

Whispering Wind Magazine 3.31.08

Audio Review by Gene Bates

**'Opening the Gate': Gentle Thunder**

Category: New Age/ Contemporary/ Native American Flute/ Grand Hammer Dulcimer

GT Productions      CD -6249      Audio CD/ Copyright 2007

Gentle Thunder's (Cree) follow-up to her Grammy-nominated, 'Beyond Words' is irresistible! An alluring alliance of Native American flute, grand hammer dulcimer and percussion, this multi-instrumentalist is hitting on all cylinders on her latest release. Musically richer than, 'Beyond Words' the tracks on, 'Opening the Gate' have a maturity and seriousness, not found in Thunder's previous work. The performances are strong, the songwriting is solid and the arrangements are flawless. The energy emitting from this CD is phenomenal! Of the eighteen (yes, eighteen!) tracks it's hard to glean a few as highlights. But forced to choose, the 'cream of the crop' would have to be, 'Song of the Spring', 'Timeless Presence' and, 'Woven Essence'! What an album! Another triumph for Gentle Thunder, 'Opening the Gate' is excellent!

