

World Café

By

Ron Korb

Written by

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From time to time we need to be taken out of our gloom, taken away from the negativity of the news channels, removed from the gossip mongers and sat down on a seat, in the most relaxing Coffee shop around, to enjoy a fulfilling beverage, some happy music and just simply watch the world go by, this is more or less what **Ron Korb** provides on this new release **World Café**.

This is a lush and colourful voyage of plenty and the first offering gets us well on our way and through the sun kissed reveries of Korb's Flute on the piece entitled **Bailar Conmigo (Dance With Me)**, we can feel that energy crying out to us, that it is simply beautiful just to be alive. *Bill Bridges* on lead guitar here was absolutely sublime.

Korb is a flute performer of such a talent and style, and with each movement we can journey through the many countries of our world, sampling not only Coffee, but an abundance in rhythms and melodies, like this next offering entitled **Sans Regret**. The French influence here is strong and the accordion of *Joseph Macerollo* utterly stunning, the emotion one feels from this piece is amazingly profound.

I'm lucky enough to live in a Mediterranean country and the sounds that drift from the many Café's we have would be enhanced greatly if we could hear fluency like this next offering entitled **Cordoba** coming from them. This sun drenched composition reflects the passion and fire of *Spain*; Korb has an able partner indeed with the super talented *Johannes Linstead* on guitar, the energy of this piece is a fine example of musical Incendio.

Let's just chill a while in *Cuba*, a place I nearly visited by accident, but that's a story for another day! That Latino rhythm is here for you to enjoy, a little hip movement to sway with, and as the sun beams down on our day we can revel in a sublime performance on flute by the maestro himself on the track **Hilario**. **Ron Korb** is in full flow here, but we must also make a hefty donation into the hat of pianist *Hilario Duran*, the Cuban genius brings certain flair to the arrangement that is so very stylish, and of course, the track is indeed named after him.

Perhaps this one is for me as I live on an Island, but this slice of mastery maybe taking us on a journey to the Caribbean, I say maybe as we might also be taking a sojourn to the warm sands of a pacific island as well, the flute that Korb woos us here with is a 12-hole ocarina along with the bass flute, the energy of this selection manifests with ease, our time in the sun on this little island of incredibly happy music, with such a beautiful mood filled performance. Let's also give a little tip of the hat to *Larry Crowe* for his percussive performances on maracas, caxixi, walnut shell shaker, triangle and bells, no mean feat indeed, on the wonderful song, **Island Life**.

Let's take a few moments out now as we have arrived at the half way marker of the album and can enjoy the moment in another **World Café in Argentina**. This starts with a moody intent but soon changes course and lures us into a wonderful and rhythmic sense of melody. Korb and Macerollo combine again on flute and accordion, and this symbiosis of musical flavours is also added to by a really sensual bass line by *Steve Lucas*, this is one of those tracks that will have you twisting and turning into a Fandango of a Tango with ease.

A new venue approaches, and from its walls we can hear a melody that seems to spill from our very soul, the Samba sounds of Brazil are all around us and Korb, as he states in his booklet, has written lyrics to this quite amazing song, one can feel a sense of the artist perhaps bearing his soul on this offering too. **Take My Hand** would indeed be a fantastic Jazz song, one that I may even start singing around the home, trust me, when you buy this album, and if you have a taste in great music I think you will, you will be blown away by the stunning lyrics of this song in the booklet that comes with the album.

Patagonia is our next musical stop and this is a real borderlands arrangement, as on the very edge of time, between *Argentina* and *Chile* lies the desert of **Patagonia**, the fluency on this piece may well describe our journey through this region, but listen to Korb's masterful performance here on this offering, this is one that would boost our energy on the trip with ease.

Before we head off to a totally new location, we are treated with a reprise of the earlier offering of **Sans Regret**, and then the accordion of *Joseph Macerollo* quite rightly leads us into the multi-cultural haven of **New Orleans** for our next moment of musical bliss. We have a real mixture here of Jazz and Blues mixed with European and Caribbean textures and the combination of Korb on flute, partnered by the brilliant trio of *Brian Evans* on Grand Piano, *Steve Lucas* on Bass and the ever so rhythmic *Larry Crowe* percussion and drums, bring us an offering that is sultry, sensual, mysterious and fun!

Well when in *New Orleans*, we may as well stay for **Carnival**. This would be a fun thing to do indeed, the flavours of the day would be amazing, as is this offering, listen to Korb in almost *Ian Anderson* style; the vibrant energies of this particular track made this one of my absolute favourites of the entire album and the multi instrumental nature of the piece was simply divine.

Sadly every good journey has its end and this is exactly where we are right now at our finale, and to celebrate this it's time for **Ron Korb** to majestically take us out of the album with **Sans Regret Finale**, this combination of Korb on Bass Flute, a deeply moving performance on Cello by *Margaret Maria* and an almost *David Lanz* styled moment of piano mastery by *Laila Biali* was stunning

I believe that every good album comes into your life when you need it most; before reviewing this release I had literally just got back from a long trip away, so I personally found this the perfect album to re-energize myself with. **World Café** by **Ron Korb** is an album of wonderful textures and colours, it is a release that has been carefully crafted, but artistically created with such genius, to allow us many truly delightful musical moments of unbridled happiness from around the world, it contains a lush and beautiful production, it's one of those albums you could recommend to anyone to brighten their day.