

Mp3 Diana Rowan - The Bright Knowledge



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The mystic's journey; powerful, magical music traveling through strident Balkan, enigmatic Middle Eastern, and sacred Indian lands. 13 MP3 Songs in this album (64:07) ! Related styles: WORLD: Balkan, WORLD: Middle East Contemporary People who are interested in Loreena McKennitt Dead Can Dance Kate Bush should consider this download. Details: The Bright Knowledge (from the Gaelic imbas forosnai) is sudden illumination born from clearing our path. This fierce inspiration, often poetic and artistic in nature, comes as a fully-formed gift for our efforts, from all who have come before us, and from the sacred. Each of these pieces comes from that place. From fertile darkness, the bright knowledge ignites the spark we all carry inside. Hijaz Ilahi: arranged in raga style. Gratitude to Deepak Ram for bringing Hindustani music into my life, and Neva Ozgen for introducing me to the mystical chant. Your Soul is a Chosen Landscape: Faures piece sets the Paul Verlaine poem from which Ive taken the first line as the title of this set. The quote is both mysterious and familiar, full of promise. Spanning a continent and hundreds of years, these songs sit happily together, highlighting each others golden beauty. Bucimis: A passionate romp through the keys in 15/16, with Peter Maund on percussion and Rachel Durling on violin. Sometimes you just want to have fun, and these guys are up for it. The Rhapsodist: WH Audens poem The Shield of Achilles SPURRED me to write this piece. The poem references the passage in The Iliad where Thetis, Achilles mother, asks Hephaestos to make a shield for her son depicting the glories of Greeces military accomplishments. Auden re-imagines Hephaestos actually revealing the true horrors of war. Written just after WWII, the poem goes on to explore the nature of violence and our complicity in it. It could be written for today. Rhapsodist is the ancient Greek term for a poet or bard, Homer often being considered the last rhapsodist. The Marvelous Year: composed for my 30th birthday by my soul mate Ken RIP. Ken said it is about me, but I when I play it, it bursts with his joyous presence. Miss you Ken; until we

meet again. Live Without Thought of Dying: written for Bon Singer and Lily Storm, with love. Exploring a theme Ive been obsessed with since childhood, the melody sprung from a single, potent interval I heard Lily sing and was furthered by St. Catherines mystical yet earthy words. Warp Weft: the fabric of our lives, weaving together in unexpected and beautiful ways. After Ken died XXX I came to know his sister Rachel, a very painful experience bringing us together in something hopeful. The finale represents all souls delightedly reconnecting, talking up a storm. The Belfast Set: for my parents, Phyllis and John Rowan. I was born during one of the most violent stages in Belfasts (my familys hometown for generations) tortured history, and have often wondered how difficult it was for my young parents to have coped during that time. Yishru Shalom: song of peace, by my beloved friend and mentor, Bon. Where would I be without her? Up High in the Clouds: variations on a melody found in the UCB music library, hidden away in a dusty book that hadnt been opened for years. I was drawn to its combination of sweetness, strength and offbeat phrase lengths, much as Im drawn to people. Devoted: the first piece, introduced to me by Lily (and with several arranging ideas inspired by her), talks of walking to church (or in my mind, any sacred place) at night. The chant represents arriving and soaking in the DIVINE atmosphere. The Cypriot song (from my great friend Anna Kallis) represents the lesson/sermon, asking us what death means; why are the young girls and babies taken away? Death answers: If I didnt take them, I wouldnt be Death. Still leaving questions, of course. The chant and first song lead us back out to the world. Carnival: another fun ride, I envision this as people jumping in and out at a musical gathering, almost colliding, full of energy and party spirit. The Roaring Silence: a piece written over almost a decade, following many twists and turns IN my life. Roaring silence references both the positive aspect of X perfect stillness and the more painful experience of gaping absence. Starting in Celtic style (my origins), moving into the classical realm with a canon (adolescence and early adulthood), going into a more personal voice with a section inspired by an Odysseas Elytis poem containing the line This is how I speak, and concluding with an outburst I call the Joy Theme. Id say things are getting better. Special thanks to Michiel Frishert, Anna Kallis, and Jim Helman Credits Diana Rowan, Cithara Nova harp by John Westling piperharp.com Rachel Durling, violin Gary Hegedus, tarhu Peter Maund, percussion Bon Singer, voice Lily Storm, voice Erica Leonard, voice Recorded Summer 2008 Engineered by Jim Helman at Hypercussion Studio, Berkeley, California jimhelman.com Mastered by Jan Erik Kongshaug at Rainbow Studio, Oslo, Norway rainbowstudio.no Graphics by Anna Kallis Photos by Michael Van Auken

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