



Marimba Spiritual

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[American Record Guide](#) (Jack Sullivan - 2001.05.01)

Marimba music holds the spotlight in *Marimba Spiritual*, a collection of contemporary pieces played with verve and sensitivity by Katarzyna Mycka. Again, the pieces are friendly, fresh, and inviting. Many exemplify the recent trend toward fusions of African and European music, a natural in-between terrain for percussion music. Especially pleasing are Matthias Schmitt's 'Ghanaia', an exploration of the marimba's African roots; Marcus Halt's 'Marimbasonic', a more abstract and virtuosic work emphasizing the marimba's coloristic possibilities; and Ney Rosauero's amiable, pop-oriented Concerto for Marimba and Percussion Ensemble, where Ms Mycka is joined by half a dozen talented colleagues. The delicate, liquid sound of the marimba can be magic: listen to the quietly sustained repeated notes, like a floating organ, in David Maslanka's *My Lady White*, or the lyrical efflorescence of Keiko Abe's *Dream of the Cherry Blossoms*.

One thing is made delightfully clear in this disc: contemporary percussion music need not be bangy and in-your-face. With players as masterly as this, it can even be charming and poetic.