

an indepth review

Kiva's "Out of the Corner of the Eye"

by Leah Odom, Faerie Magazine, Summer 2006 Issue

Kiva's newest offering, "Out of the Corner of the Eye," their ninth recording since their inception in 1990, is a collection featuring thirteen songs with themes on the fey folk and the wildness of the earth in which they dwell. Kiva's players include seven core musicians and some talented guests who fill each song with an honest, soulful quality. These modern-day bards expertly weave mandolin, guitar, bass, cello, flutes, didgeridoo, percussion, violin, and voices into a celebration of the natural world. The songs have a timeless feeling, and it is easy to get swept along on the wave of instruments into whatever tale is being told.

This album runs the gamut between lively faster tunes and slower insightful songs, all of which are excellent for dancing. The title track, "Out of the Corner of the Eye," is a story told through the perspective of the fey. It has a moving mysterious sound grounded by the drums, bass, and guitar. The lighter sounds of the mandolin, flute, and vocals complete the songs and add more interest. If you ever wondered what Faerie music would sound like, "Faerie Glen" is the answer. It is a fun frolicking instrument jam that is an invitation for all-night dancing with abandon. "Faerie Glen" is followed by another vivacious composition, "Green Man," originally written by Deirdre Stuart. This song, featured on "Live at the Forest Inn," an earlier Kiva recording, has been augmented with the addition of the male musicians singing the Green Man's words and various instruments to produce a richer arrangement. You will also find an excellent rendition of the classic

"The Battle of Evermore," by Led Zeppelin. This is a good choice for this group who are adept at making vocals and instruments compliment each other in a noninvasive way. For those who enjoy being swept away, "Rise Up the Call," by Jim Noland and Ariana Lightningstorm, is a ballad that brings one through the ecstatic heights and low quieter moments that encompass the interconnectedness of relationships. It is like slow dancing in the embrace of one you love. In "Once More" the ethereal sounds of the different flutes guide us through a soulful journey of the cycle of the seasons and the emotions that these times can conjure in us.

A fun twist is a bluesy number, "In Praise of Winter," which is unique with its addition of a violin and flute. The conclusion of this album is a lively little ditty called "The Coming and Going of Fey," a harmonious parade of unaccompanied voices singing dun da dum, da da dun da dum, gathering from one voice to many then fading away into the air.

Kiva is certainly a band where each member's contribution creates the full fluidness that characterizes their music. No one overpowers another and all of the instruments and voices flow in cooperation to create a healing, inspirational sound that is unique in the world of mortal music. I recommend this recording to all mortals and fey who have an appreciation for the natural world and really like to get down!



kiva

music for the spirit

KIVA is an acoustic, percussive, worldbeat ensemble that celebrates the magic of nature and ancient bardic traditions with music that opens the heart and heals the spirit. Using mythological stories and images, KIVA weaves a rainbow tapestry of ancient cultures and natural imagery into energizing mystical folk music for all ages. The band blends strong vocal harmonies with rich and diverse acoustic and electric instrumentation, performing originals, traditionals, and carefully chosen covers. The musicians are inspired by many cultures, spiritual disciplines, and musical styles that include Celtic and American folk, rock, blues, jazz, big band, and traditional chants. KIVA's music enhances any celebration: festivals, parties, weddings, memorials — all the landmarks of life. Based in the Washington, DC, metro area, KIVA has been nominated fourteen times so far for the Washington Area Music Awards (Wammies).

For bookings, contact Ariana: 301.430.0388, arianakiva@gmail.com.

KIVA is on the Web at www.kivasong.com.

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The Band

Jim Brewster
guitar, bass, mandolin, banjo,
drums, flute, whistles, vocals

Tigre Cruz
drums, percussion, vocals

David Landis
native american flutes, whistles,
drums, vocals

Ariana Lightningstorm
band leader, vocals

Diana McFadden
cello, mandolin, guitar, cittern

Tim Sauerwein
didgeridoo, percussion, vocals

Diana Sunday
guitar, drums, percussion, vocals



kiva discography



Reflections © 2007

Put together especially for the Eleventh Annual Healing Touch International Conference on Hilton Head Island in September '07, where KIVA performed, this is a "limited release" CD that can be used by anyone for relaxation, massage, or any kind of healing process. This compilation of past, present, and future KIVA music is offered here as a tribute to healers everywhere; not only to those who practice various healing modalities professionally, but also to those of us who seek to ease life's journey for all beings of Planet Earth. Over the years, "healing" has always been a major focus in KIVA's endeavors. We hope that the sounds captured herein will help ease your travels. A slightly modified final release is planned for 2009.



