

**Retreats Handbook 2013 REVIEW:
IN SEARCH OF PEACE by Teresa Brown, Devine Music 2003**

It can be difficult to find music resources for reflective settings but here is a collection that will bring inspiration to times of prayer or worship.

Under the general theme of the title song 'In search of peace' Teresa Brown has brought together songs that she hopes will help 'people... to reflect, pray and meditate on the need for peace in our time'. The main instrument is violin, with a variety of accompaniments – viola, guitar, keyboard and percussion – to create a sound that is simple, pure and yet profound.

Among the 12 pieces, there are those that evoke a sense of quiet thoughtfulness and courage, as in the title song, and 'salve'. Others speak of joy and celebration, such as 'Lorica' and 'Lorica reprise'. The overwhelming sentiment, however, is one of hope and peace, brought about by the rich harmonies of this music, which gently evolve in each piece.

Although original in sound, Teresa has drawn on a variety of traditions and adapted them for her own use, including folk tunes such as 'I heard the voice of Jesus say', hymns 'Be thou my vision' and Celtic influences in 'Watermark'. There is great variety in her use of instrument, voice and even – in 'Peace of the Earth' – the sounds of the natural world, to create an effect that is rich and evocative.

I seriously recommend this CD for anyone looking for reflective music in a group or an individual setting to add to their collection – it has already been added to mine.

Teresa also offers music for retreats and reflective days (see www.devinemusic.org.uk).

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