

Mp3 Solterre - Songs Of Solstice Vol. 1



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Ancient/Modern Christmas Winter Solstice world music blending Persian rhythms and Hindustani vocal styles with traditional European songs of celebration associated with the birth of the light. 7 MP3 Songs
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Details: Acoustic duo Solterre has released their first album of traditional Solstice and Christmas music from the 12th to 18th centuries with new arrangements based on Persian and Hindustani rhythms and East Indian influenced vocals. The result is a unique world music style interpretation of many well-known Christmas songs. Bridging ecstatic musical traditions from East and West with the traditional songs of birth and joy associated with the Paegan/Christian Winter Solstice, Solterre is a musical and vocal collaboration of mandolyn player and vocalist Felicity Gerwing, and percussionist and vocalist Marco Zonka, with featured woodwind player Randy Mead. In the spirit of exuberant joy and exaltation common to all love songs of the spirit, Solterre brings new vibrancy and verve to these fine songs of yore, affirming and celebrating the common thread of yearning, shared by all peoples, for love and light, on the longest and darkest of nights. A brief history of Winter Solstice Astronomically, the winter solstice is the point at which the northern hemisphere of the earth, leaning away from the sun and therefore cooling with less light from the sun (creating winter) begins to wobble back toward the sun, creating also at that point the shortest day and longest night. Solstice literally means sun is still. As one of the most ancient and universal rituals of celebration on earth dating back to Egyptian, Babylonian and Sumerian times, the Winter Solstice the darkness in which new light is born-- has been observed by cultures and civilizations all over the world. As one civilization followed another, stories associated with old myths about this time of rebirth and transformation were woven into the fabric of new stories and new myths, and preexisting themes and images were retained and embellished. The Celebrations of Solstice and its festivals of light

are historically among the most multicultural of traditions, paralleling and cross-pollinating one another for centuries. Always on the darkest night in a primitive place and of questionable parentage and origin, the child of wonder, surrounded by animals and wise men, is born. From Osiris of Egypt to Attis of Rome, Apollo of the Greeks to Mithras of Persia, Deganawidah of the Huron Tribe to Jesus of Nazareth, the child of wonder, born in darkness, under the guidance of the stars and the gods, grows up to be a teacher, a leader, a healer, a god. These songs of Solstice, resonant with the compositional integrity of ancient Britton and Celtic maestros, are given new verve by arrangements in Persian rhythms with impetuous Eastern European phrasing on Romanian Mandolin. In a North Indian vocal style known as tarana a chorusing of voices common to these songs of celebration give new spirit and passion to the native elegance and grandeur of these musical gems from Medieval and Renaissance Europe. The Musicians: Marco Zonka (Chicago) began studying tabla in 1977 with the late Ustad Allah Rakha at the Indian Cultural Arts Ashram in San Francisco . He continued studies of Indian vocal and instrumental music with Ustad Ali Akbar Khan at the Ali Akbar College of music in San Rafael , and with resident tabla maestros Ustad Zakir Hussain and Pandit Swapan Chaudury. Marco plays and performs numerous finger-drumming styles, including tabla, tar, bendir, dhumbek and udu drums. Marco tours the Pacific Northwest every summer as the tabla player for Pandit Shivnath Mishra and Deobrat Mishra, sitar masters from Varanasi, India . Felicity Gerwing (Kootenays) is from a large family of musicians, singers, choir directors and teachers of music, with a well established tradition of celebrating sacred songs of European origin. She studied music at David Thompson Fine Arts University and Capilano College, and tours the Pacific Northwest every summer playing tamboura with sitar maestros from Varanasi, India - Pandit Shivnath Mishra and his son Deobrat Mishra.

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