

# Meridian

## The Flow of Energy

**Meridian** is the result of three years of writing and touring various compositions for Gongs. In this time, I found myself both looking to connect deeply with the centuries old Asian Gong traditions, and to move forward with an ear towards new sounds and experimentalism. As I went into the studio, I brought my compositions, and I also brought along a wide range of ideas for *sounds* and *textures* that I wanted to capture. To this end, I used not only the standard padded Gong mallets, but also a wide range of yarn, cord, rubber, & felt mallets, wood sticks of varying diameter, plastic implements, and my hands.

The idea was to create a range of sounds that were unlike the standard Gong tones and utilize them in both melodic and rhythmic forms. There are melodic songs, ethereal soundscapes, rhythmic excursions, and small gestures. There are also some re-recordings of old works that have changed over time from being played live. In fact, many of the new pieces presented here have been played live over the past 2 years. And in that time they have evolved to their present musical state.

**Gongs** are spiritual instruments. Part of it may be that they are created from metals dug out of the Earth, or that the Gong makers hammer their own spirit into them. The sound is both organic & grounding, yet ethereal & cosmic.

I am fortunate to have gathered a wide array of Gongs from different makers. The Paiste 32" Symphonic is the center of my set up. The whole Universe is contained within its sound. The Paiste Earth & Water Gongs are connected to this planet and are very grounding. Michael Paiste, in Switzerland, has made me some fantastic Gongs that are like no others. His spirit truly lives in their vibrations. My Asian Gongs come from 7 different countries and exhibit very distinct sounds & personalities. The 8 **Kulintang** Gongs from the Philippines are especially magical in their sound.

Listen to the music & enjoy the magic ~ Michael Bettine

Recorded & Engineered by Chris Djuricic at Studio One, Racine WI, 09/08, 2007

All music is written, arranged, and produced by Michael Bettine

© 2007 - All rights of the artist reserved

An Intuitive Arts Hand Media (IAM) recording

**Special thanks to:**

**Studio One & Chris Djuricic**

**Aiden Bettine**

**Paiste** cymbals/sounds/gongs

**Mike Balter** Mallets

**Points of contact:**

[gongtopia@aol.com](mailto:gongtopia@aol.com)

[www.gongtopia.com](http://www.gongtopia.com)

© 2007 - All rights of the artist reserved.

Editions Intuitive Arts llo

**Tracks:**

Meridian	2:15
Stars Whisper In Her Ears	3:36
Kulintango	3:20
Endless Rain	1:43
Geometrica	4:23
Glatha	3:16
Paths of Angels	3:31
Spiritual Resonance	3:39
Orpheus Ascending	1:09
Waking the Dead	2:01
Dark Matter	1:44
L'Eterno Movimento	3:09
The Form of Things Unknown	1:28
Underworld	1:38
Crossing the Circle	1:50
Calling the Spirits	0:40
Prayer Wheel	1:30
Voices of the Moon	3:30
Stars Show the Way	3:05
Soundings	4:19

# Recording MERIDIAN



Experimenting with sounds



### Recording *Prayer Wheel*

**Addendum:** It's difficult to believe that it's been over 6 years since I recorded this album. While so much has changed, the heart of these compositions has remained the same, and I still perform many of them today. Listening to them now, I'm taken back to a point in time when I was really solidifying my sound & vision of what I wanted GONGTOPIA to be. That vision continues to evolve and has lead me deeper into the mystery of sound.

~ Michael Bettine

November 2013