

Wonderscape

featuring the hammered dulcimer

Joshua Messick

A sonic exploration of wonder featuring the hammered dulcimer with Celtic harp, strings, winds, horn, percussion, & wordless vocals.

- 01 Springtide
- 02 Light of Dawn
- 03 Enchanted Horizons
- 04 Wonderscape
- 05 Skyward Dreams
- 06 Orbit
- 07 Starlit Odyssey
- 08 Voyager's Tale
- 09 Woodland Dance
- 10 Evergreen
- 11 Stillness
- 12 Desire for Departure
- 13 Resilience
- 14 Sanctuary

Total Time 47:04

Composed by Joshua Messick

JoshuaMessick.com



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JOSHUA MESSICK Wonderscape

Welcome to *Wonderscape*, an auditory journey where every note and rhythm invites you to rediscover the magic of wonder. My father's deep appreciation for the beauty of nature instilled in me a profound awe - an awe for the natural world, the stories we live, and the beauty in art. One of my earliest and most vivid memories of wonder was seeing Pikes Peak at eight years old, the mountain featured on this album cover. Now, as I watch my daughter, Harper, grow, I see that same wonder blossoming in her - a pure, unbridled joy in life's simplest moments.

In *Wonderscape*, I've channeled this legacy of wonder, crafting each track to tell its own unique story of where wonder can be found. Every piece reflects the imaginative spirit that shines so brightly in Harper. May this album inspire you to explore your own *Wonderscape* and uncover the extraordinary in every moment.

"On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate."
- Psalm 145:5 (ESV)



This album was recorded over the span of two years, a period during which I delved deeply into exploring and orchestrating new soundscapes for the hammered dulcimer. Whether as a solo instrument or in an ensemble, I sought to push the boundaries of its expressive potential. I have a deep love for this instrument, and like many who share this passion, I dream of seeing the hammered dulcimer recognized and utilized more widely in its own right. To that end, I meticulously refined my studio to showcase the dulcimer at its very best.

This album also marks the first time I've personally mixed my work. Through this process, I discovered not only the joy of composing music specifically for the dulcimer but also the fulfillment of working as an artist of sound. As I celebrate 30 years of playing the hammered dulcimer in 2024, I've re-recorded three title tracks from my earlier releases, offering a fresh perspective that reflects my current style and musical journey.

Gratefully yours, *Joshua Messink*



01. Springtide

For Robin Freed - your kindness inspires me to create new music.

Springtide ushers in the first breath of new life after winter's long slumber. The melodies bloom like fresh blossoms, filling the air with the promise of renewal and new beginnings.

02. Light of Dawn

For Kai and Reiko Chow - your compassion and generosity have left a lasting impact.

Light of Dawn captures the moment when night gives way to day. The music gently crescendos with hope and possibility, illuminating the path ahead with the soft glow of a new day.



03. Enchanted Horizons

For Doug and Caroline Bossi - thank you for inspiring me to enjoy life and seek new adventures.

*Sometimes, on our journey, we encounter *Enchanted Horizons* that beckon us to explore the boundless possibilities beyond the familiar.*

04. Wonderscape

Wonderscape transports you into an immersive world where each note unveils a new landscape brimming with intrigue and mystery. It embodies the album's essence: an exploration of the extraordinary hidden within the ordinary.



05. Skyward Dreams

At times, we find peace beneath the vast galaxies, letting go of our worries and stress as we embrace the serenity of the evening sky.



06. Orbit

With its circular motifs, uplifting melodies, and rhythmic cycles, this playful piece reflects those moments when life embarks on a new *Orbit* or celebrates the joy of steady, enduring ones.

07. Starlit Odyssey

With its exotic sounds, dynamic energy, fierce strength, and sudden twists, *Starlit Odyssey* sweeps you into an unexpected adventure filled with charm and the wonder of surprise.



08. Voyager's Tale

Another person may tell the tale, but we may live it ourselves - charting unknown territories with courage and curiosity. Musically, this invites themes of discovery, deepening mystery, growth, and enrichment of spirit.

09. Woodland Dance

This track brings us into the heart of a vibrant forest where wildlife dances beneath a moonlit sky. This is a solo version of my 2016 release.

10. Evergreen

The music remains steady, unwavering, and hopeful, much like *Evergreen* trees standing tall through every season, embodying the enduring qualities of love and kindness that this composition seeks to honor.



11. Stillness

For Steve Doughty - your endless curiosity and true compassion have continually inspired me to see the wonder in the world.

Stillness portrays a tranquil pause in the journey, offering serene and introspective music that invites quiet reflection and a sense of peace. This piece is especially meaningful to me, as it was my first composition at age 17. This version is a remake of my original 2004 release.

12. Desire for Departure

Sometimes we yearn for change and new horizons. Melancholic chords blend with hopeful melodies, capturing the bittersweet tension between the comfort of the familiar and the allure of the unknown. This piece is significant as it was my second composition, and this solo version revisits my original 2008 release.



