

# Merrill Collins

**COMPOSER, KEYBOARDIST, PRODUCER, PUBLISHER**

Music for artists like Merrill Collins is more than just a technique, a career or a lifestyle. It is a part of the essence of life itself. "Music is naturally, organically and inseparably connected to life just as the shapes of DNA/RNA are spirals within our bodies," explains Collins. "Spirals have movement and constant flow and are an integral shape in nature." As such, the composer gathers her favorite musicians and creates the sounds of life.

Collins, who was born and raised in New Jersey, dedicated her life to music at age four. Her parents advised her teacher, a graduate of the Julliard School of Music, to help Collins develop her skills naturally. Years later, she attended Ithaca College School of Music and Humboldt State University where she completed her Bachelor's Degree in Piano, with a minor in composition. Merrill then completed a Master's of Music Degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship.

The artist created Spiraling Music in order to produce and promote her unique and personal music, which features a catalog filled with various instrumental albums influenced by the work of artists such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Oliver Messiaen, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Herbie Hancock and many others. Many of her projects involve vocal tracks as well as instrumental ones.



*photo by Yvon Chausseblanche*

Collins' music combines her classical music training with contemporary improvisation, collaborating with other top-tier musicians. "My players often interact with each other like a musical conversation, where each person's intuition guides their commentaries and input," she explains. "We all work off the same basic chart, chords, melodies, and phrases which I compose, adding our various individual instruments to the collective sound." Every album is unique.

Her impressive resume extends to other areas as well. She's performed and composed music for the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, UNCHR Human Rights Day, Amnesty International, United Way, UN World Habitat Day, Earth Day. In 1986-87, Merrill was composer-in-residence for Pathways to Peace, during which time she developed human rights curricula including Every Man, Woman and Child; the curriculum she developed with Avon Mattison became the Pathways to Peace model for peace education still in use today with the United Nations. At the Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions in Capetown South Africa 1999, her works were cited as "Gifts of Service to the World." Her production of Minute of Silence was featured in three languages in a global broadcast for the International Day of Peace. Merrill received a Global Peace Song Award 2016 for her composition "Every Man, Woman, and Child" which was included on the 2017 Project Peace on Earth compilation. She is a voting member of the Grammy Foundation (NARAS).

Merrill's video collaborations with her husband, photographer Yvon Chausseblanche, can be seen on YouTube. Merrill is available for live presentations and performances at conferences and events in the Los Angeles area. Contact Merrill as the publisher of all Spiraling Music titles to negotiate synchronization licenses.

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## PARTIAL DISCOGRAPHY:

- **Echapées Eteriques** and **Ethereal Escapes** with flautist Laura Halladay and cellist Maksim Velichkin—stories of transcendence and return.
- **Sky Watching** with Michael Fitzpatrick—piano & cello meditations on the changing sky.
- **Cinema Musique** with Nicole García—soundtrack music to evoke moods and scenes.
- **Cello & Piano Sanctuary** with Joseph Hébert—Improvisations on Chants, Hymns, and Spirituals, meditative, appropriate for use in contemplative prayer or general healing, soothing, reflective time-out. "Inspiring;" "Tranquil;" "Touches the listeners heart."
- **Blossoms**—A dozen roses that will never wilt... Beautiful, original, soothing, healing, meditative...aesthetically lovely...Steinway piano, harp, bansuri, shakahatchi, silver flutes, cello
- **Christmas Presence**—Piano and bells improvisations on Christmas carols, chants, and classics. Soothing, perfect for listening while driving in traffic, entertaining friends or having Christmas dinner.

## REVIEWS FOR MERRILL COLLINS:

*"An artist who is responsive to her world."* —Today's Artists

*"By all accounts moving and inspiring. . . ."* —United Nations Center for Human Rights.

*"An extremely eclectic talent ...her music breathes life into all who hear it...emotive and relaxing. And as a person, a lovely woman with a passion for life and her craft. I am honored to have met her and to have worked with her."*—Danie Cortese, President/CEO of Danie Cortese Entertainment & Publicity Inc.

*"The relaxation response induces a profound state of deep rest, which when practiced and applied to our daily lives, can alter how we respond to physical and emotional stress. The music of Merrill Collins is, in my view, important in facilitating the transition into this state of deep relaxation."* —Dr. Michael Irwin, Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology / Jane & Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior

*"Internationally recognized composer/musician Merrill Collins has created an outstanding musical performance, played by master musicians who blend their artistry together to create a deeply rich, harmonious experience that transports the fortunate listener to their own inner temple of peace. And that is just my personal experience!"*—Ellasara Kling for the Qigong Alliance newsletter

*"We played Merrill's album during a week-long meditation retreat at Esalen Institute, and everyone loved it, and said so. We got such positive feedback."*—Lorin Roche, Ph.D., teacher & author (The Radiant Sutras, Meditation 24/7, Whole Body Meditations)

*"Merrill Collins' music has become a great asset to my workshops and retreats. It is rare to find music that can be a graceful transition from meditation to movement. I particularly love "Soyez Gentille" and "Sanctuary," as piano and cello are my favorite instruments. Merrill's melodies move us in toward the heart and outward into soulful expression. Ahh..."* —Camille Maurine, creator of Moving Theater, author (Meditation Secrets for Women, Meditation 24/7)

*"Radiant.... The cleverness of the performers on "Echapées" is simply sublime.... "* —Steve Sheppard, One World Music

*"Uniquely defying strict genre classification, the album's lovely musical ensemble continually evolves and unfolds throughout, as one instrument often seems to transmute into another. Essentially meditative with a defined experimental edge, 'Echappees Etheriques' is sure to appeal to many fans of new age, neoclassical and improvisational instrumental music!"*—Candice Michelle, Journeyscapesradio.com