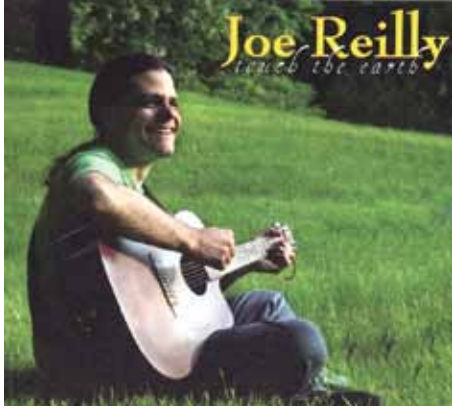


# Music Reviews

By Sarah Newland

## Touch the Earth cd

by Joe Reilly



Ann Arborite Joe Reilly came out with my favorite new cd this fall, titled Touch the Earth. A follow-up to his children's cd, Children of the Earth, this new music is equally forthright, joyful,

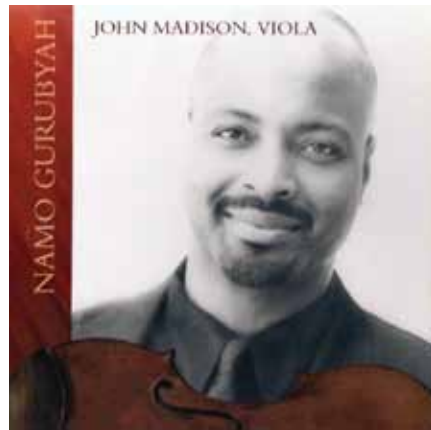
and happy in Joe Reilly's sweet, genuine way. Not pretending to be anything he isn't and entirely unpretentious, Touch the Earth is stylistically varied with Joe's authentic voice tying it all together. From folk to mild hip-hop to slightly bluegrass with other wonderful instrumentation and vocals from guest artists, Reilly uses his guitar and lyrics to create connection and awareness among people and of the earth. His mission seems to be to open your heart, to open your mind to the beauty of this planet, to open your consciousness to a *greater* consciousness. He writes, "My highest hope is that the music I create will somehow help other people on their path and that it will have some meaning in their lives. I also hope to inspire joy in other people." For me, it seems I don't listen to much music these days as it often inspires melancholy and an unwelcome mood shift. I now drive and work mostly in silence. But I readily admit that the day I first played Reilly's demo, I let it repeat all morning and happily allowed its brightness, its silliness, its wisdom, its prayer to lift me, to lighten me. Inspired by his Catholic musical family as well as by other Buddhist teachers and communities, including Thich Nhat Hanh, Joe Reilly sings his path, his journey, and his spiritual inspiration. He honors our interconnection and a deep rever-

ence for Mother Earth. As Geri Larkin, author of *Plant Seed, Pull Weed*, writes, "...a Jack Johnson bodhisattva offering up the kind of energy that can carry the rest of us back into the land of happy calm." *The Ann Arbor Observer* says, "Music with wisdom." I think this is only the beginning for musician and singer Joe Reilly. And I'm so happy to look forward for more. Shelved with World music. \$16.00

## Namo Gurubayah cd

by John Madison

Another extremely talented local musician has recently recorded a new cd titled Namu Gurubayah. This is a lovely, soothing classical cd from viola master John Madison. A longtime member of Jewel Heart Tibetan Buddhist Center, Madison has dedicated this cd to Gelek Rimpoche and intends to help support Jewel Heart Tibetan Learning Center with all of its proceeds. Beginning in fifth grade with violin, Madison



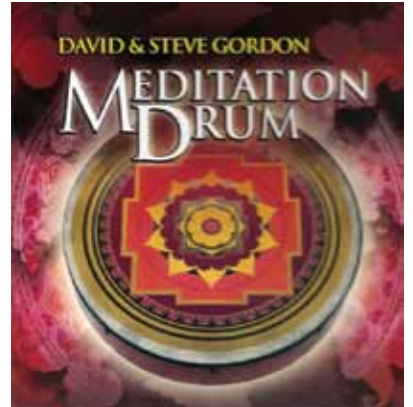
is now principal violist of the Michigan Opera Theater and extra player with the Detroit Symphony. He is also Dean of the Sphinx Preparatory Music Institute hosted by Wayne State University, a Saturday music program for children ages 11-18. His inspiration includes the wonderful singers Anita Baker, Leontyne Price, and Rene Flemming, and his favorite composers include Bach and Brahms. Namu Gurubayah honors this with two beautiful Bach pieces, plus varied pieces by Mascagni, Faure, and Handel. My favorite, though, is the 16th century German "Lo How a Rose E're Blooming". The staff at

Crazy Wisdom plays this cd often in the store because of the relaxing, quiet ambience it creates. It's also perfect for your mellow Sunday morning tea and newspaper ritual. Shelved with Meditation music. \$15.00

## Meditation Drum cd

by David and Steve Gordon

The award-winning Gordon Brothers return with a new and unique cd inspiring the trance state possible with softer, rhythmic drumming. Unusual in that most drumming music is typically driven and strong, Meditation Drum is a musical journey of gentler melodies



underlined with soft drumming and relaxing percussion instrumentation. This one-of-a-kind ambient drum music blends tribal drums, crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, and Native American flute to create a soothing, meditative environment for your contemplative or yogic practice. Winner of the 2008 COVR Record of the Year and Best World Album with their Earth Drum cd, the Gordons are seasoned world musicians within the holistic arena with over 27 years experience in shamanic drumming and meditative music. One of my favorites from the Gordons is Sound Peace cd, which also encourages and inspires a nurturing atmosphere of relaxation. Meditation Drum is destined to become another bestseller as David and Steve Gordon continue to explore and contribute to environments conducive to meditation and introspection, creating more inner peace as well as outer calm on the planet. Shelved with Drumming music. \$15.98

# Ann Arbor Holistic Resource Guide

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The Ann Arbor Holistic Resource Guide was created by Crazy Wisdom to provide information about the terrific array of Practitioners and Teachers in the fields of Integrative and Alternative Medicine, Holistic Health, Spiritual and Psychological Growth and more... practicing in and around the Ann Arbor area.



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