

heart and also make you laugh will have you wanting to listen over and over again.

These recordings of Yogananda are priceless and precious. The Fellowship has worked hard to preserve and pass on these great teachings. I for one give gratitude to them for making it possible to share the words and wisdom of this gentle, loving embodiment of God.

— Cherie Lassiter



Bamboo Blue

by Chasm

www.sticks-stones.net

Bamboo Blue is loaded with catchy melodies, jazzy and latin grooves, world music instrumentation and a feeling of vacationing in the tropics.

Just before I first heard this album by Chasm, I was listening to Internet radio stations, music that I'd roughly describe as jazzy, secret agent, Pink Panther, 007ish lounge music. This helped prepare me for *Bamboo Blue*. "Patomus Walk" brings to mind Henry Mancini. "Orangutan Tango" has some of the bassline of "Theme From Peter Gunn." Flutist Herbie Mann, one of my favorite musicians, who may have invented new age jazz, clearly comes forth in many of the tracks (and is actually given as an influence for the music).

I like the whole of the album better than the parts. If you prefer only music with intense dramatic flair, vocals or a more "alternative" feel, this album will not be for you. There are no vocals, except for the last track, which is my favorite, "A Balance of Extremes," in which Mark Esakoff, primary composer of the album, reminds me of Peter Gabriel. Although the mood of the music is consistent throughout *Bamboo Blue*, the melodies and rhythms vary from track to track. "Andy Goes To Havana" starts out Cuban Latin but then feels less identified and more improvisational as it drifts in and out of outstanding jazz riffs. The sound fuses jazz, folk, latin and world music. The hint at rockin' out is short lived, as music stays soft and breezy. You might want to keep some bubble gum handy.

Bamboo Blue is definitely "feel-good" music, as commonly found in music classified as new age. You can dance to it and feel like you are at a party in a Peter Sellers movie or driving through the countryside without a care in the world. It is not hard to appreciate this very well-played music — various guitars, ukulele, marimba, flutes, recorder, keyboards, bass djembe, danmo, angklung and percussion. If you are looking for something a bit different, mellow, tropical in feel, not trippy or introspective, here you have Chasm's own well-crafted sound. The more I listen, the more I find myself tapping my toes. Check out samples of the tracks at the website.

— Ron Rudin