

NEW AGE MUSIC

UNITED STATES

Part Two – Crystal to F

NA-US-P2-1 United States 1985

CRYSTAL CAVE

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp: Michael GENEST

Perf: Michael **GENEST** (synthesizer)

Prod: Michael Genest

Prod. Co: Narada Productions Inc.; Milwaukee, WI

Time: 3:01

A. American Releases:

1. Original **LP & CD:** ASCENSION

Sona Gaia 143

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 5)

2. **CD:** ASCENSION

Narada 60143 (Tk 5)

B. German **LP:** ASCENSION (1986)

Sona Gaia 143

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 5)

Notes: In the New Age movement crystals are thought to have healing powers and quartz crystals especially are believed to have mystical properties. Michael Genest did an album called, *Crystal Fantasy*, released just a year before this one.

There are literally dozens of Crystal Caves all over the world. Of the many show caves and wild caves in the United States that are called, Crystal Cave, it is difficult to know which one inspired this piece. Just to give an idea, there are American show caves with this name in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Arizona, and California. Then there are others named, Crystal Caverns, in Tennessee, Alabama, and Missouri.

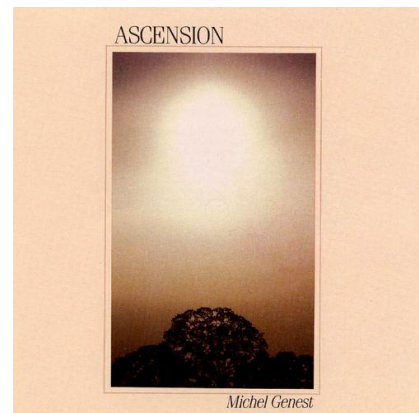
The 30-second [audio clip](#) provided the sound of heavy winds blowing, then a prolonged resounding, ringing chord.

Ref: Michael Genest, Ascension CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Michael Genest, Ascension CD, [deezer](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Michael Genest, Ascension CD, [Discogs](#)

Gurnee, Russell & Jeanne 1980, *Gurnee Guide to American Caves*, Zephyrus Press Inc., Teaneck, NJ



NA-US-P2-2 United States 1989

CRYSTAL CAVE

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp. & Arr: Scott FITZGERALD

Rts: World Disc Music

Perf: Scott **FITZGERALD** (synthesizer)

Prod: Richard Hooper

Prod. Co: World Disc Productions Inc.;
Friday Harbor, Washington

Time: 3:53

1. **CD:** MESSENGER

World Disc Music CDM 03 (Tk 8)

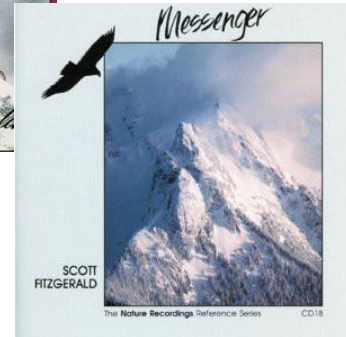
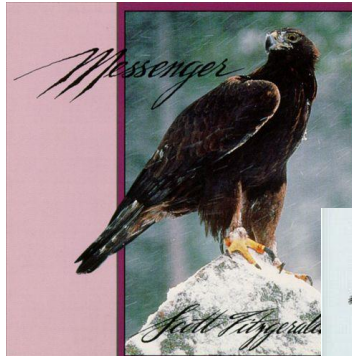
2. **CD:** MESSENGER

Nature Recordings CD 18 (Tk 8)

Notes: This album combines the “music of Scott Fitzgerald and the digitally recorded environmental sounds of the Pacific Northwest wilderness.” (Liner notes) There are no caves with this name in that part of the United States other than Crystal Cave in Sequoia National Park in northern California. But here again the New Age attraction to crystals seems to be the inspiration.

A lilting keyboard followed by a haunting flute sound and then strings. Melodic runs punctured by strings then flute create a very pleasant, cool cave atmosphere.

Ref: Scott Fitzgerald, Messenger CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)
Scott Fitzgerald, Messenger CD, [Discogs](#)



NA-US-P2-3 United States 1991

CRYSTAL CAVE

THREE PART BREATHING: CRYSTAL CAVE

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp: Steven HALPERN

Perf: Steven **HALPERN** (crystal bowl & synthesizer)

Prod: Steven Halpern & Tim Clifford

Prod. Co: Sound Rx; San Rafael, CA

Liner Notes: Steven Halpern

Time: (No. 1) 4:08; (No. 2 & 3) 4:12; & (No. 4 with intro) 7:17

1. **CD:** HIGHER GROUND

Sound Rx SRXD 7848 (Tk 5)

2. **CD:** HIGHER GROUND

Inner Peace Music IPM 7848 (Tk 5)

3. Compilation **CD:** MUSIC FOR YOGA – VOL. 1 (1999)

Steven Halpern 7879 (3XCDs) (Disc 2 – Tk 5)

4. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** DISCOVER SEREBITY: A GUIDED RELAXATION PROGRAM (2001)

Goldhil Music 507 (Tk 4)

Notes: This music is related directly to the New Age ideas about healing through crystals, so the inspiration here is no doubt coming from an imaginary cave. Halpern writes in the liner notes – “Crystal Cave’ amplifies and expands upon the effects of the pure crystal bowls that I featured on *Crystal Suite* (Sound Rx SRXD 7842)” released in 1988.

