

Christopher Hedge Website:

www.christopherhedge.com

BIO:

Chris Hedge has spent a lifetime immersed in music, gleaning from every source around the globe the elements that together constitute World Music. Through his recording of such luminaries as Chico Freeman and David Grisman, to his collaborations with Congolese master drummer Titos Sompa, legendary flutists Paul Horn and R. Carlos Nakai, the Kronos String Quartet, rocker Neil Young and sessions with numerous unsung virtuosos, Chris Hedge has found his musical expression grow in breadth and depth, incorporating musical forms from North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia as effortlessly as he switches from piano to kalimba.

Some of his music may be drawn from the environment (music is always in the air, if you're listening for it). Take, for example, the percussive sound of a motorbike passing by on a dirt road in Nepal, or the sounds of birds singing along with the children in an open-air classroom on Beqa Island near Fiji. He characterizes these natural sounds as audio photographs, not "sound effects" or "samples;" as they are a part of the moment and the place that together create the music.

Hedge's compositional career began modestly enough with soundtracks for the San Francisco State University Planetarium three decades ago. Since then he has composed more than 1,000 works, numerous albums and soundtracks. His first album with Paul Horn was nominated for a Grammy. He has performed all over the world, from an opera house in Italy, to a performance for the birthday celebration for the King in Bhutan.

He created a multi-national performance for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. Gathering musicians from all around the world, he asked them to record with a simple template of tempo's and keys. Their music and video was collected through the web and combined, live, each night of the games into a true global composition.

From a musical family, Hedge's formative years saw experimentation with many instruments. While adept at the piano, guitar and kalimba, his most expressive instrument is the recording studio itself. As his long-time collaborator, Paul Horn, put it, "Master your instrument and then you are free." Hedge has mastered the art of production, making the artifice invisible, letting the music step onto the forestage and speak for itself.

The Magic Shop, which he founded in 1984, is where he lets his creative juices ferment, taking all of his recordings from around the world, adding new music and seamlessly melding them into a coherent whole. If you could liken an album to the aural equivalent of a motion picture, Hedge is the ultimate "indie" artist: producer, director and editor, as well as one of the character actors in the background.

I've had the privilege of watching Hedge's art evolve through a long career of solitary composition and collaborations. The New Heroes is his masterwork, the work of a mature and accomplished artist at the top of his form.

Scott Clemens
Editor - Epicurean Magazine

Awards for Christopher Hedge:

2010 Emmy Awards - Original Composition/Arrangement - "Bhutan-Taking the Middle Path"

2010 Emmy Awards - Historic/Cultural Program - Feature/Segment

1988 Grammy Awards - Recognition for co-composition for "Traveler" Paul Horn - Nominated best New Age Album.

Comments on recordings by Christopher Hedge:

"Movie soundtrack don't normally stand the test of time as unique pieces of music, but I think Christopher Hedge's composition will be an exception to that rule..." http://blogs.epicindia.com/leapinthedark/2008/08/music_review_christopher_hedge.html

"Combined with original music from percussionists, violinists, and others from across the globe, the total effect is emotionally stunning..." Molly Marsh
<http://www.christopherhedge.com/SojournersReview.htm>

NPR and PBS interviews and links:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4730112>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93872677>

Video Demonstration:

<http://www.christopherhedge.com/CHIntroVideo.htm>

PR sites:

The New Heroes:

http://www.rockpaperscissors.biz/index.cfm/fuseaction/current.press_release/project_id/216.cfm

Andrew Jackson - The Atrocious Saint:

http://www.rockpaperscissors.biz/index.cfm/fuseaction/current.press_release/project_id/364.cfm