



AIN'T WE GOT HANUKKAH

NOVEMBER 28, 2012

Ken Elkinson is an internationally renowned New Age artist who already had one splendid Christmas set under his belt, a solo piano outing from 2008 "Generations Of Yuletide", when he set forth upon the holiday waters again this year with two collections of ambient deliciousness. Ken's "Ambient Holidays Volume 1: Christmas Ambient" (as well as "Generations Of Yuletide") got a nice little write-up over at Merry & Bright not long ago. But it was always "Ambient Holidays Volume 2: Chanukah Ambient" that interested me. Hanukkah music is like the neglected step-child in virtually every holiday genre and that's true of the Ambient/New Age genre as well. Ken covers all the classics here (up to and including Peter Yarrow's "Light One Candle"), giving each song the respect it deserves but finding new pathways of light in the music and, thus, the celebration. I found "Sivivon" (usually done as an uptempo number) particularly moving and I don't think you'll ever hear "The Dreidel Song" quite the same again. Available on CD or in digital form through Amazon and other fine retailers. In light of Hurricane Sandy, Ken's also giving away free downloads of his "Music For Telecommuting" (which will be officially released next year) through the end of 2012.