanies DeeDee with a haunting cello that mimics a conversation we too might have had with someone saying goodbye. On the second track entitled "Chasing the Wind," I like the echoing effect between DeeDee on the hammered dulcimer and Steve on the piano. It is a duet that starts off as a quiet summer breeze and then develops into a full and friendly summer wind.

As I listened to the CD I found myself sharing various tracks with friends who I knew would enjoy reflecting on them. Here are some of their comments:

In response to hearing "The Light Within," written by DeeDee~

"Beautiful piece! It almost feels like it is crying out for words... although words are limiting, and the music alone opens the possibility for lots of different things - ideas, possibilities, regrets, confessions, grave, forgiveness.... I love the moving forward part. It speaks of going somewhere. We never stand still, but are always growing and becoming. There is a tension and resolution in that. Much like life!"
Rev. Keith Hagerman, Kitchener, Ontario

In response to hearing the entire CD~

"The CD shows a different side of DeeDee's playing style, emphasizing her wide expertise, excellence with playing the hammered dulcimer and in her interpretation of the music...it shows a gifted musical family and a very gifted musician on many instruments,"
Hilary & Paul Corriveau, Sparrow Lake, Ontario

"Heart of the Home" is a special track for me. I had the honour of first hearing it at its initial conception a couple of summers ago at the "Northern Lights Retreat," organized by Steve Schneider. DeeDee shared with us how this tune was written in memory of her mother and how she was the "Heart" of their childhood home. The final version on this CD is a wonderful tribute to that memory, and a memory to which many of us can also relate.

If you are looking for a CD with a variety of music containing quiet tunes, lively and upbeat melodies, something a little reflective, contemplative, familiar and not so familiar, then consider adding this one to your collection. You won't be disappointed!

Reviewed by:

~Debbie Miethig, Southern Ontario Dulcimer Association (SODA), Waterloo, Ontario