

Spirit Wheel

By

Terra Guitarra

Written by

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One of the most successful duos in the new age and acoustic guitar genre are back with another sparkling new release, non-other of course than Terra Guitarra. The latest *Bruce Hecksel* and *Julie Patchouli* creation is entitled **Spirit Wheel** and it is this wondrous journey we now join them on.

The opening track is entitled **Autumns Breath** and is a completely different start to a **Terra Guitarra** album than perhaps you would have expected, a track steeped in the energies of an oncoming autumn, a reflective and memory packed composition, one that has a superb sense of colour all wrapped up in a deeply thoughtful and broody arrangement.

On **Ambrosia**, we have a soothing narrative of charming guitars and a very smooth song that has such eloquence about its nature. What lies here is a captivating moment of peace and tranquillity and I am sure that if I made my way further up the mountains here in *Cyprus*, the gods of *Mount Olympus* would be most grateful for the offering. This piece is simply alluring in every way.

A little light percussion is added to this next composition called **Daydream**. The subtly of that beat adds a further dimension to the magical guitars of Hecksel and Patchouli. This track has been well named and seems to float around you with the effortless ease of a day time mental perambulation of the mind. What a blissful arrangement.

The title track is now upon us and **Terra Guitarra** paint a musical narrative for us that is divine and inspiring. **Spirit Wheel** is a moment of brilliance, caressed

by guitars that are blessed with the loving tones of two musicians who really play from the heart. The addition of the flute creates a piece that will remain in the musical mind for an age; this is utterly exceptional and deserves to be applauded for being so.

As we arrive at the half way stage we also arrive at a location that is bathed in mystery and folklore, **Lemuria** another one of the lost islands of earth, this has a wonderful energy of lightness about its construction, and like the whole of this album I find it so very easy to listen to. Exceptionally played and performed by the sparkling guitars of **Terra Guitarra**.

The flute that starts **Palamino** is a stroke of genius and sets the scene for this next opus of colour and passion. The tempo has increased now and one can feel the energy rising through the percussion and the full flowing guitars. One can also find an exciting vivacity about this piece that makes it so appealing.

On **Cloud Caravan** an almost eastern feel can be found, it also fits the view of swaying palm trees from my veranda too. The talent of Hecksel and Patchouli to change tact and flow here is sublime. There is a real vibrancy here as well, listen to the very steady build and progression, the elevation of musical energy is very special, this would be one of my favourites from the release.

The title alone is graphic enough to manifest an extraordinary vista in my mind's eye. **Mountain Lake** is a stunning composition, one that I look forward to listen to on my trips across our island. The steady nature and confidence of this piece creates a musical view that is simply astonishing, and gives me the inspiration to take my guitar to a location like this and just play, the improvisational way.

Our penultimate piece is **Oriel**. This is indeed a most enjoyable addition to the album and seems to glide effortlessly around us. The guitars here drive a narrative that is both happy and melodic. This is an arrangement that has a true sun kissed feel to it, perhaps even a composition that one could drift down the river on a boat to.

Our last offering is entitled **Zephyr**, now in Greek culture *Zephyrus* is the very personification of the west wind; feel that on your face and you will know that summer is on the way. This is also the longest piece from the album at over

eight minutes long, and it does indeed drift warmly across the musical mind, what a lush, calming and very tranquil way to leave the album it is too.

Many will be surprised, but pleasantly so at the smooth and tranquil nature of **Spirit Wheel**. On a personal level I rate this as one of their best ever releases. **Spirit Wheel** reveals the talents of two musicians who are artists in every sense of the word. **Terra Guitarra** have made the top spot of the charts with virtually every album they have released and after bathing in these delightful tones, I see no reason why that won't continue with this wonderful new release.