

Into the music

THE PAINTINGS OF CHARD

In 1947 Chard (Richard Chenier) was born in Saint-Boniface - a French-Canadian prairie city in Manitoba, Canada. A professional blues musician since the 60's (radio, television, clubs, recordings and coffee houses - country blues, Chicago blues, country, swing, and rock) Chard listens to music when painting for inspiration and relaxation.

Van Morrison's ethereal and blues-based songs accompanied him throughout his musical and artistic career from the 60's to the present day. His art is imbued with a quality he attributes, in part, to the music he listens to. Musical emotions and ideas are translated into colour and lines as he paints his *Philosopher's Stone* of cosmological symbols. Presently, Chard lives in Montreal, Quebec (Canada) with his wife and daughter, performing on occasion or doing studio work. His favourite album is *POETIC CHAMPIONS COMPOSE*.

"**Open Your Heart** was painted while listening repeatedly to a song by Van Morrison where he sings about opening your heart - letting go and going deeper into the mystery. The lyrics are sung with a great tenderness. At the time I was falling in love with someone. However, because of a failed relationship it wasn't easy deciding to trust and let go. Thanks to his inspiration the song helped me find the courage to care - to dust myself off and try again. I am grateful because the woman I fell in love with is now my wife and the mother of our child. The painting symbolises breaking through to the trust you need to have a meaningful relationship. The painting is in a private collection but, like most of my art, signed limited edition prints are available on paper or canvas."

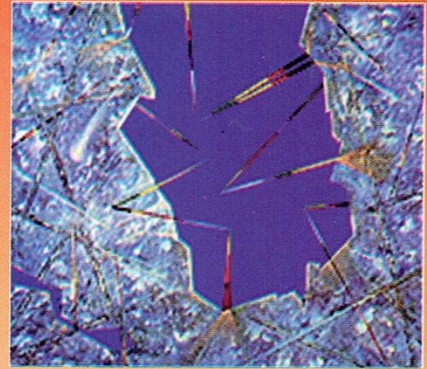
"The **Leap of Faith** was painted after getting a second chance at life. I thought I was dying. Luckily I was cured. As I began to feel healthy for the first time in many years I was rediscovering life. The universe opened up all around me. During this period I was drawn to Van Morrison's cosmic upbeat melodies. His music says every moment is a new beginning, each day is a "brand new day": renewal is possible no matter what happened in the past. It's a spiritual impulse we share, like constellations of emotions that are still untapped and a faith that life's experiences often act as catalysts to break through to a higher state of being."

"**Spirit** - The freedom in Van Morrison's music represents grace in the midst of often chaotic life experiences. The mandala mantra centre is a colourful explosion of dynamic hopefulness. I painted this during a seemingly hopeless period of adversity as a reminder that if I remain focused on the *Philosopher's Stone* - being in harmony with the universe through creativity - that things would eventually work out. And, in the end, they did."

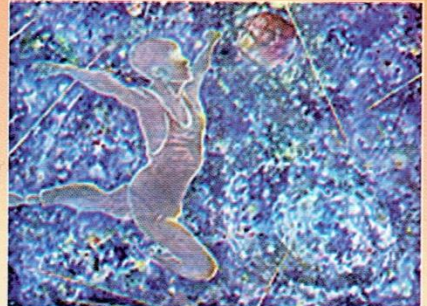
"**Hozho** is joyous and liberating. Van Morrison's exuberance and spirituality is the soundtrack of my life since the late 60's when I was a professional blues harmonica player. As musicians we know the happiness of flowing with the music. That's why when I paint I often listen to him: the universality of music spills over into my creative process and a musical moment becomes transformed into a brush stroke, a colour or an expression. Peace, love and the willingness to take chances - to go deeper into the light - that is Van Morrison's subliminal contribution to many of my paintings."

"**Conception** is primal optimism, deliriously inspired by the cosmos. This image reminds me of a song where Van Morrison cries like a baby floating in space - no words, just the musicality of a child crying. Maybe he realises it, and maybe he doesn't, but his music makes a difference. We exist as souls in wonder in the face of the great gift of life, surrounded by a cosmic heartbeat we feel more than understand: "if my heart could do the thinking and my head begin to feel..." Van Morrison (*Poetic Champions*)."

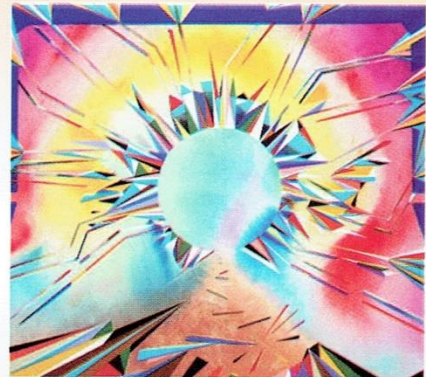
"Music is part of who I am but I had to make a choice between music or painting in order to master one craft; otherwise I risked being Master of None. But, that said, music is subliminally imbedded in my art from Van Morrison's lyrical delirium to Charlie Parker's sax their sounds are forever an integral part of my studio when I'm painting. All these musicians and composers influence what I feel and think while painting. Their notes are translated into colour, lines and symbols - a visual symphony of collective creativity because Ego is transcended - when Ego disappears the Universal Creative Principle « just happens »."



Open Your Heart



Leap of Faith



Spirit



Hozho

