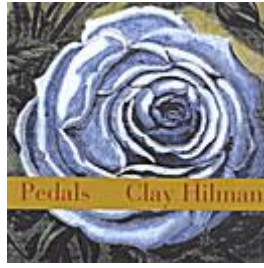


Mp3 Clay Hilman - Pedals



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Clay gets his piano under your skin, burrows deep, and then comforts you from the inside out. Unlike many solo piano albums, "Pedals" isn't pretentious or fluffy; it's earthy, meaningful, human, and sincerely beautiful. 11 MP3 Songs EASY LISTENING: Mood Music, CLASSICAL: Contemporary Details: When asked to describe his piano music, Clay responded, "I play background music mostly. It's a genre which is often overlooked. Playing background music demands a lot of sensitivity. You have to listen to the atmosphere, and tune in to your listeners. And then you have to be subtle. You have to sneak in the back door of the audience's mind and pass through without knocking over their mental furniture. The perfect set is when I can begin and end the set without anyone really noticing, but the atmosphere has changed for the better. That, for me, is the purpose of my music. It is to get into my listener's inner being without them even noticing, and then, once I'm there, to comfort them. A lot of music attempts to get you to act outside yourself, like dance, or jump around, or throw stuff, or whatever. I want to comfort my audience. Of course, the most important thing to remember is never to take myself or the music too seriously. It's just music after all. It has certain qualities, very powerful qualities, but it's not God. Clays style is influenced by a mix of jazz, blues, and folk piano. Clay comments, My music has always been hard for me to categorize. Perhaps because I try not to think in terms of genre- I try to think in terms of mood. The genre is just another tool to reflect the mood. But if I must... well, lets just say if you like George Winston or David Lanz, you'll like what I do. Currently, Clay plays every Friday night at the Michigan House Caf in Calumet, Michigan. Hes been entertaining there since 2001. Clay has three solo piano albums: PEDALS (1996), a recording of his compositions and improvisations; SPIRIT + TRUTH (2003), improvisations on traditional hymns; and LITTLE BLUE HOUSES (2005), a mix of old melodies and Clay's own compositions inspired by the deep, cold winters in Michigans Upper Peninsula.

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