

AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE

INDEPENDENT CRITICS REVIEWING CLASSICAL RECORDINGS AND MUSIC IN CONCERT

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ADLER: *A Path of Light*

Hevreh Ensemble, ETHEL

Ansonica 13—49 minutes

This music by Jeff Adler is part romp and part moments that feel like an immediate and painless dive into what errs more on music's sacred side. "Hevreh" is a Hebrew word that means "circle of friends"; and this ensemble, this group of friends, makes music like a well-oiled, intuitive machine of interconnected parts and timbre, with sudden changes of tempo and mood that feel natural. With stunning moments brought about by the radically resonant pedal tones of Adler's bass clarinet and Naren Budhkar's tabla playing, this album belongs on the shelf next to your Silk Road Ensemble records. After all, when is the last time you heard Native American flutes, minimoog, double bass, tabla, cello, violin, clarinets, and keyboards all come together to make something intimate and singularly fascinating? Bravo to Jeff Adler and all involved in this special, special collection. I'll be listening to this one over and over again.