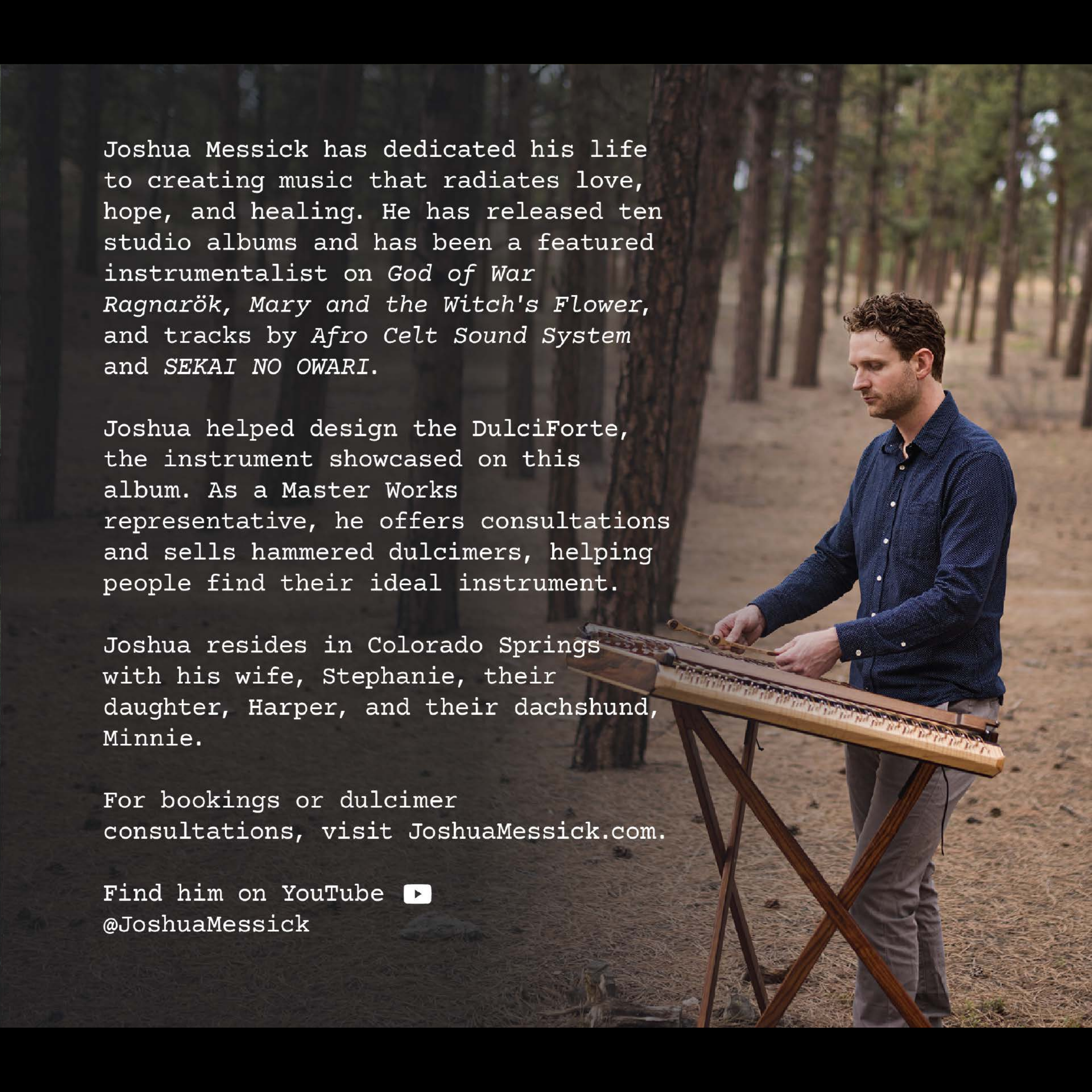
13. Resilience

Resilience sparks a sense of wonder whenever we encounter it. Every sound in this piece was created on my hammered dulcimer, employing extended techniques such as bowing, plucking, artificial harmonics, chime plucks, and more. By layering up to ten dulcimers, I crafted an orchestral effect to convey a powerful message of perseverance, reminding us that forward movement is always possible, even in the face of adversity.

14. Sanctuary

Concluding the album, *Sanctuary* brings us back to a place of warmth and solace. Gentle melodies and soothing harmonies invite rest and reflection after journeying through the expansive realms of Wonderscape. It serves as a heartfelt reminder that no matter where our adventures take us, there is always a place to call home.



A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and grey trousers, stands in a forest of tall, thin trees. He is playing a wooden dulcimer mounted on a wooden stand. The ground is covered in dry pine needles and leaves. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Joshua Messick has dedicated his life to creating music that radiates love, hope, and healing. He has released ten studio albums and has been a featured instrumentalist on *God of War Ragnarök*, *Mary and the Witch's Flower*, and tracks by *Afro Celt Sound System* and *SEKAI NO OWARI*.

Joshua helped design the DulciForte, the instrument showcased on this album. As a Master Works representative, he offers consultations and sells hammered dulcimers, helping people find their ideal instrument.

Joshua resides in Colorado Springs with his wife, Stephanie, their daughter, Harper, and their dachshund, Minnie.

For bookings or dulcimer consultations, visit JoshuaMessick.com.

Find him on YouTube 
@JoshuaMessick

Every musician went above and beyond in bringing my musical ideas to life, interpreting them in ways that exceeded my highest expectations.

Cello - **Ryan Knott, Max Dyer** (on Wonderscape)

Celtic Harp - **Stephanie Messick**

Flute, Oboe, Recorder, Saxophone - **Josh Plotner**

Horn - **Becky Wilkins**

Percussion - **River Guerguerian**

Virtual Instruments - **Kyle Mattingly & Joshua Messick**

Vocals - **Julie Elven**

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Composed, Produced, Arranged, & Mixed by **Joshua Messick**

Additional Arranging & Production Assistance by **Kyle Mattingly**

Mastered by **Dave Harris**

ARTWORK & DESIGN

'Wonderscape' & 'Enchanted Forest' Artwork by **Jennifer Garrett**

Design & Layout by **Trevor Kinkade**

Photography by **Stephanie Messick**

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