# CROSSING OVER Chris Snidow

1992



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Reviews...

Heartsong Review

## Resource Guide for New Age Music of the Spirit # 12 Spring/Summer '92

# CHRIS SNIDOW

Zealously conceived and performed, these excellent compositions and driving energetic performances are luminous with virile energy and true beauty. Rock is a definite influence here, with excellent synth effects and hot electric guitar. Two vocal cuts, *Keeper of the Flame* and *Crossing Over* have fine spiritual lyrics. 'Strong medieval imagery succeeds in the former; *Protector of Vulcan's Fire/The keeper of the holy Flame/Son of a wizard, knight of the Order/Guardian of the Queen's Desire.*' The title cut is a sumptuous visionary male/female duet with rich piano, rolling deep-throated keyboard, light crystalline effects; *'We see through the veil of our own foolish blindness/To the truth on the other side.' The Ever Present Meandering Future zings* with synth energy and world fusion style. *Time Heals Slowly* is pensive with cosmic winds, birdsong, tingling chimes; haunting and healing the aching soul. A mood of delectable celebration infuses *Yvan* with irresistible, flowing, subtle and seductive beauty. Searing electric guitar segments strive through the powerfully escalating *Yenni Yang* to a victorious lush finish.

Creative, inspired, this is a highly listenable album with no weak cuts and consistently crisp, vital performances exuding energy that is enticing, beckoning back for more and more listenings. Outstanding rapport with the synth and knowledge of how to milk it for richness of sound that remains always musical and balanced. Absolutely wonderful for driving, waking up, partying, playing. Review by Acacia '92,

Tech Notes: Excellent instruments and good vocals by ERIC TAGG. Prof pkg. Synth, pianos, acoustic and electric guitars, electronic drums, percussion, noise makers. CASS. 45 mins. 1991

Other Titles: Veil of Glass, Special Frog, The Other Side.

## **AFTERTOUCH** ELECTRONIC MUSIC DISCOVERIES Volume 4, May 1992

Chris Snidow CROSSING OVER (Cassette only available)

Chris Snidow was born in 1948 in Virginia although he was raised in Texas. He lived in California for a while and spent a year in Europe. During the late 1960's and the '70s, Chris performed with several established rock, blues, and jazz artists, primarily as drummer and lead guitarist, in the USA as well as in Europe. Since 1979, Snidow's work has been focused on exploring mood and composition, as interpreted through electric keyboards and synthesizers. Chris now lives in Dallas, focuses on composition, and sporadically performs live.

I sit here at my computer screen, trying to find the words to do justice to this LP. I find myself lost simply because I don't want to say something which will turn you off. I've been told that sometimes people think what I write is just a bunch of hype and the LPs can't be as good as I say they are, but generally I hear from these individuals again at some time in the future and they admit that I was right on track. This is one of those LPs. I just can't say enough about it, so I won't. I will tell you though that I love it, and I leave the rest up to you. Oh yea, if you do bite, just be prepared for several varied styles. Chris's music doesn't fit any one particular mold, other than great.

Instrumentation: Roland D-50, RD 300S, Ensoniq ESQ-1, Ensoniq Mirage, Alesis Hr-16, Midiverb, Takamine acoustic guitar, Electra Westfare guitar. Vocals: Eric Tagg.

CROSSING OVER is death to life, life to death. A spiritual awakening. Musically it is a crossing over or merging of different styles.

VEIL OF GLASS -Transparent yet untouchable beauty.

SPECIAL FROG – composed in Jerusalem for a very special person of the French persuasion. The song comes complete with the tongue-in-cheek prejudicial title. THE EVER PRESENT MEANDERING FUTURE – A slow, powerful piece and just when you think you're there it all kind of 'meanders'---a time warp.

KEEPER OF THE FLAME – The age old battle between good and evil. A trip to the past.

YENNI YANG – The contrasts of Yen and Yang, or if you knew her, Yenni Yang. CROSSING OVER – A description of the spiritual search toward the light.

