

SPOTLIGHT

SEACOAST ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CD REVIEW



Randy Armstrong
No Regrets
Una Mondo Productions

A sonic joyride

It takes an imaginative musician to create a solo recording. By solo, I mean just one musician in the studio with his instrument. Randy Armstrong is that kind of imaginative musician. But, in this case, Armstrong doesn't limit himself to just one instrument. Instead, he makes use of more than 16 instruments to create a recording that is a sublime tapestry of musical colors.

"No Regrets" is a strong musical statement from a musician whose playing has defied categorization throughout most of his career. Whether it be on guitar, sitar, wood flute or various percussion instruments, Armstrong takes the listener on a sonic joyride from start to finish.

The compact disc features nine originals of varying musical styles and textures, from the folkish title track, which features Armstrong's thoughtful acoustic guitar playing, to the rhythmically charged, odd-metered tour-de-force "Seven To Twelve." "Summer Day Blue" has a nice soft flow, while "Song For Peace" is a poignant tune written in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001. Armstrong displays his jazz abilities to good advantage on unique arrangements of the Miles Davis-Bill Evans tune "Blue in Green" and on Chick Corea's haunting melody "Crystal Silence." Throughout, his

playing is imaginative and thoughtful, and his solos have a nice sense of melodic development.

"No Regrets" is one of the finest recordings from a local artist I've heard this year. It's a recording with a lot of heart and soul from a musician who is truly beyond category.

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