

Mp3 Chris Brandon - Whispers In My Mind



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"...the magnetic songs on this album will get under your skin like an elusive, yet satisfying dream." - Kim Taylor, Contributor to Blues Review. Acoustic based alt-folk-rock song cycle with hints of Beck, Duncan Sheik, and Michael Stipe. 11 MP3 Songs ROCK: Folk Rock, FOLK: Folk Pop Details: REVIEWS:

Whispers in My Mind is a mesmerizing indie debut by singer-songwriter Chris Brandon. A piquant mix of Ryan Adams, Beck, Leonard Cohen, and REM, with faint strains of early Neil Young, the result is an entrancing musical quilt of alt.folk-rock, ebbing with blues and country. While the pensive sound of the pedal steel guitar is lovely in places, it's the ringing acoustic guitar and Brandon's distinctive, melodious voice that give the album its sonic continuity. A musical odyssey well worth taking, Whispers in My Mind is a song cycle telling a kaleidoscopic journey of personal redemption. Brandon has put his life's experiences to aural poetry. Many of the magnetic songs on this album will get under your skin like an elusive, yet satisfying dream. "Burning Bridges," "Town of Broken Boats," "Sleepwalking," and "As I Revive" will haunt you, and you'll find yourself playing them over and over. Chris Brandon's Whispers in My Mind is an odds-on pick for one of the best indie debuts of the year. -- Kim Taylor, Contributor to Blues Review and Contemporary Musicians

Chris Brandon's Whispers in My Mind is a disc chronicling the tale of edges: scorched transitions, stolen twilight liaisons, wind haunted ocean-side sojourns. His acoustic-based folk-rock recalls the sparse arrangements of songs like Suzanne Vega's Small Blue Thing, and works like Duncan Sheik's self-titled debut. The crisp, uncluttered production highlights Brandon's deft vocal phrasing and cagey guitar playing. With accomplished consistency (and some hooks big enough to hang your soul from), Brandon's imperfect characters find homes in these pertinere perfect songs. Whispers is a song cycle of arsonist inheritances (Burning Bridges), mock transcendence (A Revelation), lost wanderings (Sleepwalking), unrequited rescue (In the Ocean), incarceration (Paper

Slipper Blues), and spiritual longing (Waiting for a Road Map). By the closing cut, Up to Me, the false starts and endless running are over. Redemption arrives in the confident voice of someone who finally knows of hearing his own calling, of hearing his own whispers. -- Chris Spatz, WTSR and contributor to Blue Stone Press and Half Moon Review

BIO: Chris Brandon is a passionate singer-songwriter whose music fuses the lyricism of acoustic music with the energy of folk-rock. Known for his song cycles, Chris' lyrics explore identity, inner conflict, relationships, and life paths. The song cycle that unfolds in *Whispers In My Mind* chronicles a character's precarious journey out into life marked by trouble, decline, and eventual redemption. Chris' new CD, *Whispers In My Mind*, was released in 2004. Recorded by Robert Bard (Eric Andersen, Susan Werner) and mastered by Dr. Toby Mountain (David Bowie, Beach Boys, Brooks Williams), *Whispers* has a spare and textured production that accentuates Chris' classic songwriting and soulful vocals. Chris is accompanied on the CD by seasoned acoustic session players including Gary Burke (Bob Dylan, Livingston Taylor) on drums, Joe Bonadio (Martin Sexton) on percussion, Steve Gorn (Paul Simon, Ritchie Havens) on bansuri flute, and Mindy Jostyn (Carly Simon, John Mellencamp) on harmonica. Chris has performed in Northeastern venues from Montreal to New York City and from Buffalo to Boston. He plays live on acoustic guitar and, depending on the size of the venue, includes a multi-instrumentalist and/or a percussionist in the mix. While he's played such premier clubs as The Limelight, TT the Bear's Place, The Wetlands, and Maxwell's, Chris is also at home in smaller acoustic venues. Chris has sizeable followings in New York City and the Mid-Hudson Valley with others building throughout the Northeast. Prior to launching his solo career, Chris recorded and toured with the European alt-rock band H.P. Zinker on Thrill Jockey and Energy Records. The band was featured in *Sassy Magazine's* "Cute Band Alert" and reviewed in *Rolling Stone*, *Q Magazine*, and *Trouser Press* among other publications. After gaining invaluable music industry experience with the band, Chris began to write more lyrical and introspective songs that were attuned to the acoustic music scene in New York City. Raised in a nomadic family in Chicago, Austin, and Boston among other places, Chris was exposed to blues, country, folk, and rock early on. His own travels through Canada, England, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, and Tunisia sparked the desire to be a traveling musician. Most of *Whispers in My Mind* was conceived on a 3-month tour around the U.S. in a pick-up truck. Chris returned from that adventure with his vision for song cycle music.

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