The [Allmusic critic](#) called this “arguably Halpern’s most artistically accomplished album. *Higher Ground* mixes his trademark sounds of the past with some new directions, particularly a more skillful use of synthesizers.” (Kohanov, n.d.) The 30-second audio clip presented a sustained singing chord blending to a harrowing chord.

In 2001 this piece was reissued on a yoga instruction CD of 7 tracks where Liliias provided an introductory lesson (3:05) to three-part breathing followed by Halpern’s music.

“Liliias, the host of a beloved and long-running PBS yoga instruction show, here lends her calming voice to a guided meditation. The CD begins with a brief but informed discussion of the four steps to relaxation, followed by some safety precautions... Then Liliias provides a detailed guide to deep breathing and stretching, a visualization exercise, and an ‘inner smile’ meditation.” (Anon. 2015)

Ref: Anon. 2015, Liliias!, Discover Serenity: A Guided Relaxation Program CD, [Allmusic](#)



Kohanov, Linda 2015, Steven Halpern, Higher Ground CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)
Steven Halpern, Bio, Inner Peace Music, [stevenhalpern](#)
Steven Halpern, Higher Ground CD, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)
Steven Halpern, Higher Ground CD, [CDUniverse](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)
Steven Halpern, Higher Ground CD, [Discogs](#)

NA-US-P2-4 United States 2000

THE CRYSTAL CAVE

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp: Billy McLAUGHLIN

Perf: Billy McLAUGHLIN (synthesizer)

Prod. Co: Lifescapes Music

Time: (?)

CD: GUIDED MEDITATION FOR STRESS

Lifescapes Music 42663 (Tk 5)

Notes: Here again we have the crystal mystic. Billy McLaughlin is a New Age acoustic guitarist, composer and producer from Minnesota.

This piece has not been heard. Though, as best could be learned this is ambient music; McLaughlin plays the synthesizer here, not his guitar.

Ref: Ankeny, Jason 2018, Billy McLaughlin, Short Artist Bio, [Allmusic](#)

Billy McLaughlin, Bio, [billymclaughlin](#)

Billy McLaughlin, Guided Meditation for Stress CD, [Allmusic](#)

Billy McLaughlin, Guided Meditation for Stress CD, [Amazon](#)



NA-US-P2-5 United States 2002

CRYSTAL CAVES

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp: KOKILA [aka. Kokila Jodi Bennett]

Perf: KOKILA (synthesizer)

Prod Co: Kokila Records

Rec. Co: Bent Pussycat Studios; Levittown, NY

Time: 3:11

CD: MAGIC AND MYSTERY

Kokila (?) (Tk 2)

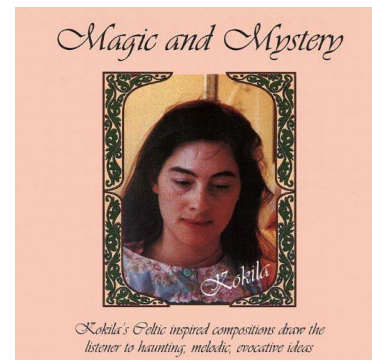
Notes: This is the fifth piece of New Age music inspired by a Crystal Cave.

The 30-second MP3 audio clip was nothing special, little more than mall background music. The alleged Celtic influence was not audible.

Ref: Kokila Jodi Bennett, Bio, [kokilamusic](#)

Kokila, Magic and Mystery CD, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Kokila, Magic and Mystery CD, [CDBaby](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



NA-US-P2-6 United States 2003

CUEVA CUVÉE

NA – Ethnic Fusion – Instrumental

Comp: Gary STROUTSOS

Perf: Gary STROUTSOS (flute)

Prod: Gary Stroutsos

Prod Co: Earthwalk Music

Time: 5:27

Gary STROUTSOS



CD: SPIRIT OF PLACE NAPA VALLEY

Earthwalk Music (Tk 18)

Notes: The title combines the Spanish “cueva” and the French “cuvée” (without the proper accent) – “cave” and “vintage” – to suggest a vintage wine cellar somewhere in the Napa Valley, California. For much the same reasons, jazz pieces inspired by jazz cellars with “cave” names qualify for inclusion in this discography, this New Age piece has been included here.

