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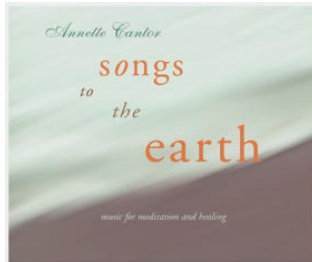
Zone Music Reporter

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APRIL 2011

ANNETTE CANTOR SONGS TO THE EARTH



What must have been most awe-inspiring? Sitting in a 16th-Century towering European cathedral with stained-glass windows and flying buttresses, and hearing Gregorian chants? Or sitting on the American prairie many hundreds of years ago next to a teepee and a roaring fire with crystalline stars twinkling in a blue-black sky, and listening to the sounds of a wood flute? Imagine combining those two experiences in today's world!

Annette Cantor was born and raised in Germany where she learned Latin and often heard Gregorian chants at church. Then she studied opera singing in Vienna before moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she hooked up with Native American flute player Patrick Shendo-Mirabal. Cantor added another European influence (the cello) and two percussionists (who both have played extensively with Ottmar Liebert) that brings in more of the Indian feeling. Annette also does lots of wordless vocalizing. Basically the group already knew each other from having done concerts together, so when they went into the studio they were comfortable to just turn on the recording equipment and improvise off of previously conceived themes.

In addition, this album, as the title states, is comprised of music dedicated to and honoring the earth and all of its parts -- the land, the water, the forests, the people and the planet as a whole.

Take a listen (at annettesings.com or cdbaby.com) to samples and enjoy this unique melding of two ancient musical art-forms brought together in the contemporary world to stunning effect.

-- member review