

Folias Duo: Heartdance

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Heartdance is the sixth album from the accomplished duo Folias, flutist Carmen Maret and guitarist Andrew Bergeron. All seven works are written and recorded by Bergeron and/or Maret, longtime husband and wife and

collaborating musician-composers. Heartdance represents a culmination of their creative synergy so far. The compositions, performances, and recordings are excellent. The album and performance notes richly describe their creative content and process for the album and individual pieces.

The first four pieces ("Aquatic," "Molting," "Flying," and "Heartdance") are called Dragonfly (2019, 18:50). These represent a dragonfly's lifecycle and employ touches of Argentinian dance and Piazzolla flair, with some virtuosic and technically challenging elements for the flutist, guitarist, and duo.

Serendipitously inspired by a book, the next three pieces, "Meadow Dream" (C-flute), "Nighthawk" (alto flute), and "Looking Glass" (piccolo) comprise The Alchemist (2019, 19:16). "Meadow Dream" has a foundational attempt to include a range of techniques for both instruments while delivering elements of Wonka-esque "mystical" and "candy joy." "Nighthawk," a must-play for alto flute and guitar, has shifting and irregular meters along with playful flute percussion, flutter-tonguing and trills over "asymmetrical grooves" from the guitar.

The CD ends with two tracks by Bergeron written for guitar and tambin (a handmade West Africa three-holed flute with the same range as the modern flute, C4 to C7), "Procession of the Foxes" and "Forgotten Peach Blossoms" (2021, 13:16). These are beautifully done with harmonics, colors, and percussive





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Those who love flute and guitar music will enjoy the entire album. More advanced duos will find each of these pieces melodically, stylistically, and rhythmically engaging enough to learn, and these contributions to the repertoire will endure. While very accessible to the listener, the compositions are layered, complex, and never pedantic or too simplified. All seven pieces are suitable as concert or background music. The recording will be available as a physical CD in May 2023, as well as through streaming services. –BJ Nicoletti

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