Originally a jazz flutist Gary Stroutsos studied with James Newton (see under Recorded in Caves – [United States](#)) and he has recorded with William Eaton (see under New Age Music – [A to Cave](#)) and David Lanz (see under Film Music – [Documentary](#)).

A 2-minute sample (no longer online) provided a very low deep-toned flute playing a mournful theme

Ref: Gary Stroutsos, Bio, [garystroutsos](#)

Gary Stroutsos, Spirit of Place, Sedona Creative Life Center, [sedonacreativelife](#)

Gary Stroutsos, Spirit of Place Napa Valley CD, [Allmusic](#)

Gary Stroutsos, Spirit of Place Napa Valley CD, [Amazon](#)

NA-US-P2-9 United States 2004

DRAGON DE LAS CAVERNAS

NA – World – Chinese – Instrumental

Comp: Hector DI DONNA

Perf: **DI DONNA** [aka. Hector Di Donna]

José De Jesús Morales (violin)

Eduardo Soto (flute)

(with percussion)

Prod: Jose Antonio Oliva

Prod Co: Alcione; Miami, FL

Time: 2:19

CD: FENG SHUI II – TEN THOUSAND YEARS

Alcione 7818 (Tk 14)

Notes: From an early age, Hector Di Donna, composed pieces “distinctively Chinese in style... Some of these early childhood works became the basis for songs on *Feng Shui*.” (Di Donna, 2010)

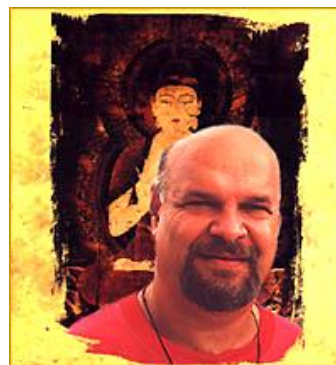
The 30-second [sample](#) of this one had a high-pitched violin backed by an eerie flute and dabbling rhythms.

Ref: Di Donna, Feng Shui Vol. 2 – Ten Thousand Years CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Di Donna, Feng Shui II – Ten Thousand Years CD, [Apple](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Di Donna, Hector 2010, About the Artists, [alcione](#)

H. DI DONNA



NA-US-P2-10 United States 2005

THE DRAGON'S CAVE

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp: ALEMIS

Perf: **ALEMIS** (synthesizer)

Prod. Co: Alemis

Time: 7:26

CD: THE MUSIC OF ALEMIS – Vol. 2

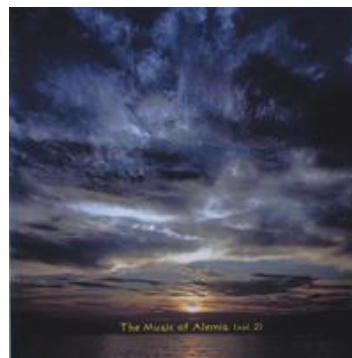
Alemis (?) (Tk 6)

Notes: For the most part a long sweeping melody on synth with occasional soaring choral voices behind. The whole thing just goes on and on like that to the fade out at 7:00.

Ref: Alemis, The Dragon's Cave, (7:26), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Alemis, The Music of Alemis – Vol. 2 CD, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Alemis, The Music of Alemis – Vol. 2 CD, [CDBaby](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



NA-US-P2-11 United States 2003

ECHO AUDITORIUM *

NA – World Fusion – Percussion – Instrumental – Recorded in Caves

Comp: (?)

Perf: **MOTHERDRUM**

Hazen Frick (drums)

Juan Ortiz (drums)

Billy Sprague (drums)

Prod Co: Allan Hays Co.

Time: 4:01

CD: MOTHER'S HEARTHBEAT

Motherdrum 392 (Tk 4)

Notes: Another offering by this percussion group, this one is dedicated to and inspired by the Echo Auditorium in the Great Saltpeter Cave, Mount Vernon, Kentucky where they performed their first album live in 2001 (see under Recordings in Natural Caves – [United States](#) – *Drumming inside Mother Earth*).

Echo Auditorium is 155 feet (47m) long, up to 65 feet (20m) wide, and 50 feet (15m) high, forming a perfect dome. With its fine acoustics and a seating capacity of 1,500 people this space has been used for country music concerts since the 1940s. (Barnett 2011) The photo of Echo Auditorium is by Nathan Williams, 2005.

The 30-second sample has a rousing, swinging drum ensemble putting down some stuff.

