



## Brady Hoyt *Far Away From Everyday*

HARP GUITAR MUSIC 014

★★★★½

The onetime jazz pianist, who became fascinated with harp guitar about a dozen years ago, is back with another hootenanny featuring several of his fellow fingerstyle players.

*Far Away From Everyday* was three years in the making. It follows on the heels of 2011's *Further Beyond Six Strings* (Harp Guitar Music), a compilation that features Hoyt ("Ricochet"), Gregg Miner ("The Friends I Finally Met") and Muriel Anderson ("A Baker's Dozen").

On the new disc, Hoyt plays an odd assortment of stringed instruments (including one with 30 strings) as well as piano. He is joined by renowned fingerstyle guitarists like Anderson, Phil Keaggy, Mike Doolin and Antoine Dufour, among others. The German Gypsy jazz guitar phenom Joscho Stephan pours on the Django charm on "Sharper's Revenge," playing jaunty unison lines alongside harmonica ace and former Flecktone Howard Levy.

Sparks fly when each of those virtuosos takes a solo. Another former Flecktone and current member of the Dave Matthews Band, reedman Jeff Coffin, adds some plaintive soprano sax work alongside Levy's harmonica and Hoyt's gentle piano work on "The Relative Sea."

Former Windham Hill recording artist Michael Manring (of the '90s group Montreux) lends his haunting fretless bass tones and monstrous solo chops to "Traverse," which also features Coffin on tenor. Manring also contributes some lyrical, sliding bass lines to "Restive Nocturne," another of Hoyt's engaging compositions on the collection.

Levy returns with more virtuosic blowing on the jazzy waltz "Kiss Of Fate" and on the oddly affecting title track, which carries some klezmer overtones in Josef Pepson Snetivy's clarinet work and also features some sparkling fingerstyle playing by Anderson on the 21-string harp guitar.

Hoyt's melancholy trio piece "Beneath The Iron Gate" (for oboe, harp guitar and piano) is dedicated "to all those who hopelessly long for mutual affection with one who has crushed and rejected those wishes," while the delicate, chamber-like "September" is the composer's love letter to Prague,

where he lived for a few years with his wife and child. Hoyt reprises his song "Ricochet" from *Further Beyond Six Strings*. The solo tour de force has him playing his custom-made 30-string harp guitar, an instrument that sounds not unlike Pat Metheny's 42-string Manzer Picasso guitar.

A singular work that defies easy categorization, *Far Away From Everyday* is the result of an inspired and determined man with a very personal vision.

—Bill Milkowski

**Far Away From Everyday:** The Relative Sea; Sharper's Revenge; Impossible Liaison; Look Inside; Kiss Of Fate; Ricochet; Traverse; Restive Nocturne; Elнора; Far Away From Everyday; Beneath The Iron Gate; September; Sometimes You Just Know;

Alternate Timeline. (71:04)

**Personnel:** Brad Hoyt, piano, keyboard, harp guitar, harpsichord, spinet, lute, bazantar; Stephen Bennett, harp guitar, National Steel guitar (9); Muriel Anderson (10, 13), Antoine Dufour (1), Jeff Titus (8), Andy Wahlberg (12), Mike Doolin (5, 14), Peter Bradshaw (11), harp guitar; Gregg Miner, harp guitar (2), seven-string bass zither banjo (9); Jeff Coffin, soprano sax (1), tenor sax (7), flute (14); Howard Levy, harmonica (1, 2, 5, 10); Michael Manring, fretless bass (7, 8); Phil Keaggy, six-string, 12-string guitars, classical guitar (4); Joscho Stephan, gypsy guitar (2); Terry Hayes, classical guitar (1); Tomás Mach, violin (3); Trevor Gordon Hall, kalimbar (3); Brenda Craig Reinicke, flute (3, 12); Sascha Groschang (3, 4, 12, 14), Tom Shinness (5), Russick Smith (10), cello; Tom Roady, drums, percussion (5, 7, 10); Josef Pepson Snetivy, clarinet (5, 10); Evan Cobb, oboe (7, 11); Dan Adler, guitar (7); Alexander Jurman, bass guitar (10); Loreena Hoyt, oboe (10); Ales Pavlíček, drums (7); Jon Crabiell, percussion (7); Peter Puma Hedlund, nyckelharpa (12).

**Ordering info:** [harpguitarmusic.com](http://harpguitarmusic.com)

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