



Sanctuary

Donna De Lory

Nutone Music

Donna De Lory's latest release, Sanctuary, includes a track I feel is her best recording to date: "Om Namah Shivaya" is simply breathtaking. It is De Lory doing what she does best in a simple, straightforward structure. Using harmonium as a bed for her voice to sing through the clouds, the texture of her inflections is moistened by her soft ethereal incantation. With just so little needed, she allows her voice to embrace the sacred nature of her service and the results are mystical and transpersonal.

"Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu" is more of the standard De Lory material accompanied with percussion and light synthesizer keeping the flow sweet and the journey abundant. Many Yoga students will likely be familiar with this sacred mantra often used to open and close a class. "Bathe in These Waters" is another beautiful piece that recalls the Maha Devi Shambo mantra. The production is awesome with every breath and every vibration carefully mixed and blended into a waterfall of nectar. "Jai Ma" is more experimental with an effect-driven patch to give De Lory's voice a chance to slide into an auspicious groove trail. I like the mix but I tend to dig De Lory when she just sings her heart out softly and felicitously.

Throughout this album, De Lory's voice takes on a more risqué attitude that melts the heart with enough bhakti mystery to enlighten and quiet the mind in any setting. Her introspective and surreal musical vision is never more utopian than in the title track "Sanctuary" which De Lory sings with a Gospel-driven depth that steers the vibe into the thematic temple each piece is aligned with.

Sanctuary is DeLory at her best and I honor who she is in this community and in this world when she is aligned with the service she has been blessed to offer. This album is a musical tapestry hung from the clouds above. nutonemusic.com.

— Reviewed by Michael R. Mollura/La Yoga June 2009