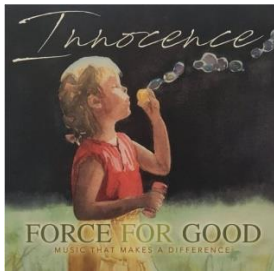


Force for Good

Innocence



This is the second album released by **Force for Good** who literally lives up to their names promoting positive music that uplifts the spirit and encourages us to share the vibes. **Innocence**, their latest release is linked to a series of songs/films that will be distributed like time release medicine. Just when you need it.

Force for Good is the award-winning duo of Jonathan Sprout and Joe Mennonna, but really this review is about the power of the music.

Sprout/Mennonna along with a behind-the-scenes team of talented professionals are dedicated to spreading a positive message in a world where negativity and defeat seem to prevail. It is difficult to break down the facade, but they are winning a little more every day. **Innocence** is fourteen tracks of contemporary music that you can play anytime for an uplifting respite.

Natural is a song dedicated to the elements of the real world, the organic world that you can taste, touch, smell, and see. No camera tricks here. Just an honest, sensual recognition of sky and water and earth and sun. This is a rather jaunty, feel-good tune with a bright piano motif and perfect for the opening credits of a happy life. The accompanying film debuts on April 1, 2021.

Inorganic choir and soft piano sing a song of respectful beauty in the tune **Reverence**. It is a homage to the forces you cannot see, but you can feel in the heart and soul. It gives melodic voice to the word faith. Violins à la pizzicato emphasize the sparkling miracle of life. Open arms, smiling faces, and the silent prayers that make a difference. Are all in here.

Wilderness is a favorite with its haunting flute and sumptuous piano mix as it conveys the feeling of cool, clean air, tall pine trees, and an earthy softness beneath your feet. When was the sky ever this blue? When did the sun feel so warm on your skin? There is something transcendental about being in the forest and in the mountains. The music transports you there proving there is magic in the world.

As I listened to the poignant tune **Hunger** a story that took place in 1961 unfolded in my mind. It reminded me of the tale of the little boy who went to his friend's house to play. As they were playing he saw a handful of coins on the table and put them in his pocket. He had nothing to eat at his house. Upon returning home and just as he gave the coins to his mother without explanation a knock at the door startled them. It was the other kid and his father demanding the money be returned. The boy's mother took the coins from her apron pocket and gave them back. That night they had no supper. Hunger can make you do strange and awful things but not because you want to.

Who would have thought that **Plastic** would be a major production piece. Rumbling piano opens the tune until a gentler guitar and a sensitive clarinet moderate the tune. One can only imagine countless tons of plastic bottles on a beach somewhere and the anguish of sea creatures as they suffer from its effects. Hope comes in the form of small changes. Reusable bottles,

thoughtful disposal of trash, recycling, and contributing to the cause are all small steps for the individual. This music reminds us the change is everything.

Homeless, the music and its related film (unveiled February 1, 20221) is moving and emotional. Not everyone on the street wants to live in a cardboard box. Misfortune, like an anchor weighs not only on the body, but also heavily on the spirit. Starting out with a brooding cello intro, the song takes us through a day or perhaps a lifetime of a homeless person and a Good Samaritan. The music balances the hopelessness and the fears of the homeless with the positiveness and ingenuity of the helpful. Beautiful orchestration and strains of optimism completes this vignette.

Three of the ending tracks are short and to the point as musical mnemonics, but really all fourteen tracks offer the same positive, uplifting message of awareness and with a reminder that we are all in this together. There are so many that need. And so many that care. Highly listenable. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews

The Reverence trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whnzJUICfOs>

The Natural Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bYcVJQEMKM> (Available 4/1/21)

Homeless song/film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Jnk_9APy-k&t=17s