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Raydience: Ronnie Ray Padilla CD Review

January 31, 2010 by <u>Christina</u> Filed under CD Reviews

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"I had many dreams when I was young and now they're coming true,"

Skreeching Hawk Ronnie Ray Padilla sings to us on his debut album, **Raydience**, released on January 26th by Megawave and MVD Audio. Native American in every sense (including the timbre and accent of Ray's voice), this jazz album also incorporates African and global influences, bold brass, and current and former members of Tower and Power and Garage Mahal, with A-list session players from (among others) Santana, Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey and Etta James.

From the mellifluous Shakti Ma to Ray's plaintive and poetic definition of a Native American song for the dead, Setting Birds Free (where Uncle Arthur "taught me to fish, love the birds and trees and how to be an Indian in the city"), to the bright and festive Zambula, guaranteed to rouse anyone to dancing, Ray creates a new world jazz chemistry. Mic Gillette on trumpet and trombone, George Brooks on sax, Vernon "Ice" Black on guitar and Eric Levy on keyboards advance the effort, as do Gary Brown on bass and Celso Alberti and Billy Jackson on drums.

Dedicated to his recently deceased parents and brother Archie Jr., Raydience is Padilla's paen of individuation that still gives credence to both his roots and future aspirations. He thanks matriarchies for helping him (which we rarely see happening in this society), the Navajo Grandmothers of Big Mountain, Arizona, the Apache tribal leaders at White Mountain, Colorado, and the Mescalero Apache Grandmothers in New Mexico.

Ronnie Ray Padillo's album is as diverse as he is, from the flitty percussion and bells "dragonflies" in Arcenio's Garden to the cricket sounds at the end of <u>piano</u> and electric guitar rendition Tara Nova. These are the natural sounds of a person who welcomes many types and ethnicities into his newly formed musical tribe with the intent to "melt global apathy" and to thank his Divine Creator "with each breath, each heartbeat we see, feel and hear in all of that which flows through this river of life" and where he knows (from Setting Birds Free, the best song on the album) "that we have love for you and you and you and you and you....."

Tracklist

- 1. Zambula
- 2. Arcenio's Garden
- 3. Setting Birds Free
- 4. My Brother, My Brother
- 5. Angelica
- 6. You Are My Rainbow
- 7. Shakti Ma
- 8. Tara Nova
- 9. Bahian Smiles
- 10. Dancing In The Rain

Grade: B



• Audio CD (January 26, 2010)
• Original Polosca Data: 2000

• Original Release Date: 2009

• Number of Discs: 1

• Label: Megawave Records

Raydience CD Review by Christina of Music Room Reviews

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