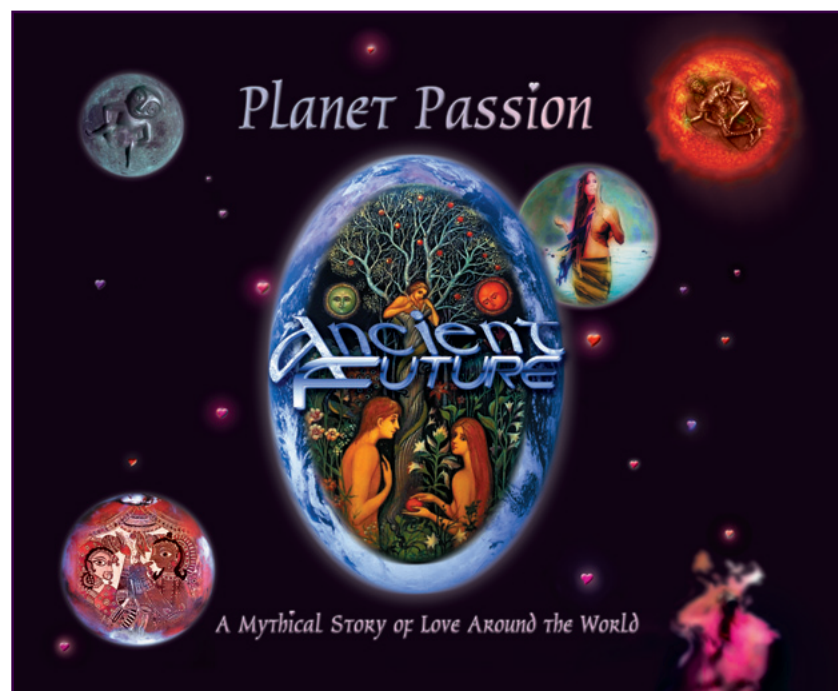


Planet Passion by Ancient Future (30th Anniversary Re-Issue)

Ancient-Future.Com AF-2010. 4 panel Digipak CD with 6 page booklet \$17.98 list. File under: World Music, World Fusion, World Music Collection. CD Re-Issue Date: February 10, 2009.



The Chapters

Flirtation

1. Simsimay Panima (6:05)
2. Forest Frolic (4:29)

Courtship

3. I Mett Her in the Medowe, a (1:19)
4. I Mett Her in the Medowe, b (4:12)
5. Ocean of Love (5:26)

Sacred Eros

6. Ochun (3:32)
7. Semara (4:27)

The Wedding

8. Alap (1:48)
9. El Zaffa (4:26)

Seduction

10. Ne Po Pogrebu Bochochek (5:07)

Longing for the Beloved

11. Socha Socha, a (2:00)
12. Socha Socha, b (8:34)

Total running length: 51:25

Re-issued to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first Ancient Future concert (Feb. 11, 1979,), the seventh Ancient Future recording, "Planet Passion," features 19 top masters of world music traditions performing music about flirtation, courtship, gods of love, betrothal, seduction, and longing for the beloved. Ancient Future is a large musical family including Matthew Montfort (producer, bandleader, scalloped fretboard guitar, electric guitar, flamenco guitar, bass, gangsa), Irina Mikhailova (Eastern European vocals), Emam (North Indian tabla), Moses Sedler (cello), Liu Qi-Chao (Chinese flute), Antoine Lammam (Arabic tabla), Ian Herman (South African drum set), Ustad Habib Khan (North Indian sitar), Georges Lammam (Arabic violin), Patti Weiss (violin), Manose Singh (Nepalese flutes), C.K. Ladzekpo (West African drums), Pedro de Jesus (Afro-Cuban drums, chant), Doug McKeehan (keyboards), Mindia Devi (bansuri), Benjy Wertheimer (North Indian tabla, esraj), Ian Dogole (world percussion), Hadley Loudon (bass marimba), and Jim Hurley (violin). From this palette of musicians, "Planet Passion" features a different band on each track, one of which even includes Ancient Future's original line-up.

BILLBOARD calls the group "trendsetters" for contributing to the emerging genre known as "world fusion music," a term Ancient Future coined at its inception in 1978 for music that blends musical ideas from many different cultures.¹ Ancient Future is the world's first and longest running band dedicated exclusively to the creation of world fusion music. Their music is an exhilarating fusion of exciting rhythms and sounds from around the globe that combines contemporary jazz and rock with the irresistible rhythms of African, Balinese, Indian, Middle Eastern and South American percussion, the rich harmonies of Europe, and the beautiful melodies of Asia. Over the years, the American members of Ancient Future have looked beyond their roots for inspiration by studying with the master musicians of many world music traditions, from Balinese gamelan director Madé Gerindem to North Indian sarod master Ali Akbar Khan. They use their knowledge of world music to create something new and uniquely their own that is respected by pundits from the cultures whose traditions are a part of the mix. According to INDIA CURRENTS, Ancient Future "plays with technical brilliance and gypsy-like fire," and their music "demonstrates the continuing beneficial influence of Indian music upon world culture." Ancient Future has expanded its musical vision through collaborations with traditional musicians from around the world who are now an integral part of what is today more than just a band. Ancient Future has grown to become a large chamber ensemble of world music masters with many smaller ensembles within it, enabling Ancient Future to realize its core mission of creating world fusion music. Through cross cultural exchange, Ancient Future has created a musical world without borders.



