

Mp3 S. J. Tucker - Blessings

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A spiritually-focused album, this is a sweet thank-you from the artist to her neotribal and pagan audience, including everything from vocals-only invocations to a full-on celebratory dance track. 10 MP3 Songs

WORLD: Celtic, WORLD: World Beat Details: Divinity often speaks loudest when unconfined by human dogma. Even so, music captures spiritual feelings better than almost any other medium. When an artist moves beyond pious clichés, the results can be dazzling which Blessings often is. Tucker's music has always had a Pagan lilt, and Blessings brings that element to the forefront. Inspired by people and events in her spiritual life, this album is a love note to modern Paganism. Several songs especially Come to the Labyrinth, Handfast Blessing, For Love of All Who Gather (both versions) and Witch's Rune work best in ritual context. Several songs, in fact, were composed for rituals in which Tucker took part, and these songs Come to the Labyrinth, Witch's Rune, For Love of All Who Gather/ Spirit Call, Handfast Blessing and In the Name of the Dance are the album's strongest cuts. Tucker handles most of the instrumentation herself, with occasional backing vocals from special guests. Keyboardist Ginger Doss and djembe player Winterhawk spice up the proceedings, but the arrangements on Blessings are simple and spare. The exception, In the Name of the Dance, is a full-blast crowd-pleaser. Most of the songs are hair-raisingly good. Hymn to Herne may be the sexiest Horned God evocation on record, while Come to the Labyrinth deserves to become the official song of Samhain. The reprise outro of For Love of All Who Gather features an exquisite guitar passage, while In the Name of the Dance is one of the best songs I've heard anywhere all year. Whatever her spiritual intentions, Tucker is a formidable songstress. Whether you're Pagan or not, Blessings is well worth owning. --Phil Brucato New Witch Magazine People who are interested in Jeff Buckley Patty Larkin Wendy Rule should consider this download.

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