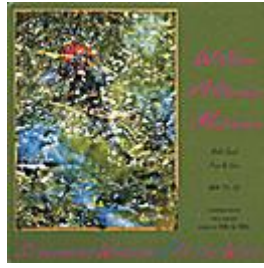


## Mp3 W. A. Mathieu - Streaming Wisdom / In The Wind



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Multi-track piano and voice inspired by the cross-rhythms of African Shona mbira music -- rich, harmonically complex, and satisfying. 11 MP3 Songs CLASSICAL: Contemporary, WORLD: African

Details: When you watch flowing water, you see it is alive. Its moving waves, over millions of years, have evolved into the wavy motions of its creatures. Similarly, when birds are flying against the sky, the intelligence of the air becomes a visible kind of music - the flocks are like chords, and their flight patterns like atmospheric chord progressions. The cross-rhythms of African music evoke the streaming wisdom of these fluid elements in an extraordinary way. The Shona cross-rhythmic techniques that abound in this album were first shown to me by Paul Berliner, in person and through his book, *Soul of the Mbira* (University of California Press). West African kre-kre rhythms were shown to me by my life-partner in percussion, George Marsh. From the early 1970s I became entranced with their deep, secret metabolism, and began incorporating them into my music. The first two albums of such music were *Streaming Wisdom* and *In the Wind*, recorded from 1979 through 1982 on a TEAC 4-track 3440 in my small studio near Sebastopol, California. This was in the early days of home access to multi-track technology, and it was hugely satisfying to have the time - the months and years needed - to work out the performing and recording techniques. Now, twenty-five years later, it's equally satisfying to re-master and re-release the material combined as a single CD. From the 1981 album *Streaming Wisdom: Air in E-Flat* introduces the interlocked-hands, 12-note cross-rhythm mbira pattern central to this album, complemented by overdubbed and interspersed episodic material. The principal pattern serves as a ritornello. Another mbira pattern, this one with four notes (in six beats), underlies *Upstream Home*. The treble figures that begin at 2:12 and 3:33 were recorded at half speed, thus sounding in real time at double speed. In *Endeavoring Meander*, a 12-note cross-rhythm is used in a pianistic, neo-Romantic style. The just tuning

for Twenty-One Breaths is based on the note G, and proceeds a perfect fifth up to D, another up to A, and a perfect fifth down from G to C, giving a "spine" of perfect fifths. Above each of these notes is tuned a just major third (5:4) giving E, B, F#, and C#; and below each is likewise tuned a just major third giving Ab, Eb, Bb, and F. Twenty-One Breaths makes use of the especially sonorous triadic harmonies that result. Layer Play features the 12-beat pan-African kre-kre cross-rhythm that floats the listener on two levels of rhythmic reality at once. Streaming Wisdom opens with offset rhythms shown to me by Terry Riley and proceeds through episodic material to variations on its central cross-rhythmic pattern.

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