

Ganser & Hanke 770-408-2; Germany; 65 / 70 min

Sidewalk Café / Cape Ladiko / Zeitreise / Oslo Fjorden / Time To Remember / Mother & Son / Morning Breeze / Straight Ahead / Windmills / I Will Never Forget / Waiting / Magic Carpet / La Valetta / Mercy & Truth / In Balance / Dangerous Steps // Indigo / African Kalimba / Taurus / Perpetuum Mobile / Amazonas / Take Off / The Window / Water Garden / Dresden / Fantasia / Journey To The Windward Islands / You And Me / Saudade / Funky Line / Hallelujah / Voice Of Autumn

Dieter Geike has been recording and releasing guitar instrumentals ever since he broke through with Indigo by jazz-rock band Blonker in 1978. When the band folded the following year he kept the name and this double CD set traces his career through the 25 years and 11 albums that ensued. The tracks are not in chronological order but programmed for best listening. And what a great listening experience it is. He is a skilful, fluent player who favours a clean tone with sustain and a

natural, smooth echo, expressing himself stylishly and with great feeling. The end result is a classy electric guitar collection which is too straight to be jazz, too intense to be MOR, intricate and clever indeed, but not at the expense of the music.

And, talking of the music, here's the amazing thing, every single number is a Dieter Geike composition. They are well arranged and hold your interest without being in your face. They could perform as background music but are more than

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likely to demand your attention and then take you drifting away in a haze of relaxation. In support he has guitars, bass, synths and drums, and most tracks clock in around the 3½ minute mark so they don't overstay their welcome.

In creaming off the best tracks from so many albums the end result is a very strong collection.

Zeitreise is a delightful and rewarding set with a consistently high standard throughout. It's certainly the place for novices to start their Blonker experience, and it's the one Blonker album you must own. And yes, it is the very same Indigo as covered by both The Shadows and The Spotnicks.

(www.blonker.de)

Alan Taylor