TIME HEALS SLOWLY – A reflection of the belief that time heals all, but slowly. YVAN – Dedicated to a good friend who 'crossed over' a few years back.

THE OTHER SIDE – This one is up to you. Which or what other side do you prefer?

AFTERTOUCH, Ron Wallace



Issue No. 14 - Spring 1993

#### CHRIS SNIDOW Crossing Over

On Chris Snidow's second release "Leprechaun Hill" (reviewed in DW #9), he showed great talent and musical sensibilities. His music allowed the listener to be transported to the land of the little people. On "Crossing Over", Chris manages to make an even better tape with a more varied sound. Whereas "Leprechaun Hill" was all synths, "Crossing Over" also includes some piano, guitars, drums and percussion. He puts these instruments to good use, as most of the tape has an up-tempo, sometimes rock feel.

The use of the guitar stands out as the best addition to Chris' sounds, as the tracks *Yenni Yang* and *Yvan* prove. For a more mellow approach, try the tracks *Time Heals Slowly* and *The Ever Present Meandering Future*. And for a final surprise, check out two, with vocals by Eric Tagg, mix very well within the otherwise instrumental landscape.

This tape should get Chris some much deserved attention and acclaim. One can hardly wait to hear what he'll put out next. But let it be assured that the wait will be with great anticipation.



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Rediscovering Wisdom, Peace and Joy Volume 9, # 1

> CHRIS SNIDOW Crossing Over

On his latest album, Crossing Over, Chris does everything, except sing. He writes, arranges, and plays every instrument! The music is quiet and mellow with lingering melodies which lead one to reflect-I enjoyed it. The various tracks are all good-special mention to *The Other Side* and *Yenni Yang*.

Although the album is mostly instrumental, the two tracks with vocals have indepth lyrics, written and performed by Eric Tagg. The sound effects are wonderful on *Time Heals Slowly*, and *Keeper of the Flame*. Ms. Desmond Clark

Friend's Review

#### A GUIDE TO ANCIENT AND MODERN METAPHYSICAL Vol. 4 Issue 3 FALL 1992

#### **Crossing Over**

Chris Snidow

<u>Crossing Over</u>, by Chris Snidow is not exactly what I would call 'new age' music although some of the well performed keyboard work hints at this genre. This album is wonderfully different and beautifully reconciles the worlds of rock and new-age music.

The first cut, *Veil of Glass*, has wonderful rhythms and movie theme melodies that intertwine in a highly energetic collage of very visual tones. *Special Frog* again has a nice rhythmic fella and polished guitar work. Sweet strings drift along in the background giving the song fullness. *Yenni Yang* brings in a rock and roll style distorted lead guitar mingled in a bizarre fashion with a solo violin – unique and enjoyable. The title cut, *Crossing Over* has some passionate vocal work composed and performed by Eric Tagg. The well written layers of music backing Eric up has a beautiful pensive quality about it, revealing the dramatic side of Chris' writing style.

All in all, a very nice and at times a very dramatic offering. The keyboard work throughout the album is along the 'new age' or 'adult contemporary' vein, while a lot of the drum work and guitar tracks move along the rock or popular music genres. This combination makes for some rather interesting passages and fresh ideas. If you're looking for something different and upbeat, I recommend <u>Crossing Over</u>. Well written and produced with professional packaging. All songs were composed, arranged, produced and performed by Chris Snidow using an extensive array of keyboards, guitars and percussion instruments. Pam Copus

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PROMOTING POSITIVE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

# NAPRA TRADE JOURNAL PROMOTING POSITIVE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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#### CROSSING OVER by Chris Snidow

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Snidow's music is a dynamic balance of electronic, rock, and space music, with full blooded themes and sonic variety. (Reminds me of Chris Speeris's music). The cover art is fine for something more angelic, but this album has too much vitality to be held to the artwork. (In other words, play the album in your store.) Carol Wright

> Michael Murphy author of The Future of the Body

"Evolution, the choice is ours."