

## Mp3 Ben Cosgrove - Empty Rooms



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Versatile young composer and multi-instrumentalist returns with a heavier and more mature sophomore release 13 MP3 Songs CLASSICAL: Tone Poem, NEW AGE: Contemporary Instrumental Details: Good instrumental music is hard to come by. But Empty Rooms, the 2008 release from young multi-instrumentalist Ben Cosgrove is a step in the right direction. Characterized by notable increases both in musicianship and emotional weight from Cosgroves work on 2005s Kaleidoscope, the new record follows a carefully constructed arc, guiding the listener on a thirteen-track journey through songs as varied as the lushly orchestrated 8-minute closer Anchor and Crane and the minute-long ukulele solo Armory Road. Empty Rooms brings with it a focus on program music- each song is tied to something larger than itself, as Cosgrove points out in the liner notes, be that history, place, literature, or philosophy. The centerpiece of the record, the epic Many Waters, is a tribute to the four Central Massachusetts towns that were flooded in the 1930s to create the Quabbin Reservoir. To compose the piece, Cosgrove traveled out to hike all around the Quabbin, interviewed the members of the historical society, and spent months extensively researching the towns that were lost and the families that were displaced. As ever before, Cosgrove plays nearly all of the instruments, in addition to composing, producing, and designing the record, but listeners will be pleased to find trumpeter Reynaldo Santana returning to play on 3 tracks. Other guest contributions by drummer Ben Burns and violinist Molly Siegel can be heard on Unfolding, a richly-textured instrumental pop tune. Alternative-instrumental is a genre that is hard to define, but Cosgrove fits nicely into it- these pieces may be hard to characterize in relation to the stylistic boundaries that currently exist, but they have a cohesive style and sound that is unique to all of Ben Cosgroves music. This album finds him not only honing that sound to a finer degree than ever before, but also using it to make some powerful artistic statements. This record unquestionably features his finest work to date.

RECOMMENDED TRACKS: Distant Music, Come Down, New Salem, Many Waters, Unfolding People  
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