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Ethereum by Joseph L Young

Album Review Written by Steve Sheppard [OWMR Programmer & Announcer]

The delights of a good flute player are pleasing to the ear and mind, the pleasures of an excellent flute player are good for the heart and soul, and as is the case with Joseph L Young, they bring balance and harmony to the ever increasing cacophony of life's frenetic life style.

Young is back with a new album called ***Ethereum***, and from the very first offering called "Wavelength", is as soft and silky as a summer cloud in July. The connection here is both clever and stylish, as we connect with the wavelength of Young's intent, and begin yet another wonderful musical journey together.

Ethereum as an album is very appealing and as a track, most exquisite in its construction, the plethora of flutes used in its manifestation are numerous, and thanks to these magicians of musical making, we can with ease, visualise wide open vista's, beautiful forests growing in abundance in the early morning light, all in an utterly wonderful ethereal mist filled way.

"Shimmer" continues our enchanting journey through this strange new world of a flute blessed paradise, as we listen carefully to its tones, one can be reminded of a little Celtic nature that seems to be opening up before us. This most pleasant of melodies is simple, but created with a real gentle heart.

We now find our way to a pathway that is "Boundless." The Native American flute is imperious here; the artist creates images in our minds eyes of deep pine forests and full flowing streams that crash down from tall imposing mountain ranges. There is a real vastness to this composition that has to be listened to many times over to be truly appreciated.

"Illumination" seems to flow from the previous track with ease, but with a change of flute comes a change of energy. We go now from west to east, and while the vista could possibly be very similar, there is a different overall construction to the composition. As we wander through its spiritual tones, one can feel an awakening, a satori of a kind, we begin our "Illumination," and shine.

"Past Lives" is a subject that used to be close to my heart, I had worked on them for a few years, and now with lessons learned, I focus entirely on the life that I am living now. The dark and aged sounds created by Young, are very deep and it is as if the composition itself is moving through time, with the slow march of certainty built neatly within.

A slight alteration of style sees Young perform on Saxophone as well as flute, this is "Entangled," and while the backdrop is moody, the whole arrangement is about a instrumental duet between Flute and Sax, and the interplay that it forms is delightful to listen to and fun to enjoy the dance that it creates with such panache.

I always like a moment to just, "Drift," we have such a moment now, this is a flute based twinkling of meditative magic for us all to enjoy and simply float with. It's ethereal, smooth and simply a wonderful realm to just wander in and as the artists says, just drift!

The longest piece off the release at just less than five and a half minutes is called "Free." For me this is one of the most poignant tracks off the album, the added vocals here say it all, it's time to be free and wash away all that is holding you back, all that you thought to be true about yourself, and simply be "Free." This was my favourite song from this brilliant album; it reminded me of my friend *Nigel Shaw* from Dartmoor in style on flute, but the nice use of crescendo and the positive vibe that it contains really makes for me, the stand out composition from ***Ethereum***.

Sunsets are supreme to witness, sunrises even more so, as they hail the beginning of a new day and another opportunity to do something special. This is Joseph L Young's opportunity to shine, as he performs an uplifting opus of sun filled pleasure on the track "Crystal Sunrise."

I remember Fireflies from my time in the Midwest, I used to sit there and marvel at their light dance in the dark, and smile, of all the wondrous creatures on creator's earth, these amazing little insects, will always have a special place in my heart. Young has created that dance right here, the light percussion combines superbly with the flute, while we enjoy "Flirting with Fireflies."

Our last offering is called "Sapphire Moon," and is one of the gentlest tracks off the album; with ease we could sit outside in the dark night sky and simply observe this beautiful moment occur before our very eyes and this piece would be that sound track of the moment.

Ethereum is an album of pure bliss; it has a perfect sense of balance in its overall manifestation and creation, the tones are calming, the flutes are Young's paint brushes and here our artist in residence has demonstrated and exhibited his best works for us to all enjoy. ***Ethereum*** is one of those albums; it is a creation of good honest skill and abundant talent. Joseph L Young and ***Ethereum***, is a must for all who seek a little moment of sanity in a world filled with craziness.