¹Stephen Hill, *Guide to C.T.I.S. Music*, (San Francisco: Hearts of Space Press, 1981), 36.

Promotional Overview

- Free in-store play CD demos and posters.
- Listening station programming.
- Radio airplay (Over 585 CMJ, NPR, PRI and NAV reporting programs).
- International and regional reviews (see below). National ads (Rhythm Music, Mother Jones).
- Major Internet presence: Google lists over 100,000 music pages on Ancient Future
- Nine #1 most downloaded songs (source: mp3.com).
- In-store appearances.
- Performing 35 concerts per year average since 1979. Booking: 888-823-8887.
- Retail and media promotion.
- Includes world mythology booklet.



11 x 17 color poster

Reviews: Retail

“Ancient Future is a Bay Area based group and is one of the originators of the influential music genre called ‘world fusion.’ The term was coined in 1978 to describe the exciting new music the band was then creating. Developing through various incarnations over the years, Ancient Future has now produced what might be their best work yet. The theme of ‘Planet Passion’ is love, from initial flirtation, to courtship, to union and longing again for the beloved. Matthew Montfort, the band’s leader and guitarist extraordinaire, put together this winning ensemble and did the artful arrangements. While there are many beautifully performed ethnic instrumentations and voices, from Nepalese to Balinese to Russian, the overall sound is distinctive, inventive and, appropriate enough, seductive. ‘Planet Passion’ is a perfect CD for being marooned for a long time with someone you really, really like.” – Lee Starkey, EAST WEST MAGAZINE, East West Bookshop

Radio

Best of Echoes Listener Poll Winner. #1 Echoes TOP 20, #1 MP3.com World, #19 NAV charts.

“Ancient Future weren’t the first to merge music from around the world, but they were the ones who coined the term world fusion. They’ve been living that vision for a quarter of a century. Now, after a nine-year silence, they’ve released another powerful reminder of that dream. India has always been at the heart of Ancient Future’s world fusion. Founder and only remaining original member Matthew Montfort plays a special, scalloped fretboard acoustic instrument that lets him get the bends of an Indian sitar. He uses it to weave seductive melodies, and his exchanges with Indian sitarist Habib Khan on “Socha, Socha” are exhilarating. Singer Irina Mikhailova, from Medicine Drum and Lumin is the first vocalist in Ancient Future. Singing in vocalese and her native Kazakh tongue, she is intoxicating. From the gamelan cycles of “Semara” to the exuberance of “Forest Frolic,” Ancient Future is the sound of the global bazaar in ecstasy.” –John Diliberto (host of Echoes, syndicated on 175 stations), AMAZON.COM

Print

“Shamelessly beautiful, ‘Planet Passion’ is easily the pinnacle of this group’s long career.” – Bob Tarte, THE BEAT

“From romantic sitar on ‘Socha Socha’ to light, delicate vocals on ‘Ocean of Love,’ and ranging across multiple continents for musical origins, Ancient Future’s Planet Passion album offers a lot to be enthusiastic about. The band is the longest-performing world fusion group, having formed in 1978, yet they retain their inventiveness in developing new sound and style melds. ‘I Mett Her in the Medowe’ [is] a mysterious Scottish mandora melody from 1615 with the ornaments and note bends of the scalloped fretboard guitar, an instrument combining aspects of the South Indian vina with the steel string guitar. Again, it’s an elegant success. ‘Ne Po Pogrebu Bochonocheck’ is about a young couple’s first night together. It features vocals by artist Irina Mikhailova, which combine effectively, if almost eerily, with the band’s Eastern sound. Meanwhile, ‘El Zaffa’ brings in the Arabic influence of a lively wedding march, and becomes another of Ancient Future’s excellent adaptations. ‘Forest Frolic’ is a playful, spritely conjunction of bamboo flute work by two Asian flute virtuosos. Chinese multi-instrumentalist Liu Qi-Chao and Nepali bansuri master Manose Singh join efforts, and the result is truly splendid — joyous and lilting. What a welcome return for Ancient Future. Devotees of the best in world fusion will surely wish to add ‘Planet Passion’ to their collections.” – Murrday Fisher, ALL MUSIC GUIDE

“When it comes to world music, ‘Planet Passion’ is probably the most accessible offering this reviewer has heard to date, making it a very highly recommended musical gift.” – Robert Walmsley, OMEGA

“A perfect gift to your loved one or yourself...odds are that it will be your album of the month, too, as it is ours.” – NEW TIMES

“Breathtaking melodies, rhythms, and instrumentation from Africa, India, Asia, South America, and the Middle East. Each track is so lovely, so evocative, that it is difficult to single out favorites.” – AQUARIUS

