

Joseph Brenna

By **Eric Melvin**



There are many musicians out there who play benefit concerts and donate money to charitable causes. However, Boulder acoustic guitarist Joseph Brenna does it from special places in his life and memory, striving to be a spiritually and physically healthy person from and through his music. His new CD, *Inventing Time* is a nice testament to many things including his surviving everything from lost loved ones, cancer and the lack of creative inspiration. Brenna donates 10% of his net proceeds from *Inventing Time* to the Surmang Foundation. This charity seeks to advance the revitalization of the ethnic Tibetan people of China assisting with the development of health services and education to protect and restore the environment and increase sustainable economic development.

This album has no drumbeats, overdubs and fancy electronic devices yet is clear, smooth and distinct. It is truly a piece of sweet emotional musicianship that you can feel and experience to it's fullest without lyrics. The songs are made from sentiment, deep emotion and real life situations that Brenna translated into smooth and skillful guitar expression. I knew that he had written these songs from personal sentiments yet I did not fully appreciate the whole spectrum of Brenna's work and inspiration for music until I went back into the album notes. *Inventing Time* has 16 tracks that propel you through many different emotions and states of consciousness unlike some acoustic CDs that sound similar from beginning to end.

Inventing Time offers short, catchy and normal length songs to the mix. Track number 12, "Four Movements of the Tiger" is only one minute and six seconds but seems to capture you in that short time. The longest track on the CD is number 14, "Dondiego's Rose" at three minutes and fifty seconds. "Take It All" is an ode to the time in Brenna's life while he was going through the pain and loss of his father, a bout with cancer and after his band broke up. Track number 6 "The Ballad of Toothpick Rago" is a tribute to a childhood toy Brenna named the song after. "Travelin" was named from a quest Brenna was on while trying to attach a name with the already created melody. The song reminded listeners of situations of driving, walking and moving. An audience member in Virginia gave the name and it stuck.

All things considered *Inventing Time* is a pleasant piece of acoustic guitar magic and is very easy to listen to. Brenna strives for listeners to find a sense of delight, inspiration, humor, calm and healing with the album. For more information visit www.josephbrenna.com.

