

Ken Verheecke
between earth & sky

The Place Where Feelings Go



I first heard of **Ken Verheecke's** instrumental music when only his acoustic guitar gave voice to it. That's been many years ago, and now his music has many voices. Electric guitar and synthesizer vie for his attention and they have found their place in his repertoire. This is evident on his latest release **between earth & sky**. Ken's ten-track album is a mix of ambient and contemporary tunes, all with soft edges and rippling resonance. Some of the tunes put me in mind of Santo & Johnny's 1969 hit instrumental *Sleep Walk* while others are acoustic articulations of noteworthy milestones in a life. The first cut is **Let the Healing Begin**. Verheecke has a strong religious background and he infuses this strength into his compositions with very good success. His themes here is the open hands and open heart of a believer. Like most of the tunes on the recording, there is ebb and flow or a give and take, but more is obviously given.

There is a lot to be said for **Be Still** as the track name suggests. Gazing out of the window or just outside sitting on a big limestone rock as I used to do and looking at your surroundings will bring you more than the colors of the sky and the landscape. It will bring tremendous peace to your spirit. Adding to that reverie is Ken's enchanting music. I liked **When She Speaks** as it reminded me of Hawaiian slack key guitar. There is a warm, rolling rhythm to the tune that puts one at ease. It is friendly and cheerful without going over the top. Whoever she is, her voice is music.

Ken moved from South Dakota to Illinois to Michigan or maybe it was the other way around. But his travels provide him copious amounts of inspiration to create new soundscapes with his instruments. **New Home** has piano, synth, and guitar and as you listen to it, you can picture opening all the closet doors, running up the stairs, and claiming your favorite space. This is going to be a happy place.

One of my other favorites is called **Sunset**. Its two-string tempo is the sound of the planet cooling down and getting ready for a dreamy night. It is the horizon vibrant with golds and purples and the promise of twinkling stars at any moment. And not far behind is the last cut, **Dawn's Embrace**. Ken's acoustic tune is warm and mellow as he portrays those first vestiges of light that begin a new day. Where I live the sun peeks up from behind Green Mountain and I can see the clouds with gold frosting lighting up at first light. The warmth of the day is just minutes away. I like this tune as celebrates my favorite time of day. Each day is a gift that many receive, but some do not. I don't take that for granted, ever. Thanks for the reminder Ken.

Ken Verheecke has a harmonic, cohesive mix on **between earth & sky**. None of the tunes are overly rambunctious, just easygoing, melodic reminders to carpe the diem. His aspiration of adding peace and calm to our world is an undeniable success with this release.