Internet

“Aptly named, ‘Planet Passion’ turns tantalizing poly-cultural rhythms and passionate melodies into sizzling, sexy music guaranteed to melt stereo speakers as well as hearts and inhibitions. It is music that irresistibly moves both body and soul. But then, one expects nothing less from the visionary players for whom the description “world fusion” was coined. Laying the groundwork for some of today’s most successful worldbeat acts like Jai Uttal and the Pagan Love Orchestra, Vas, Dead Can Dance and even the jazz-worldbeat band, Shadowfax, Ancient Future has grown into a global village of 19 musicians whose rich heritage includes erotic rhythms, sensuous voices and inspired instrumentation from Africa, India, Asia (especially Bali), South America and the Middle East. The tunes included are diverse, yet equally captivating, evoking all that is most appealing about music from a global village.” – CDNOW.COM

World Traditions and World Fusion

by Matthew Montfort, leader of Ancient Future

I coined the term *world fusion music* in 1978 to describe Ancient Future's unusual blend of musical traditions from around the world.¹ In my book on world rhythms, I define world fusion music as “music that combines ideas from many of the earth's traditions.”² Of course, musicians have been exchanging knowledge across national boundaries as long as there has been contact between cultures. What distinguishes Ancient Future is that we have been dedicated from the beginning exclusively to the mission of creating cross-cultural music in an effort to show how people from different cultures can grow by learning from each other. World fusion music is a variation of the term *world music*, which ethnomusicologist Dr. Robert Brown of the Center for World Music has long used to describe traditional music from around the world. I inserted the term fusion so as to differentiate Ancient Future's new sound from the traditional world music it was influenced by. When mp3.com was working on the genre classification system for their site, they consulted me. Because the term world music has now been widely used for both traditional and fusion music, I suggested that their system divide world music into two parent categories: *world traditions* for music based on a single tradition, and *world fusion* for music that combines more than one tradition.

I like to look at world fusion music as a process, with different stages. First stage world fusion music is what happens when two musicians from different cultures who have no knowledge of each other's traditions try to find common ground. The results are usually mixed: some great moments and some moments of searching. Second stage world fusion music is the result of musicians studying many types of music for inspiration and knowledge, and then using that knowledge to create their art. This is where Ancient Future started in 1978. Third stage world fusion music is the music created by master musicians from many cultures who have for years been learning from each other and have developed a true understanding of each other's traditions. This is where Ancient Future is today. ‘Planet Passion’ features third stage world fusion music as well as music based firmly on the world traditions of the master musicians involved. A different ensemble version of Ancient Future is featured on each track, and these ensembles are available for live performances on campus or on air. Each ensemble focuses on one of the master musicians involved so as to allow for a large variety of concert experiences covering many cultures.



Planet Passion Track List

- 1. Simsimay Panima** 6:05 (traditional, arr. Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Nepalese folk song. Features Nepalese flutist Manose Singh (bansuri).
- 2. Forest Frolic** 4:29 (Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Fusion elements: Chinese, Greek, Balinese, and Indian influences. Features Liu Qi-Chao (Chinese flute) and Manose Singh (bansuri).
- 3. I Mett Her in the Medowe, a** 1:19. **4. b** 4:12 (traditional, arr. Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Scottish lute melody from 1615. Features Matthew Montfort on the scalloped fretboard guitar, an instrument combining aspects of the South Indian *vina* with the steel string guitar.
- 5. Ocean of Love** 5:26 (Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Fusion elements: African, Indian (Rag Kafi), African, Vietnamese, and Slavic influences. Features Matthew Montfort (electric guitars), Irina Mikhailova (vocals), and C.K. Ladzekpo (Yoruba drummer).
- 6. Ochun** 3:32 (traditional, arr. Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Afro-Cuban. Features Santeria priest Pedro de Jesus on a chant for the goddess of love.
- 7. Semara** 4:27 (Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Balinese gamelan. Features instruments and rhythms of the Gamelan Semar Pegulingan and performances by the original 1978 line-up of Ancient Future.
- 8. Alap** 1:48 (Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Indian alap. Features Matthew Montfort on scalloped fretboard guitar and Patti Weiss on violin.
- 9. El Zaffa** 4:26 (Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Egyptian wedding procession rhythm (elzaffa). Features Palestinian musicians Antoine Lammam (percussion) and Georges Lammam (violin) and Jewish music specialist Moses Sedler (cello).
- 10. Ne Po Pogrebu Bochochek** 5:07 (traditional, arr. Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: Russian folk song. Features Irina Mikhailova (vocals) and Matthew Montfort (guitars).
- 11. Socha Socha, a** 2:00. **12. b** 8:34 (Khan/Montfort) [PLAY AUDIO ▶](#)
Tradition: North Indian raga. Features Ustad Habib Khan (sitar) with Matthew Montfort (scalloped fretboard guitar).

¹ Stephen Hill, Guide to C.T.I.S. Music, (San Francisco: Hearts of Space Press, 1981), 36.

² Matthew Montfort, Ancient Traditions--Future Possibilities Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India Panoramic Press, 1985), 1.