



Balkan Samba Records
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Art + Adrenaline

Balkan Samba Records 011

Howard Levy- piano, harmonica, dumbek
Chris Siebold- steel resonator guitar and vocals

This CD, recorded in Chicago in 2018, faithfully captures the musical synergy between Howard and Chris. It is a studio album (except for the last track), but has the energy of their live performances. The music covers the full range of styles that audiences have been hearing for their 15 years of duo performances. 8 of the tracks are composed by Howard, one by Chris, one is a collaboration, and they also perform a traditional Blues as well as a composition by J.S. Bach.

The opening track, **The Tristate Boogie**, is a driving blues written by Howard, with some unusual harmonies and rhythms. **Lips and Fingertips**, a piano/guitar duet with a distinct Brazilian flavor, is one of Howard's most complex and technically demanding compositions. **Riding the Urban Range** is a country/reggae tune with unusual chord changes that Howard wrote for an appearance on "A Prairie Home Companion". Chris composed the beautiful **Amor Afastado** (Love at a Distance) on one of their tours of Brazil. **The Streets of Paris** is an Irish-flavored tune that came to Howard as he was walking in Paris...

Quiet Thunder, a middle-eastern style tune in 5/4, features Howard's dumbek playing, something that he does in live shows. Chris sings on the famous old Blues tune, **Key to The Highway**, a melancholy Blues lament. Howard wrote the opening melodies of **Spanish Serenade** when he was 10 years old, and finished this composition almost 40 years later. It is a lilting Cuban habanera.

The Steroid Choro, a Brazilian- style composition by Howard, is an uptempo a tour de force for harmonica and Chris' incredible guitar accompaniment and soloing. Howard originally composed **Bossa in A** for an instructional harmonica DVD, and has been performing it live with Chris for many years. Howard's deep love for the music of J.S. Bach led to the last track on the CD, a live performance of Bach's **Siciliano in Gm** that includes improvisation, something that ties the world of Baroque music to Jazz.