Ref: Barnett, Craig 2011, Renfro Valley Entertainment Center, [renfrovalley](#)

Engel, Scott & Annette 1998, Great Saltpeter Cave, Geology & Archeology, [rkci.org](#)

Great Saltpeter Cave, Tourist brochure, [rkci.org](#)

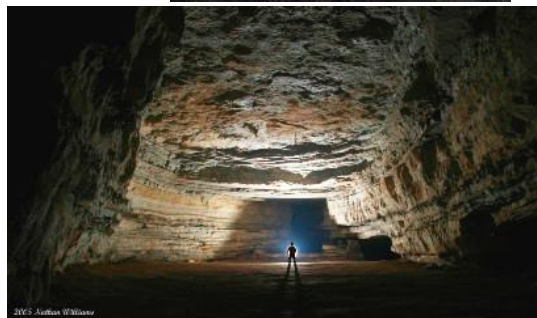
Great Saltpeter Preserve, The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, [caves.org](#)

MotherDrum, About the Motherdrum Project, [motherdrum](#)

MotherDrum, About Great Saltpeter Cave, [motherdrum](#)

MotherDrum, Mother's Heartbeat CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

MotherDrum, Mother's Heartbeat CD, [CDBaby](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



NA-US-P2-12 United States 2004

FERN GROTTTO *

NA – Instrumental

Comp: Doug HAMER

Perf: **Doug HAMER** (guitar)

Prod. Co: JRT Records

Time: 6:57

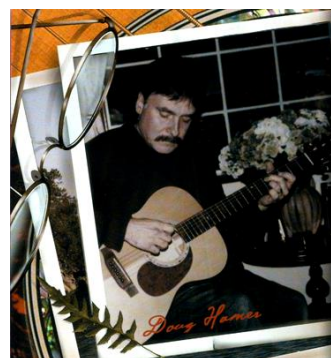
CD: ACOUSTIC JOURNAL

JRT (?) (Tk 1)

Notes: Doug Hamer is from the Pacific Northwest and the second piece on this album, "Island Memories" draws from the Hawaiian slack key school of guitar. (Anon. n.d.)

Photo by D. Brison, 1994

Regarding this acoustic guitar piece, one critic said that "he takes a more impressionistic approach, playing in a sparser vein, e.g. 'Fern Grotto,' which displays his control of nuance and shading, as well as demonstrating some well-executed studio engineering techniques (echo effect) which can go a long way toward giving the music some depth and extra feeling. Later in this track, the pace picks up even while the mood remains draped in mystery, as Hamer's finger fly every which way on the fret board and across the strings,



picking fingerstyle in a dazzling display of control.” (Anon. n.d.)

Fern Grotto is located upstream along the Wailua River on the Isle of Kaua'i in the Hawaiian Islands. Numerous maidenhair ferns hang down from the ceiling of this deep, wide shelter cave creating a romantic setting in the dense jungle. During the Hawaiian folk concerts, the audience stands in the cave while the musicians, singers, and dancers perform out under the trees on the flat ground facing the cave flanked on either side by high cliffs. This cave could be considered more than a mere shelter cave for a crawlway at the back end goes for over three meters into the dark zone.

For more information about Fern Cave see under Spoken Word – Documentary – [United States](#).

Ref: Anon. n.d., Doug Hamer, Acoustic Journal CD, Album Notes, [CDBaby](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Doug Hamer, Bio, [magnatune](#)

Doug Hamer, Acoustic Journal CD, [Apple](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Doug Hamer, Acoustic Journal CD, (6:57), [magnatune](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Fern Grotto, Isle of Kaua'i, [Wikipedia](#)

Fern Grotto, Smith's Fern Grotto Tours, Wailua River, [smithskauai](#)

Gurnee, Russell & Jeanne 1980, *Gurnee Guide to American Caves*, Zephyrus Press Inc., Teaneck, NJ, p. 72

NA-US-P2-13 United States 1999

THE FORGOTTEN CAVE

NA – Synthesizer – Instrumental

Comp: (?)

Perf: **GLOBAL VISION PROJECT**

Prod Co: Eclipse Music Group

Time: 7:14

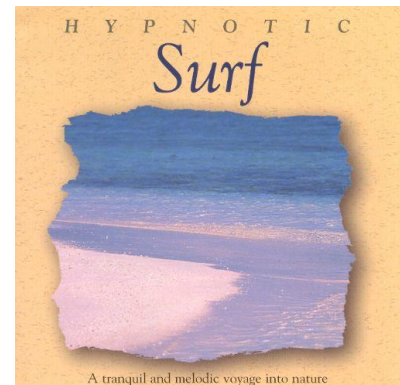
CD: HYPNOTIC SURF

Eclipse Music Group 520503 (Tk 3)

Notes: A 30-sec sample had a high-pitched keyboard, swishing waves splashing on the shore (presumably in a cave), and a simple melody that evolves leisurely as the waves continue.

Nothing further could be learned about the Global Vision Project.

Ref: Global Vision Project, Hypnotic Surf CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



ADDITIONAL RECORDINGS OF **NEW AGE MUSIC – UNITED STATES**

This discography continues alphabetically in Part 3 – Gate to M

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