

CHRONICLE N° 16 of March 1998

THE SOUND OF THE EVERLASTING SECRET

The Himalayas are one of the most mysterious regions on our planet. Tales, legends and myths tell stories of hidden and forgotten places where eternal truths are preserved.

In unbroken lines of tradition, teachings, spiritual techniques and messages are revealed.

In each century, the Himalayas have attracted conquerors, eccentrics, scholars, seekers and, of course, artists.

From the moment when George Harrison innocently used the Indian Sitar on John Lennon's "Norwegian Wood", a countless number of musicians, from all musical categories, paid their tribute to this spirit which streams from the secret valleys and enchanted plains of the Himalayas.

These artistic approaches proved to be as different as the musicians were. For Rock and Jazz musicians in the late 60's and 70's, it was almost obligatory to wield magic in the land of Buddhas, Devas and the nothingness of Nirvana. For many, it was just fashionable.

Into the 80's it was only the Jazz-group "Oregon" member, Collin Walcott, who kept on playing the Sitar. Collin died tragically in a car accident in 1984 and the "Indian Spirit" vanished more and more from Rock and Jazz.

It was up to the new wave of musicians to recapture the Indian and Tibetan Spirit. These musicians no longer belonged to a certain category. They played their music, not only as entertainment. Their music was based on experiences through travelling and meditation. It became an inspiration for the listener to explore their own "inner" and "outer" worlds anew.

It is more and more evident that each geographical point has an equivalent reference within us. One beautiful way to explore our 'inner Himalayas' is to listen to the music of David Parsons. He plays mostly on electronic instruments, often adding street noises from India and Nepal, as well as voices from Tibetan Monks. Presently, his work is available on four albums.

"Tibetan Plateau, Sounds of the Mother ship" can only be described as music from the gardens of paradise, which is beautiful, deep and of remarkable lightness.

While "Himalaya" brings to mind the majesty and the supernatural beauty of the roof of the world so "Yatra" leads us back - first to the streets and the railways of India, and from there to the foothills beyond to a Buddhist monastery.

"Dorje Ling" is in homage to Tibet, to its culture, its religion and the beauty of the landscape. The deep atmosphere of the music, also reinforced by the singing of Tibetan Monks, reflects our innermost being: beyond thoughts, beyond words, towards the Everlasting Secret.

Harry