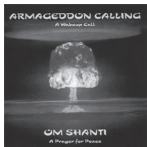
Out of the Corner of the Eye © 2006

This CD's central theme revolves around the land and the spirits that inhabit it; those who can be seen out of the corner of your eye if you just accept the possibility. In addition to brand new music, "Corner" also contains some pieces we've played for years but had never gotten around to recording. There are original compositions plus some of our favorites from other writers. All honor Nature's spirit and the spirits of those who dwell in harmony with the planetary being we inhabit.



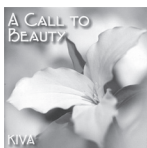
Oshun Gaia © 2006

Amikaeyla Proudfoot Gaston and Ariana Lightningstorm, along with KIVA, recorded this album of ancient indigenous chants and original songs from global traditions and spiritualities. This album features East Indian, Lakota and Gwitchin, West African, and Ethiopian chants. We were helped by several of our good friends, including Jaqui MacMillan, John Wubbenhorst, Ken Anoff, Wynne Paris, Daveed Korup, and more. This album is powerfully percussive and full of energy.



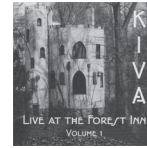
Armageddon Calling © 2003 CD Single

With the world in more and more desperate trouble, with wars and hatred and global climate change, are we humans courting disaster, is Armageddon calling us? This CD single contains the songs "Armageddon Calling," a song from KIVA about the dangers we face, and "Om Shanti," a rocked-up Indian chant calling for peace and love. We feel these two songs are linked to our future; what it becomes is up to us. All proceeds from sale of this CD are being donated to grassroots organizations that work toward peace and balance in the world and toward sane government both here and abroad.



A Call to Beauty © 2002

In this troubled time when so many people are issuing a call to arms, we strive instead for peace by issuing a call to beauty — to remind everyone of the beauty of this world, the beauty of its people, and the beauty of its many different cultures. This CD reflects that beauty and diversity. It presents music of varying styles based on cultures from all over our world and includes new songs, reworkings of old songs, and globally collected traditional pieces.



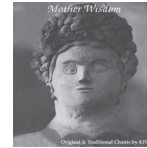
Live at the Forest Inn © 1997

This live album was recorded at the historic Forest Inn, a large Tudor ballroom in Forest Glen, MD. It is the first release to include new band member David Landis and the return of Diana McFadden. It also features the fantastic vocals of Amikaeyla Gaston, longtime KIVA alumna Nicole Cooley in an unusual arrangement of the traditional "Twa Corbies," and award winning harpist Olvardil Prydwyn on harp.



Finding the Balance Within © 1995

A passionate album, this CD reminds us of humanity's interconnectedness with Planet Earth. The songs and chants help us find our wholeness in nature, the elements, and the seasons. It features award winning Celtic harpist Sue Richards, percussionists Robin Burdulis and Barbara McPherson, and Kathleen Hannan on piano. This CD was nominated for a Wammie two years in a row.



Mother Wisdom © 1994

The twelve voices of "The Chorus of Powerful Women" invite you to experience the Goddess with original and traditional chants and songs from Africa, Tibet, Greece, India, and North and South America. Mother Wisdom connects us to the ancient mother and keeps the Goddess tradition alive. "KIVA's music is simultaneously very simple and complex, and the multiple voices blend together seamlessly. The strong vocal harmonies combine with diverse instrumentation. The result is a collection of songs that is difficult to describe effectively." — stalkingghostbear, from Amazon.com.



Alchemy © 1993

This release weaves together the enchanting vocal harmonies and powerful rhythms of the earth religions, celebrating the alchemy of love and life that transforms us as we embrace ecstasy. The musicians are inspired by myriad forms and traditions, and this album showcases their instrumental range as never before, highlighting individual KIVA members as well as friends such as percussionists Robin Burdulis and Barbara McPherson.



Renewal © 1991

"Renewal" is an album full of danceable chants and songs full of imagery from nature, mythology, and many traditional spiritual paths from around the world. Robin Burdulis and Barbara McPherson make their percussive debut with KIVA on this album.



The Healing Art © 1990

With "The Healing Art," KIVA starts its journey into the world with songs that heal the spirit and open the heart. The journey begins with original folk songs of the seasons and moves into music that makes you want to dance around the room or howl at the moon.

All KIVA titles are available from the CD Baby online store or directly from KIVA at performances and at the KIVA Web site, www.kivasong.com. Select KIVA songs are also available on iTunes.