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Skyscraper Price: \$0.69

Availability: Available for download now

**** Stunning!, August 24, 2011

This review is from: Skyscraper (MP3 Download)

I'm an out-of-touch old fogey who never heard of Demi Lovato till she sang this song on "America's Got Talent", but as soon as I heard it I had to have it. She packs an amazing amount of power into this song, and the words mean something bigger than average, but the voice overflows the words with still more meaning than that. She pulls the listener through a whole range of emotion from almost total defeat to unstoppable victory. The song fills the heart with courage, and we all need that sometimes. She manages to pack both vulnerability and strength into a single voice, she has a good range in both emotion and pitch, and she slams the high notes like a nuclear rocket. Recommended.

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Pop Suey - Chinese Music Treats

Availability: Available for download now

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:

misappointed, July 26, 2011

Amazon Verified Purchase (What's this?)

This review is from: Pop Suey - Chinese Music Treats (MP3 Download)

I felt rather disappointed. Sure, I expected something modern, pop, but I expected it to have more of a Chinese flavor than it did. (Maybe Bollywood spoiled me--I love it when people can rock out in their own distinctive style.) What I got instead was the more bland and saccharine sort of Western Pop, sung in Chinese. Whatever distinctive local character it might have had got buried pretty deeply. If you like bubble-gum rock, you'll love this, and the language difference won't matter, because such songs never have much to say anyway. But if you want some experience beyond the everyday borders, this is not it.

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8/26/2011 6:43 PM 1 of 4



Galbraith: Other Sun

Price: \$8.99

Availability: Available for download now

***** Almost irritatingly exuberant, but never boring!, May 8, 2011

Amazon Verified Purchase (What's this?)

This review is from: Galbraith: Other Sun (MP3 Download)

This album is not for the faint of heart, but the adventurous will absolutely wallow in it! Honestly, I don't like most post-modern classical composers, as they seem to think that breaking rules is the only thing that matters, and as a result produce cold, disengaging work. But I found not the faintest shiver of coldness in this work.

Nancy Galbraith's compositions effervesce with passion, and never lose their deep, strong connection with the human (or nonhuman) heart. I get the impression that she doesn't set out deliberately to break rules for their own sake, but merely ignores any that get in the way of her pouring out her joie de vivre. She combines unlikely instruments, showing a particular delight in woodwinds and wooden percussion. Similarly she changes rhythms, keys, and styles with reckless abandon.

Not even the post-modern label can confine her, as much of her work has a distinctive folk feel. And I suspect that I can hear an influence by lan Anderson and other rock musicians in the mix, too. Basically, I don't think Nancy Galbraith would hesitate to sit and learn at the feet of any master, even if he looks like a beggar singing for his supper. Nothing seems to matter to her as much as liberating the music inside her.

Sometimes her experiments do verge on irritating, like a highly talented child tugging on your sleeve till you finally give your attention to her weird but unforgettable and wholly original dance--all over the furniture! I wouldn't recommend this album to nervous temperaments or those who find comfort in conventionality, but for people seeking creative stimuli it's perfect. I have added it to my writing playlist and recommend it for artists, writers, dancers, and anyone else who could use Ms. Galbraith's particular spark to jumpstart their own creative process.

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Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows - Part 1: Original Motion

Picture Soundtrack

Price: \$8.79

Availability: Available for download now

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:

Masterfully Done!, January 3, 2011

This review is from: Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows - Part 1: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack (MP3 Download)

This work really impressed me, and I will watch for Alexander Desplat's work now in the future. If you listen carefully, you will notice that each song has some form of shivery background--subtle, not overdone--that captures a sense of chronic fear and exhaustion throughout, making the bolder parts of the music sound all the braver for it. Also, the progressions that approximate a human sigh, repeated at key emotional points throughout, really tug at the heartstrings! Some composers best capture the action scenes while others excell at quieter moments, but this one works marvelously with both!

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