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CD Review: "A Place in the Sun" performed, composed & produced by Ann Sweeten.

I first listened to this album without reading anything about the composer/performer. I always do this, to see what resonates within my inner self. I want no filters between what my ears hear, what my mind perceives, and what my soul appreciates. The music was soothing, relaxing, calming. I could imagine receiving a lovely massage to the refrains. I could also imagine using the music as a wonderful backdrop to a period of meditation. I could just sense the reverence in the notes...

And then I read the linear notes about Ms. Sweeten's battle to become a breast cancer survivor, the loss of her precious dogs, and the courage she pulls up to continue on in her celebration of life. This deepened those songs meanings to a whole new level. I listened to them again through 'new ears' and understood the intimate and ultimate 'healing' that they invoked.

I loved the places in the mind that "Shades of September" took me. That vulnerable time between the summer season and the oncoming autumn. A release from childhood freedoms and the onslaught of adult expectations. Good music has the ability to transport. I appreciated the hopefulness that "Threshold" offered. Aren't we always on the threshold of a new adventure... a new door opening... a new life lesson.

Ann Sweeten's songs written in memory of her animal-friends were particularly poignant. "The Last Day of April" in honor of the life of Niko, and "A Pillow in the Sky" in memory of Jessie. Absolutely beautiful renditions.

So while I will listen to this album again & again, and will be soothed, relaxed and calmed; and while a massage and meditation are always good things... each time I listen I will always be thinking healing and peace-filled thoughts for this amazing composer and performer.

This album is highly recommended and can be purchased online at:

www.borders.com (Border's Books and Music)

www.cdbaby.com

www.Annsweeten.com

www.amazon.com

and digitally thru Apple iTunes, MusicNet, and Rhapsody

Happy Listening!

Rev Dr Sandra Gaskin

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