

CD REVIEW by Janet Goodman
CHARLIE HILL – "The Landing"

Finger-style acoustic guitarist Charlie Hill has an ear for that marinated-rosewood sound that only the best instruments and the most proficient players can create. This Tulsa-based musician captured it in his home studio while recording his latest CD collection of instrumentals, "The Landing." Laying down each guitar track was done in one, live take – no simple feat when performing nine self-penned, intricate and sophisticated pieces.

Droning bass notes hit you in the gut right at the get-go in "Dogs In Paradise." The title track is introspective, flanked by the unusual starts and stops in "Hayward Hawthorne." "Intro/Crosscut" brings to mind Stephen Stills vintage CSN, and percussive beats on the guitar add a sort of engine-knocking to songs like "Aileen." A quiet, lilting melody may be hinting at a better life to come on "Surreal McCoy (The Hospice Nurse)", and quirky slide passages dazzle about in "Polaris Pass."

Hill does offer an easy, unpretentious vocal on the folky "Simple Song," and delivers his lone harp guitar performance on "Love Letters From Arabia," where haunting string vibrations linger well past each attack. This album is a master class in guitar tunings.

P.S. Check out the website blog entry about his chance encounter with Hendrix, just three months before his untimely death. Here's a snippet:

"...the next thing I knew I was walking through the airport with Jimi Hendrix...my family and I essentially had him to ourselves...He looked at me when he spoke. He asked me if I was going to the show and where he could get a good cheeseburger. He had an 8 mm movie camera and shot a few frames of us...friendly, talkative and in no particular hurry."

Visit the artist's website at www.charliehillguitar.com