

Voyager

The MagellanMusic Newsletter

Summer 2011

It's finally arrived, **MagellanMusic's** brand new album "**Whispers**"! It is indeed a surprise. "**Whispers**" is over 66 minutes long, has 18 tracks, is nearly all-acoustic, it features several genres, including a touch of jazz as well as an oldie from the 1950's, with a startling and unexpected ending. It also features a striking cover picture with additional photos that give the impression of mystic solace, which is exactly what "**Whispers**" is – a fantastic collection of heartfelt songs. The staff of **Voyager** is obviously biased toward **MagellanMusic** otherwise we wouldn't be writing this, but "**Whispers**" goes beyond what we expected.

When we asked **Per Jensen** what encouraged an all-acoustic album his response was insightful, "We've always included good acoustic songs on our albums, but it never occurred to any of us to feature it entirely. Years ago me and the guys were invited to a weekend of revelry at Apple River in Wisconsin, a sizeable park noted for river 'tubing' and camping. What we didn't know is it's a virtual 24/7 weekend party for the younger crowd. Party rock is the music motif, very rowdy at times, and 'Party Hearty' the unmistakable motto. It was slightly reminiscent of Woodstock considering tokin', drinkin', and bare skin was so easy to find. We were embarrassed by bringing our acoustic guitars, obviously the worst place for such tunes, so we never considered playing. Until one fellow got spunky, "Come on man, play some songs!" We thought it was worth a try, so we did. And we were astounded. We never figured out why the vibe was so good, but everybody around was truly taken by it. Things got quiet. Couples snuggled closer, hands were held, passer-by's stopped to listen, one lady even shed a tear or two. We played maybe a half hour, and when we ended they didn't applaud, they gathered round to shake hands and give us hugs. **MagellanMusic** has played in every kind of situation, but NEVER have we seen anything like that. One of those moments you remember till the day you die. And that is why we did "**Whispers**".

Other questions we had were about the rumors of "**Whispers**" originally to be recorded live, and how did they pick the songs used. **Ellis Dee** told us, "**Per** asked all of us to write a list of the songs we'd like to try if we were to do an all-acoustic album, which we did. Then we tried the remote recording idea but it didn't work. It was too much hassle. There's no way to get that much gear into a place for a sing-around-the-campfire atmosphere, so we went into the studio and

started working with basic tracks of the original songs. We thought the original vibe would be great to work with, re-build them into something more current, a bit better, and more adventurous. But not all of them. A few of them were fine as is. And as we experimented with the songs it developed naturally into the playlist featured. Per wanted maybe 16 songs, but there were so many good ones that we finally settled on the 18 you hear now."

For older **MagellanMusic** fans this album could be a coup. Songs such as "**Clouds**", "**Living the Pain**", and "**I'll Remember You**" have been favorites for so long that they're classics almost. But others like "**Second, Second**", "**Sea: The Granite Wisdom**", and "**Dream of the Untrodden Ways**" will be a revival of the days of old when they were exploring the musical landscape. But for newer fans "**Whispers**" shows a new side of the band. Acoustic songs are much more open and revealing than other styles. It's a more passionate, thought-provoking measure of expression. And as you'll hear, **MagellanMusic** has worn their hearts on their sleeves many times. There is no mistaking the beauty that comes from their collective soul, and all of us at **Voyager** express our dearest thanks to them for such a fantastic collection.

Another item of surprise is the ease in getting **MagellanMusic** CD's nowadays. All it takes is a phone call. CD Baby is **1-800-289-6923**, you tell them "**Whispers**" by **MagellanMusic**, and they will take care of the rest. Or it can be ordered or downloaded online at www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic. Click on the "**Whispers**" album cover picture, you'll see the choice of getting the disc or downloading, then click on the buy button and follow the routine instructions.

(An item of note: for those who don't bother with CD's, CD Baby emails the entire album in a zip file so there is no interruption. All songs will be in perfect condition.)

Always remember, there is no better way to listen than with headphones. May your skies ahead be clear!