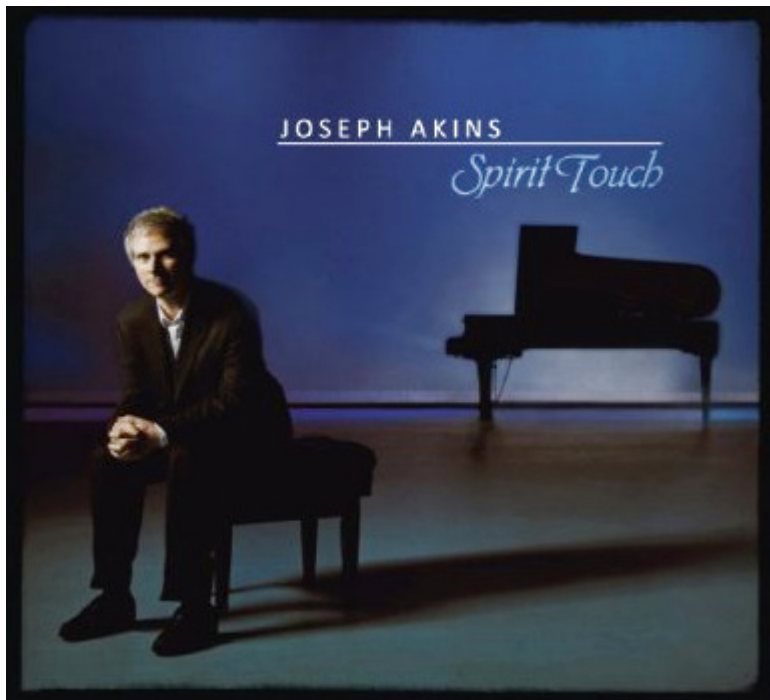


# Joseph Akins - Spirit Touch - Liner Notes (HSM-005-CD)



## Credits & Acknowledgments

Joseph Akins - Steinway D Grand Piano  
Matt Nelson - Cello (tracks 1, 4)  
Bill Crabtree - Zen Drum Percussion (tracks 4, 8)  
Joseph Patrick Moore - Bass (track 9)  
Joseph Akins - Other Ethereal Textures (tracks 4, 5, 9, 10, 11)

All music composed by Joseph Akins (HeartSong Music - BMI), except for  
Tennessee Waltz by Redd Stewart - Pee Wee King (Sony/ATV Acuff Rose  
Music - BMI)

Produced by Joseph Akins  
Recorded and Mixed by Bill Crabtree at Middle Tennessee State University,  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee (June/July of 2009)  
Steinway D grand piano serviced by Tyson Hoppe  
Mastered by Tommy Dorsey at Masterphonics, Nashville, Tennessee (August  
2009)

Photography by Rory White, Nashville, Tennessee  
Cover Design by Matt Strieby of New Leaf Design, Portland, Oregon

A special thanks to the Department of Recording Industry and the Faculty  
Research and Creative Activity Committee at Middle Tennessee State  
University

Thanks to my wife Unitia, my mom Kat and all my family and friends for their  
love and support.

In memory of Mr. Applebee (1985 - 2008), our beloved Siamese cat. He will  
forever be in our hearts.

Visit [JosephAkins.com](http://JosephAkins.com) for the latest on other albums, live concerts, sheet  
music, the fan club and more!

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## Tracklist

01. Spirit Prelude
02. Spirit Touch
03. The Butterfly Ride
04. Cascades
05. Night Shadows
06. Feeling Joy
07. Little Arwen
08. Dance of My Ancestors
09. 1,001 Nights
10. Tennessee Waltz
11. My Rainbow

## Liner Notes

### 1. Spirit Prelude

This is an uplifting improvisation that makes for a spirited opener and a great prelude for the title track.

### 2. Spirit Touch

I first knew the title of this album would include the word "touch", thinking of human touch and how important it is to us all. I later decided to include the word "spirit" feeling that "spirit touch" well represented the music as a whole. I composed this particular piece while we were grieving over the loss of our 23-year-old Siamese kitty.

### 3. The Butterfly Ride

Influenced by one of my favorite jazz composers, Horace Silver, this tune has always sounded like a ride to me. First, I imagined a balloon ride, but by the time I recorded this album, it sounded more like a butterfly ride!

### 4. Cascades

I wrote this piece after the recording sessions for Masterpeace, my previous solo album. Because it sounded like falling water, the title came from one of my favorite places in nature, Cane Creek Cascades.

### 5. Night Shadows

This haunting piano solo is a favorite to play. Thanks to the legendary pianist David Lanz for his inspiration and input.

### 6. Feeling Joy

This one is pure fun. The continuous motion and strong melody is joyful to play and hear. I hope you feel joy too.

### 7. Little Arwen

This simple solo dropped into my heart early one morning. I named it after one of our newly adopted Siamese kittens. Her two brothers, Aragorn and Gandalf, will have a more adventurous piece named after them some day!

### 8. Dance for my Ancestors

This exciting piece grew out of the melody you hear in the first few measures. I wanted to compose a number that would be fun to perform live. It makes my heart jump and my fingers dance!

### 9. 1,001 Nights

Influenced by artists such as Kitaro, I wanted to compose a track based on this Middle-Eastern sounding scale: G-Ab-B-C-D-Eb-F. I also had fun scraping my fingernails across the piano strings (the single strum that sounds similar to an autoharp).

### 10. Tennessee Waltz

My father, a musician who loved and played country music, taught me this very popular song when I was a child. With his guitar, he taught me one note at a time until I learned the complete melody. This song has a special place in my heart.

## 11. My Rainbow

This music was completely improvised in the recording studio (no rehearsal before the session). It is dedicated to my beloved wife, Unita, who helped me tremendously with this album.

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