

# **Native Heart**

**By**

**Bearheart Kokopelli**

**Written by**

**Steve Sheppard**

There is something so very peaceful about the Native American Flute, something so transcending about its nature, it encapsulates a sense of time within time, and a moment in music so listenable and calming, and such is the way with the new album from **Bearheart Kokopelli** entitled **Native Heart**.

After all we are all native in heart, was in not Chief Seattle that said *"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect"*. How true and this new offering from **Bearheart Kokopelli** establishes that very statement, take a listen to the entrance to this album entitled **Indian Summer**, a beautifully fluent and transcendent performance that will leave you completely transfixed within the moment.

The following musical narrative entitled **Desert Dreaming** is completely different in composition, the tempo is decidedly slower in energy, it is as if we are watching the sunset across a vast desert landscape, and it is simply too hot to move! The flute here gives us an almost sleepy feel to its arrangement, one that will easily relax and ease the listener further into the album.

One of my Native American shamanic teachers once said to me, "You may not in this life time be Native American, but you are native in heart", a statement of respect indeed, and whilst I listen to this marvellous performance by **Bearheart Kokopelli**, I am reminded of those words from some 13 years or so ago. **Native Heart** the track, is as honest a piece as you will ever hear from the artist, the musician plays from his very soul on this offering, and it shows.

A cry goes out to the ancestors and ancients; it is a **Call Of The Spirits**. The artist here really delivers an exciting and energetic offering that cries out across the realms of time and beyond. **Bearheart Kokopelli** has taken this complex performance and made a track that is a wonderfully vibrant offering, one that we can all listen to openly, and be enthralled by the lighter sense of this graphic flute presentation.

**Mitakuye Oyasin** is my favourite track off the album, not only because of its meaning "*All Are Related*", blessing to the *Lakota* for this wise saying, but because of the respectful and enchanting recital from the musician. The flute seems to be all around us and echoes through the ages, and emphasises the statement of the subject matter with such a divine fluency.

The style on the flute here by the artist is sublime, the breath techniques employed must take a lot of time and practice, and **Ancestors Call** is one of those tracks that you will want to listen to many times over, as there is a certain addictive quality to the performance that will always leave you wanting more.

Next we take a trip in another direction entirely, to the land of the ancient *Pueblo* people, the track is **Anasazi Dreaming**. The flute here is certainly much deeper than the preceding piece, and because of this the artist manifests a truly dream like ethic within the composition, it is a superbly performed offering indeed and one that we can all simply float too in our respective dream times perambulations.

We now find ourselves deeper in the weave of the project and as such come across a track called **Light Forest**. Solo and sublime, a moment when one can close the eyes and just drift on the tones of a magical flute, perhaps even this recital may take us to the edge of a dark green canopy of trees in a forest at the very edge of time.

Meditative flute is an art all of its own, a friend of ours *Paul Adams* excels at it, another in *Nigel Shaw* from the UK, expands the very awareness of the nature of the instrument, and here on this penultimate offering Bearheart gives us the **Courting Song**, a track that perhaps calls to the very heart of us all in a desire to be more than one.

Our last piece comes courtesy of composition entitled **Corn Prayer**, there is an almost far off feeling about this arrangement, perhaps we can see the artist standing on the very edge of a golden corn field as the sun begins to set and for the very last time, ripening the corn that is about to be reaped. There is a truly haunting quality to this piece that makes it the perfect offering with which to end the album.

**Native Heart** by **Bearheart Kokopelli** is *Native American* solo flute at its best; its energies build and create a strong but sensitive album played with a certain level of respectful honesty, one the ancestors would be proud of. The performance and productions contained within **Native Heart** are a pleasure to listen to, and conjure up many images and vistas within the mind's eye, but this would also be a perfect album for your meditational musical collection too.