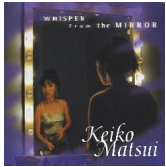


Keiko Matsui - Whisper From The Mirror (2000)

Written by bluesever
Sunday, 22 May 2016 16:03 -

Keiko Matsui - Whisper From The Mirror (2000)



01. *Whisper from the Mirror* 02. *Invisible Wing* 03. *Tears of the Ocean* 04. *Between the Moons* 05. *Beyond the Light* 06. *Torches on the Earth* 07. *Dimensions* 08. *Sacanna, No Problem* 09. *Midnight Stone* 10. *See You There* 11. *Ever After (Four Hand Piano With Bob James)* Piano – Keiko Matsui, Bob James (tracks: 11) Programmed By – Derek Nakamoto Shakuichi – Kazu Matsui Synthesizer – Derek Nakamoto

Keiko Matsui is usually classified as a jazz musician, which tends to mean that she doesn't get very good reviews, since she is reviewed by jazz critics, while her music actually is best described as a hybrid consisting of equal parts pop, jazz, and new age. Matsui can be an impressive keyboard soloist at times, but her recordings consist of textured tracks that find her featured playing set within a soundscape characterized by synthesized drums and strings. *Whisper From the Mirror*, her 11th album, is typical of her work, consisting of a series of four- and five-minute instrumental pieces full of shimmering, sustained sounds that pillow Matsui's delicate single-note runs and stately chord patterns. Derek Nakamoto's arrangements are occasionally stirring, but never frantic, and usually they emphasize flow over rhythm, just as the keyboardist shows more interest in sustaining moods than demonstrating her chops, even when she concludes the album with a four-handed piano duet with Bob James. It may be time to think about re-classifying Keiko Matsui from "jazz" to "new age," or even just putting her in a classification by herself. In the meantime, *Whisper From the Mirror* is another in a series of enjoyable recordings. --- William Ruhlmann, Rovi

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