

JOEL STYZENS :: PRESS

***Relax Your Ears*, A-Sharp Records 2009/2010:**

- Top Seller and Best Classical Pick (5/5 Stars) on CD Baby
- Indie International Winner (second place worldwide in the instrumental category)
- Featured on National Public Radio, UK's Fluid Radio, Chicago Public Radio, & Chicago's WGN-TV and WFMT

“The city’s younger movers and shakers put a memorable stamp on 2010. Aside from re-releasing an exquisite debut album, *Relax Your Ears*, musician, composer and Old Town School of Folk Music teacher Joel Styzens performed a brilliant collection of new works [with cellist Sophie Webber] inspired by the Botanic Gardens. Styzens is now holed up in the studio working on a new record, which will feature works written for hammered dulcimer.”

- **Time Out Chicago**, 2010 Classical Year In Review

“Music that you feel down in your soul.”

- **National Music Examiner**

“Is it contemporary classical music? Is it jazz? Is it Windham Hill? No, it’s a unique combination of all of the above with sweet moments of guitar and soaring cello lines spiced up with complex rhythms and harmonies. Styzens is clearly a skilled musician and an inventive composer.”

- **Victory Review** (Seattle, WA)

“Joel Styzens is a true master of sound. His [album] *Relax Your Ears* is a highly artistic work that contains many smallest nuances and it needs to be listened to very attentively. Joel Styzens' project gives you not only a state of relaxation, but a lot of moments of delight and pure listening pleasure.”

- **Serge Kozlovsky**, independent music critic (Minsk, Belarus)

“From the moment I tuned into “A-Sharp,” the first of 12 tracks, I haven’t been able to shake the haunting, floating, and ethereal melodies. . . . [Styzens creates] simply beautiful, emotionally fragile, and diverse music that sinks in through the conscious into the subconscious and stay inside your soul.”

- **Jazz Examiner**

“The combination of guitar and cello on these tracks is nothing less than hypnotic. Styzens and Kleijn create a rich soundscape that is filled with emotional content... You can feel the passion in the playing as the guitar and cello share the center stage... [T]he listener feels like waves of sound are washing over them, delivering sonic pleasure.”

- **Ambient Visions**