



Hilary Field & Patrice O' Neill

Siente: Night Songs from Around the World

Siente: Night Songs from Around the World, from Hilary Field & Patrice O'Neill, has caressing ballads that express fond tidings. The tracks on this album are serene and will hush you into a slumber peacefully.

“A La Puerta del Cielo,” translated from Basque, which is spoken in areas of Spain, to English as “The Gate of Heaven,” is a blissful track that has strong violin play from Tom Dziekonski and whimsical piano play from David Lange. An instrument known as a celesta is also used by Lange. It

operates like a keyboard and is perfect for use in this song since it's name, celeste, in French means “heavenly.” O'Neill's vocals are soft against these instruments and they flow together seamlessly.

“Codail A Leanbh” is Irish and translates in English to “The Gartan Mother's Lullaby.” It is the quintessential song to play for a newborn so they can enjoy a nice respite. The guitar work from Field is slow and practiced as is the bass play from Garey Shelton, for a beat that will calm you and at the same time cause you to lower your eyelids in rest.

“Bayu, Bayu” is Russian and means “Baby, Baby, Rock-a-Bye.” It has sweet guitar work from Field as well as mandolin play from Mike Marshall. The violin work from Dziekonski is light, yet powerful. This song is the perfect recipe for a parent to soothe their child to sleep and to make them feel safe and sound. O'Neill's ultra soothing voice emotes the enticement to visit dreamland, and paints a glorious vision right out of a Disney fairy tale, with lyrics like, “Bayu, Bayu...Go to sleep...In the darkest trees of the forest all our feathered friends will sing as they work to build their nest. When at long last comes the spring.”

“A La Nanita Nana,” translated from Spanish to “Rockaby Baby,” has O'Neill crooning kindly beside the heavy violin play in the intro from Dziekonski, as well as stunning English horn work from Nancy Rumbel. Lange recurs again with his celesta playing skills and this song just flows on like a whisper on the breeze.

“Suliram,” which is Indonesian for “Go To Sleep,” is a track listeners can play as a missive to babies to let them know that they are secure in their homes and that their parents love them beyond all reason, with lyrics like, “Go to sleep, go to sleep. Sleep, sleep. Go to sleep, little one. Close your eyes and dream tender dreams for you are guarded, protected by my love.” One can envision a mother swaying her child at bedtime in a rocking chair as its eyes slowly shut in complete comfort and love.

Hilary Field & Patrice O' Neill's *Siente: Night Songs from Around the World* is the ideal record for new mothers and fathers to use to quiet their child and help them to sleep through the night. Its calming melodies are a surefire passport to nap time and might even aid adult listeners in taking a few winks as well. - *Sari N. Kent*