

How do you turn a soaring bird into music?

How do you make a melody swell and ebb and flow like waves?



Such conundrums are integral to the music of guitarist Rick Cyge and flutist Lynn Trombetta as the duo Meadowlark. Being in tune with nature is no cliché for these two thought provoking instrumentalists. Rick's intricately orchestrated compositions evoke natural images for a reason as Meadowlark goes beyond the bustling modern world to seek out reflective and restorative experiences that can be shared through music. A hovering hawk takes shape through string tapping on Rick's prized Lowden and Larrivee guitars. Californian surf resonates in the warm and mellow tones of Lynn's soprano flute. Diverse influences from classical, folk, Celtic and contemporary jazz genres make each track of their albums distinctive. Studio contributions of world percussion, violin, and keyboard add to the rich arrangements. Since 1993, Meadowlark has created music that *is* as magical and enchanting as it is unsuited to any conventional definition. Cyge explains, "our music is a hybrid, deriving its unique personality from a plethora of sources."

It's the Meadowlark sound! We've been called 'New Age', 'Folk', 'Contemporary Acoustic', 'Celtic' (heavy Celtic influences do weave throughout our music), but really we are all and none of those. I've coined a phrase (Or at least am under the misguided notion that I have!) called 'New World Music'. It's sort of a double entendre if you will. On the one hand it *is* world music, but not the traditional ethnic music we've come to mean when we say 'world music'. It's original, drawing influences from different cultures, hence 'New World Music'. On the other hand, it is truly contemporary American music written here and now (music of the New World)."

The Meadowlark discography includes eight CDs of largely original material that have garnered reviews in international magazines and received international airplay. Two releases, "**Legend of the Land**" and "**Free Fall**" have charted in the Top 100 Radio Play List by New Age Voice. Their "**Fire on the Mountain**" CD, a benefit project generously underwritten by S.R.P. (Salt River Project) was released to raise funds for "Trees for the Rim", a reforestation project for areas damaged in the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire. Cyge's original compositions, performed by Meadowlark, have been used as soundtracks for films including Audubon Arizona's fundraising presentation to build an Audubon Nature Center in the Salt River Preserve. Collaborative works include compositions that have been choreographed for dance troupes, most notably Arizona's "Desert Dance Theatre", **Aesthetic Radix** performance at the Mesa Arts Center in 2007.

Meadowlark has shared public performances with some of the most notable New Age musicians, opening for both Acoustic Alchemy and David Lanz at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, and performances with Pianist Robin Spielberg and Eric Tingstad in out of state venues. The group has performed in concerts and festivals from Tucson to Seattle and is well known locally for their popular performances at the Desert Botanical Garden, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Tohono Chul, Kerr Cultural Center, Cave Creek Coffee House, El Pedregal, Talaquepaque, the Carefree Art Et Wine Festival, and events for The American Ireland Fund. As Meadowlark has evolved from its inception as a collaborative duo between Cyge and Trombetta, it has escaped all categorization and together they have created a signature sound all their own. It's no surprise to learn that Meadowlark's influences include some of the most talented writers and arrangers in contemporary music, including Nightnoise, Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel, Montreux, James Taylor and Algerian-born French guitarist Pierre Bensusan. "Listening to Pierre and what he got out of that guitar in open tuning opened up a new world for me," Rick says, "and I've not been the same since."

Listen to the music of Meadowlark and you'll know the feeling!