

## Waves - solo huaca

### Quotes

When I listen to the music on Waves I feel as if I am being drawn into an ancient mystery tradition where the secrets are all encoded in the subtle blend of notes, evoking something ineffable from the heart without passing through the mental region and its thoughts.

– *Brian Swimme, cosmologist and author of The Universe Story, The Heart of the Cosmos and The Universe is a Green Dragon.*

I knew this guy in high school and he was a total jock and Alan has now mastered an instrument I didn't even know about. It's haunting but sweet and has an effect that is unlike any I have experienced.

*Roger Hand, activist and Bioneer*

The ocarina is such a beautiful, beautiful instrument. I feel privileged to be part of the historical continuity of it . . . in a very small way, like a grain of sand on the beach. The pieces on this record are composed and performed by the instrument's most advanced player. Alan's music is often contrapuntal and complex. He has mastered the instrument."

– *Sharon Rowell, inventor of the huaca, a radical innovation based on the ocarina*

Sharon invented the huaca in 1980, in response to the deep sound of an offshore foghorn echoing over the California coastal town of Mendocino, CA where she lived at the time. She has developed a unique firing process that creates a gorgeous, ancient and organic look to the instrument.

The creation of a small clay chamber with holes for a flute sound is thousands of years old surfacing in Mexico, Peru, China and Italy. The huaca has three large chambers with a split mouthpiece allowing one, two or three notes to be played simultaneously. Chambers are tuned to a specific musical key and to each other in a tempered fashion like the piano. A few, commissioned by Alan, have all three chambers tuned to different musical scales providing the potential for more unusual harmonies.