

Reaching 12

By

Faith Angelina

Written by

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Faith Angelina may be the youngest person we have ever interviewed so far, but she has a story to tell, that many three times her age will not have encountered. This however has given her a unique perspective on life and from that over-view; it has matured into a sense of music that has become a sanctuary of tranquillity and a place of creation.

The story itself is well documented in the interview that we did with her, but here and right now, **Faith Angelina** takes us on a personal journey through her debut album and we start at the very first open window entitled, **Run with the Wind**. As a 16 year old child this is exactly what I wanted to do myself, my life was out of control and all I wanted to do was run as fast as I could into the only thing that had never let me down, nature. I feel the same energy in this piece, there is a certain tempo set here by the repeating motif and a colourful melody of freedom attached, and one compliments the other with ease.

I found **Sunday Morning Rain** a real memory jerker, Sundays as a child for me were always bitter sweet and through the tones and incredible fluency of performance one could with ease see the artist sitting by the window, watching the trickling water fall like tears from the grey skies above.

On **Easter Lilies** we have a piece that contains a gentle narrative, its short form structure supports a really light essence and the really crafted performance here is a treat to listen to.

The next track has a really tentative nature about its composition; **Finding Hope** has more than one dimension to it, it's myriad of musical doorways to open, and a pathway of tone of an imploring nature can be found here. The

smooth yet empowering performance here is quite breath taking, so much so that I have now listened to this piece four times and still I find more to enjoy.

Our journey with Faith nears the middle part of this exploration of musical awareness, and as we do so we come across a really dramatic composition called **Lost**. There is a darkness that sometimes we don't notice and when it wraps its cloak around us, we simply get lost in its web, but there is hope. This powerful and moving arrangement has something truly special, its narrative is evident, but the fluid melodic structure reminds me of early *David Lanz*.

Seasons is our half way marker and as we take a break we can listen to the artist create a memorable offering that seems to span all four nature changes on our world. Listen for the change in style and tempo around the one minute twenty second mark that shifts up a gear and manifests a subtle movement in time and then slows back down in a shifting and repeating pattern which is completely addictive to listen to.

I had heard this track the other day on the radio and was extremely impressed; it's called **Eye of the Storm**. **Faith Angelina** has created something here that is not only redolent of a storm, but of standing right in the middle of one, that eerie sense of quietness, and that very obvious reality that at some stage all hell is going to break lose. This is without doubt one of my favourite pieces from the release. Its extreme graphic nature is a pleasure to enjoy, and be a willing part of.

We now move to a track called **Abuelita**. Now I believe translated this means Grandmother, or little Grandmother. Regardless, this is a piece that has a real warmth to it, one that welcomes you in and offers you a glowing drink, that will bring comfort and happiness to you when you're not at your best. For me this is what I would term as a real feel good track.

Once more the fluidity of performance shines for **Faith Angelina** on this next opus called **Chasing Rainbows**. The tempo and repeating motif gives us a sense of movement, but there is also a wonderful sense of colour and light here as well that can be enjoyed. This has to be one, if not, the most picturesque arrangements on the album.

This musical journey has been a real cathartic voyage for the musician and on **Sunny Days** she continues to explore that theme further. Just as I started writing about this piece, a sunbeam burst in through my studio window, perfect timing on a composition that contains an ounce of sunshine with every lovely note played.

Our penultimate piece is called **Saying Good-Bye**, this has to be a fine example of what we're about to hear over the months and years ahead from **Faith Angelina**. I adored this track; it has become a real favourite of mine, the melody and over all composition reminded me in performance of *Elton John*, with its driving narrative and use of minor and major chords. The slight break towards the end was clever and well crafted, allowing a change to occur; this was stunning and reminded me of the work of *Doug Hammer* on his album *Heart*. This has to be the finest work from her to date, and one track I wished would never end, but like everything, we have to say goodbye to it all at some stage.

Our last offering is called **Twelve**, now while I struggle to remember back that far, what I do remember, is that this was one of the most difficult times of my life back then, leaving the child behind, as the teenager emerges and young adult hood comes knocking on the door of life. This offering pretty much sums up that feeling and shows the change occurring, the interplay of child hood and adult hood in music is perfectly illustrated here.

Reaching 12 is a remarkable collection of empowering and moving works from a musician so young, yet so talented, one can only dare to imagine what wondrous opuses will flow from her hands, with a few more years on the clock. **Reaching 12** is an album that fans of solo piano will lap up; it contains all the right ingredients to reach dizzying heights in the charts, and will carry the listener on a deeply emotive and honest musical journey, perhaps even one that may as cathartic, as well as entertaining for them as too.