Compiled from his wife Sveta’s favourite jazz songs, Bill McBirnie’s latest release *The Silent Wish* showcases a range of Latin-jazz styles.

Overall, this album sounds how you would expect a traditional jazz flute album to sound. It makes for good easy-listening background music, but is also worth an active listen. A personal highlight for me is the double-tracked flutes in Track 3: *Saber Cair/Knowing How to Fall*. Piano on this record comes from McBirnie’s long-time collaborator Bernie Senesky. Hear Bernie showcased on Track 5: *My Heart Belongs to Daddy*. This ‘up swing’ track shows real skill in keeping up with the changes, and the two players create excitement without the need for drums or bass.

Track 4: *Cabana Boy* has some really funky moments, while Track 6: *First Song (For Ruth)* is a beautiful ballad with some really sympathetic accompaniment from Senesky. Bill picks up the alto flute for Track 10: *Away from Home*, another slow number, this time penned by Bill himself with Bruce Jones. If you don’t like heavy vibrato this maybe isn’t the album for you—but it is definitely one for the easy-listening pile, and a worthwhile source for jazz flute students seeking some solos to transcribe.

**Diljeet Bhachu**