



ARTIST STATEMENT and Dedication

While I had not intended to create a new CD, let alone a vocal CD with so many new songs, I was increasingly invited to do something to focus on peace in a world that was filled with so much fear, anger, hate, and sadness. With so much chaos politically, socially, and environmentally, and with virtual silence from world religious leaders on how to get through this challenging time, it started with an idea to write a song about finding our own sense of peace, wherever we are. As I sat down at the keyboard with that focus, music began flowing out. First one song—then another—then another. It was as if I had opened the floodgates and my hiatus from singing was more than over. While song after song came out—each focusing on one aspect of peace—I knew I was channeling something way beyond me. The lyrics seemed more poetic than songs I had written in the past, with very simple words, and a repetition of phrases that linked all of the songs together. While the words were simple, the concepts were not and the themes ran deep—from healing from the past to looking ahead to a peaceful future. As each song poured out, I found myself obsessed with the sound and the energy of each. I experienced an emotional depth I had never experienced before. It was amazing to me that while I had done “new age” music for my entire life, I had never done a lot with the Celtic sound—and considering I am Irish, this seemed like a strange oversight that was more than made up for as these songs all seemed to rise from ancient Irish heritage. Although I had had guest vocalists on previous CDs, I felt like this collection needed more of a balance between masculine and feminine voices, and so as soon as I put out that idea to the universe, the beautiful voices of these new guest vocalists arrived, each adding their own energy and beauty to the recordings. After an intense three weeks, I sat in awe of the dozens of tracks that had come through, and began the task of choosing which songs would make the CD and what order I would place them in. Inspired by the fresh Celtic sound but also the reminiscent flashes of past collections I had recorded, I noticed there was a parallel between the yin and yang contrasts from my first CD, *Bronze Lullabies*. This inspired me to create the introduction to this collection, “Prelude,” where I outlined specifically the contrasts expressed in these songs, but also the greater contrast: as the world seems to be falling apart, we can still find peace if we look. As I listened to the final set of songs, it felt to me like a poem for humankind from the universe, and I feel incredibly honored to be part of this creation process. For me, this collection reinvigorated a sense of gratitude, hope, faith, and joy like I have never experienced before...and for that, I thank the universe.

I would also like to thank all of the living creatures in my world who helped inspire and support the creation of this project...the special humans in my life, the special animals, and all of the elements of nature—the stones and crystals, the trees and plants, and of course, the water. As seasons change, these beings remind me that all is well. While I feel that each of these songs is dedicated to someone or something in particular, I dedicate this entire collection to YOU, for allowing the idea of peace to enter your experience. It is my hope that these songs go far and spread peace to anyone and everyone who needs it.

Thank you, universe! Thank you, YOU!

