All compositions by Joel Styzens, except "Heritage Garden," by Sophie Webber & Joel Styzens.

Cello: Sophie Webber Piano: Rob Clearfield

String quartet: Jinty McTavish, Sabrina Tabby, Genevieve Tabby, & Rita Andrade Hammered dulcimer, acoustic guitar, additional piano & strings: Joel Styzens

Cello arrangements by Sophie Webber & Joel Styzens: tracks 1-10, 14, 15. Katinka Kleijn & Joel Styzens: track 13

String Quartet arrangements by Jinty McTavish, Joel Styzens, Sophie Webber, & Ari Fisher. McTavish/Styzens: tracks 1, 4, 6-9, 14. McTavish/Styzens/Webber: track 3, 5. Styzens/Fisher: track 12, 13. Webber/Styzens/Fisher: track 15.

Recorded & mixed by Rick Barnes at Rax Trax, Chicago, IL.

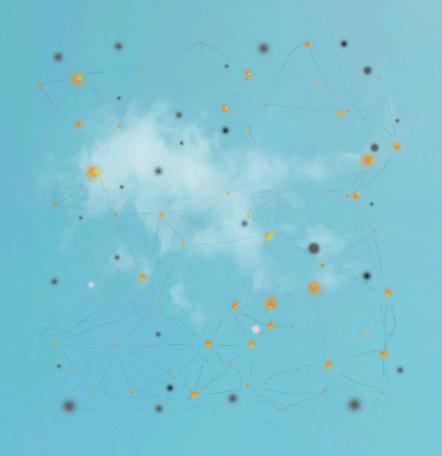
Noise suppression by Andy Shoemaker. Piano recorded by Brennan Mitrolka & Aidan S. Cramer at Transient Sound, Chicago, IL.

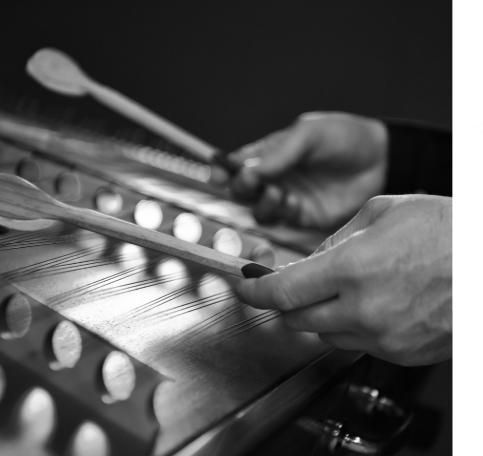
Mastered by Howie Weinberg, Los Angeles, CA.

Cover Art by Fernanda Styzens
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Photography by Sarah Boudreau. Additional photos by Thuan Ton,
Ben Rando & Marc Safran.
Joel Styzens plays "David's Dulcimers" and uses "Whamdiddle" hammers.



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## $^{\text{O1}}$ OPENING

"Opening" explores bountiful possibility as a new relationship begins to unfold and reflects on momentum and transformation as a couple evolves together over the course of a lifetime.

Intimate relationships and the cosmos collide. After all, we are made of stardust.

## O2 TO HOLD

Dedicated to the memory of Kay Armstrong.

Kay's funeral procession moved from Iowa to Illinois, over the Mississippi River. Through each small town we passed, strangers showed respect, even reverence, pulling to the side of roads to let us pass. The rhythm of our procession parting the waves of strangers' cars caught my attention and made an impact. I tried to convert our collective emotions, the visual heartstrings snapshot, into guitar strings.



## O3 ASCENDANCE I O4 ASCENDANCE II O5 ASCENDANCE III

Dedicated to Joan Collins, my maternal grandmother, "Nonnie." May these notes reach you again. Nonnie loved that I was a musician and she played piano for years. The last year she was alive, she was in and out of the hospital many times. My mom played her a demo version of many of the pieces of this album and her last musical request was "Ascendance." Others have told me that they've chosen my music to help put their baby to sleep, to meditate, to play for loved ones in the hospital or hospice. It's such an honor to know that my music can bring comfort. As I reworked this piece for the album, I also reflected upon a near-death experience of my own, made up of three different levels of energy and an out-of-body awareness. I was struck by how my experience felt like a "reverse neardeath," more connected to birth.

RESONANCE I
 RESONANCE II
 RESONANCE III

The title works celebrate the magic, challenges, and bliss of two people connecting and creating experiences and art that are greater than what they could do alone. The three movements explore the complexities of how we resonate independently within ourselves and what we carry from our closest relationships.

Sometimes what we thought was an end isn't actually.





- 09 **"Esplanade,"** hammered dulcimer and strings that welcome the listener into the gardens.
- 10 "Heritage Garden," a string-quartet tribute to the past with varying movements of tempo and color.
- 11 "Waterfall Garden," solo hammered-dulcimer emulating the graceful cascades. Pure, deceptively simple, life-sustaining water.
- 12 "Burijji" and 13 "Niwa," solo piano, guitar and string ensembles focused on meditative walking and the beautiful island bridges. Listen for the spiritual hum of the zigzag bridge calling throughout.
- 14 "Walled Garden," hammered dulcimer and texturally varied strings combine for a multi-movement journey full of shadows and light. Listen closely and you'll hear dragonflies joyfully darting amid the flowers and foliage.



## $^{16}$ REPRISE

(opening)

Just a short minute to reflect once more. Or two.

From me to you.

From us to you.

Thank you for listening to Resonance.

