



Within (2008)

Liner Notes

Benjy Wertheimer and David Michael

[www.benjymusic.com](http://www.benjymusic.com)

A lush and deep musical journey where the poignant voice of the East Indian esraj intertwines with the majestic Celtic harp in a celestial soundscape – perfect music for meditation, yoga, bodywork, healing or simply being.

## **Tracks**

1. Calling
2. Lotus
3. Within
4. Angel's Breath
5. Radiance
6. The Veil
7. Nectar
8. Namaste

## **About Within**

After a quarter century of exploring a wide range of musical collaborations, Benjy Wertheimer and David Michael have finally released their debut album as a duo, titled "Within."

The music features Benjy on esraj, a poignant and deliciously expressive 19-stringed bowed instrument from India. David plays Celtic harp, and these slow-paced duets are designed to guide you to that place ... within.

Virtuoso guitarist Michael Mandrell joins the artists on a number of the pieces and, Benjy's wife, Heather Wertheimer, adds beautiful tamboura and ethereal vocals to complete the surreal soundscape that is perfect for massage therapy, the healing arts, yoga or just peaceful contemplation.

The selections on this beautifully idyllic and spacious album were recorded as live improvisations using the ambient space of "the Cistern," the incredible sonic environment of an empty, two-million-gallon underground reservoir in Fort Worden State Park (in Port Townsend, Washington). National Public Radio dubbed this space "the greatest musical instrument in the state of Washington," with a reverberation cycle of over 40 seconds.

The acoustic characteristics of this space were masterfully captured by engineer Neville Pearsall, whose studio, Synergy Sound, is also located in Fort Worden State Park. The musical synergy of the artists and the exquisite sonic characteristics of the Cistern allowed the artists to enter a blissful, exquisitely connected meditative state, resulting in this collection of hypnotically beautiful improvisations.

## **The Artists**

David Michael: Celtic harp and zither

Benjy Wertheimer: Esraj and frame drum

Heather Wertheimer: Vocals on track 3; tamboura on tracks 5 & 6

Michael Mandrell: Acoustic guitar on tracks 1-3, 6-8; e-bow guitar on track 3

Engineered by: Neville Pearsall at Synergy Sound, Port Townsend, WA

Produced by: David Michael and Benjy Wertheimer

Photos of Benjy: back cover photo by Eyal Rivlin; inside photo by G. Douglas Byers

Photos of David: back cover photo by Frank Ross; inside photo by Kenani Brandon

Graphic Design: Annette Orban