

Vision Quest

By

Bearheart Kokopelli

Written by

Steve Sheppard

Much can be said about **Bearheart Kokopelli's** subtle mastery of the flute and on this brand new offering "**Vision Quest**" we have probably the artists best work to date. Using the guitar talents of the very classy *Harald Peterstorfer*, the musician has manifested a work of art that is utterly beautiful with every note played.

Our musical sojourn takes place within the comforting arms of an outstanding opening piece called **Can You Tell Me**, at times emotive, at times moving, but always passionate and colourful. You can usually get a feel for an album after hearing the basis of composition from the first track, and if this is the case, then this is an album that is going to be breath taking, and it is.

Talking to the Ancestors is up next a piece that embodies everything that I would like to do one day with my guitar and my wife's flute. The performance is rich in texture and incredibly fluent as well, the mournful reflective guitar is matched with such perfection and charming narrative on flute. The slight energy increase in the latter half of this arrangement was noticeable, but beautifully done and strangely enough reminded me of some of the more acoustic work of *Led Zeppelin*, on a *Stairway to Heaven* perhaps.

On **Follow the Sun** we have a slightly different offering, one that has a little mystical sense about its construction. This magical composition sparkled with the brightness of a warm summer's day, and at times the flute of the artist reminded me of the imploring nature of the UK's leading flute performer *Nigel Shaw*. Peterstorfer eloquent performance added such a layer of smoothness

and quality to the piece, and Kokopelli's delicate nature brought us a true stand out composition indeed.

I adore compositions about rivers and here we are, about to walk over the musical bridge and sit on the banks of one as we listen to **Crossing the River**. The song has a built in sense of slow movement, as if we are there, watching the life giving water flow under our bridge of tone and timbre. This is a clever piece, beautifully played and arranged with some quite complex moments of musical mastery on both flute and guitar to enjoy.

It wasn't until I played **Mojave Sundown**, that I realised just how crafting an artist Kokopelli actually is, his tenderness on this track is to be honest, stunning. One can picture in the mind's eye a sunset with ease, we're literally there to watch the artist paint a lush and colourful canvas of calmness and tranquillity, this is one of the warmest offerings on the album, and one that will no doubt be played many times over, as we watch yet another loving sunset.

We are at the half way juncture now and I have realised just what a wonderfully beautiful experience I am having; that would continue with the longest offering of the album called **Walking the Sacred Path**, something I think I have done for a few years now, as we walk, we create our own energetic footprint. The harmony with which the artist and Peterstorfer manifest this piece is truly a halcyon moment of musical genius. A slight native chant can be heard in the distance and the deft and delicate heartbeat of a drum can be heard on the musical horizon, this is a legendary offering indeed.

The cry of the flute can now be heard echoing through and over the mountains as we watch a **Canyon Sunset**, something I would love to do one day. Peterstorfer and his guitar now join Kokopelli as the piece seems to create its own reality. For me this track felt like a celebration of life, the happiness when one realises just how wealthy and rich they are, when their gifts are as simple as a new sunrise and a glorious sunset, a wonderful example of symbiosis in musical partnership can be found here also.

There is a powerful eastern element in this next piece that is balanced by a clever western styled performance on guitar that manifests another really clever opus of music. We seemed to cross a few genres here as well; one could

feel the blues and a hint of Jazz too. **Desert Blues** is one of those pieces that you just fall in love with and find yourself whistling around the home randomly, a fun offering, but also one that is quite ambient in its own way as well.

I'm rubbing my hands with glee as the title tracks start to play, this is always a special moment for me, this is the ultimate canvas on which the artist has created the overall narrative of the album on. **Vision Quest**, a delightful eight minute plus opus, a musical vision so grand and complex, but a composition incredibly well performed by two artists who clearly are in touch with their muses. This arrangement offers up a meditative creation of bliss, one that leaves such a positive footprint of skilful mastery, within the minds eye of us always ever eager listeners.

The penultimate track off the album is the light and heartfelt piece **Medicine Song**. **Bearheart Kokopelli** is at his best in creating one of the sweetest melodies off the album. The soothing guitar creates the backdrop for Kokopelli's sublime moment of stylish manifestation and leaves us with such a wonderful emotional energy of happiness at its conclusion, I could see with ease this composition being released as a single, I am sure it would be a big hit.

We finish now with a return to the opening title, almost, in **Can You Tell Me Now**. This is almost like summing up the feelings and all the emotions that have gone into making this release possible, a sense of fulfilment and accomplishment can be heard in this last truly beautiful offering.

Vision Quest by **Bearheart Kokopelli** is in my view his best work by far, the artist has really created something so good here that I hope it will go down as a land mark album for all time to come. I never wanted this journey to end and I hope you won't either. **Vision Quest** by **Bearheart Kokopelli** has to be one of the best *Native American* styled flute and guitar based albums I have ever heard, and I urge you to make this part of your collection as well, your soul will love you for it.