

Autumn Monsoon

By

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Written by

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I had listened to this album intently and was certain I had heard this style of flute performed on another album, until I slapped my head with my hand, with the realisation that this was some 2 years plus ago, and under the name of *Mystic Journey*, Teng and Levy's skill set brought me a fantastic album called *Kingdom of Mountains* back then, and now were off on a new voyage entitled **Autumn Monsoon**.

This musical partnership have graced us with their music over the years on film, TV and various other commercial projects. I must admit to be a bit of a fan of their work as it sets a beautiful place of calm for us eager listeners to listen from, we therefore start this voyage with the opener and title track **Autumn Monsoon**. Teng's flute here is majestic in creating an autumnal feel to the composition, whilst the crafted percussion manifests a wonderful base from which we can all explore this graphic musical narrative.

The longest piece off the release is up next and called **Indian Sisters**, the scene is immediately set with simplicity, and we could with ease, be on the hillsides gazing down upon the valleys of a textured Indian countryside. Levy's multi-instrumental nature not only in this track, but in the entire album will bring us a fine array of plucked and percussive moments of genius. I would dare to say that this is a particular favourite of mine, but on an album of near-perfection that's difficult, but the mood and graphic nature of this offering is utterly sublime.

It has been said that this pairing create music that will lift the listener to a place of beauty, that can be further emphasized by this following offering

called **Maya**. The gentle nature of this track is soothing and most healing; there is also an underpinned and very lush sense of a Celtic refrain here that is equally charming.

The opening to this piece, **Traveler**, was superb; guitars lay down a bed of music that is almost like walking the boundaries of the wastelands in some middle Earth betwixt and between what we know as reality. Teng's flute then brings an almost native energy to the proceedings as we seem to be moving further onward down a dusty track, where remnants of a forgotten past lay discarded as the world has moved on, this is a fine cinematic performance by both artists, and with ease my personal favourite off the album.

On **Blue Ngoni** we have an intriguing piece; one that offers up something truly fascinating to listen to, with the symbiotic partnership of percussion and flute, there's a beautiful depth to this piece that I also found attractive as well, the sounds of the Ngoni were so fluent within this charming musical narrative.

Canyon Ghosts is one of those tracks that is simply magnificent in every way, the tones and wonderful instrumentation draw such evocative images of a spiritual location when the ancients reside, but can only be seen by those with a pure heart and intentions. The flute of Teng here is masterful, she creates such a mood filled landscape, and this sonic soundtrack is added to by the patient and timely percussion of Levy; note the textured layered backdrop here as well.

A truly meditative offering can be found on this next composition called **Sueños**. One could with ease slip into the other realms whilst listening to this transfixing offering. Levy's musical talents bring us work on many instruments, so I hope I am right to applaud the work of the dulcimer here, one that at times reminded me of the work of the legendary new age artist *Deuter*.

As we move deeper into the dark waters of this album we come across a truly galactic track entitled **Andromeda**. Yes, another favourite of mine, I stated early there would be many. The soulfulness with which Teng's performance is blessed with here is huge, and the outcome of this splendid arrangement is one that brings us something musically so vast, we could roam within its tones for eons.

We arrive at the penultimate offering off the album, it is called **Journey of Life**. All life is a circle, and everything the power of the world does is done in a circle, this I do believe. This is a beautiful composition, I mentioned the soul of Teng's performance earlier, well this is the very track where you will not only see, but feel it present its stunning achievement. A mystical offering can be found here, one that is so deeply powerful and also very moving, a track that shows the sheer class of both artists at their very best.

We have now arrived at the very last portal of the album and we are given one last musical gift from this symbiotic musical partnership, which is called **Prayer for Claire**. A moment of reflection is before us, a moment of thought and a time to reflect on another, this was a nice touch at the end of a beautiful album, musical honour and respect, and of course love.

Autumn Monsoon is one of those albums you just can't wait to get your hands on, perfect in all ways, brilliantly performed and craft fully produced. Teng and Levy have done it again, there intelligent and sparkling musical presentations have once more gifted to us listeners one of the finest contemporary instrumental albums of the year, and the fans and listeners of true quality music, should be queuing around the block to get hold of this one.