

**THE PATH OF PEACE**  
AMBIENT MULTIMEDIA ARTS - "VISIONSOUND®" DUALDISC (CD/DVD)

a sensual and elegant multimedia collaboration of music and fine art  
Pianist Ben Dowling & Painter Mark Wagner

In the first DualDisc (CD/DVD) of an ambient art series, Visionsound presents The Path of Peace, a technology-enabled artistic collaboration. The disc combines the contemplative piano music of Ben Dowling with original paintings and drawings by Mark Wagner and runs counter to the fast pace of television and film representing an important phase in the technological evolution of integrated ambient arts. The work itself features 53 minutes of surround-sound audio with wide-screen multimedia - in slow, engaging and beautiful motion. If ever there was a space needing quiet, unhurried loveliness, The Path of Peace fits the bill perfectly.

Keyboard artist Ben Dowling, whose roots are in classical and jazz, has developed a unique, minimalist piano technique specifically for this work. A "singing" melodic touch and novel pedal work are joined with a spatial sense that crosses effortlessly between diatonic and modal harmony. "I needed to develop a different way of playing to take advantage of the 5.1 surround field—surround-sound is allergic to too much motion," explains Dowling. "For years I've tried to capture the open, suspended quality of the piano – like the experience of improvising in a dark concert hall. Finally, technology has made that possible. I can safely say that The Path of Peace is one of the finest recordings of piano I have ever heard."

Visual artist Mark Wagner is of the few traditionalists awarded a National Endowment of the Arts grant for early experiments in computer-generated art. Using oil, chalk, pencil and even hot glue, Wagner synchronized his own creative vision with Dowling's music in a slowly unfolding, multi-layer video-scoring style. "This is something you won't get at once. It takes time - time to slow down and breathe," says Wagner. "I put this on shuffle and let it go for a few hours in the background. It's a little bit like looking at an ocean for a few days. After a while, it begins to work on you."

"This work was scaled for a longer time frame," confirms Dowling. "It was designed to help people to slow down and relish the beauty of life - including conversation with each other." The artists envision practical applications for personal inner peace in health, therapy, hospice, incarceration and post-traumatic care as well as, more broadly, consciousness raising for an increasingly sensory overloaded world. "These are times when it's vital for artists to consider the environment for which we create," says Dowling. "This is a work about inner and outer peace, that doubles as a great way to get there."

The Path of Peace balances artistic brilliance in vision and sound with technical mastery and innovation, captured in a product design that beautifully embraces a profound and timely idea.

## About Visionsound Innovative Arts

The aptly named Visionsound has contributed to many key developments in integrating music and technology, winning many accolades and awards. From R&D for the Korg synthesizer company, to the creation of unique sound for top entertainment clients including Michael Jackson and Madonna, Visionsound is at the leading edge of integrative developments. New media and interactive projects include: the Golden Eagle winning documentary A Place to Stand, featuring Patrick Stewart for the United Nations 50th Anniversary, and Powershift, featuring Cameron Diaz for the California Science Museums environmental initiative.

Visionsound Innovative Arts is a label of VISIONSOUND® INCORPORATED. For e-mail updates and information regarding Visionsound current and future productions, promotions, tours and repertoire, please visit [www.visionsound.com](http://www.visionsound.com)

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