

# **Flying Solo Silhouette**

**By**

**Ann Sweeten**

**Written by**

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I believe that when the time is right the music you need will be there for you. I have been in a sensitive mood lately and in need of a panacea to cure my woes, that panacea would turn out to be **Flying Solo Silhouette** by **Ann Sweeten**.

The very first refrains from Sweeten created an ambience like I have never heard from her before, and **A Light Rain** then went on to manifest an oasis of calm that was sweet perfection, in fact I have now played this composition five times already this morning, its stunning.

As the journey has begun, the next musical step is a piece called **Dawn On Red Mountain**. The slow and tranquil tempo is a delight to listen to, with ease, one could picture the vista of the mountains. I have a range along the road from my home, and this would be idyllic music to watch either a sunrise or sunset upon. The performance style here is sublime and the techniques used allow our imaginations to create wonderful vistas.

This in my opinion is Sweetens best work to date, and she emphasises that with her next offering called **Veil Of Tears**. This is an arrangement that contains a level of passion and emotion that literally flows from the piano in a cascade of tears. Note the fluency of Sweetens performance here, you have both power and grace, but balanced so well.

Living in Cyprus, with its Greek life-style, **Elysian Fields** or the Greek afterlife is a theme we're familiar with, and on that very track **Ann Sweeten** draws us a narrative of a waving meadow of green, where ones families can unite again

after death. There is a repetitive nature about the track that enables a real sense of movement too.

On **Afterglow**, we find a real heart-warming opus of serenity, the ambience manifested is indeed sublime, but its worth noting the performance here once more by Sweeten, it has a really charming smoothness about its construction. This is one of those pieces that should be placed upon your winter musical playlist immediately.

As we cross over into the second half of the release, we come across a really moving composition called **Nikki's Song**. The deep well of emotion that this piece draws upon is so evident; its respectful tones create a real cathartic narrative within this offering.

Another piece now for your winter playlist, this one is called **December Snow**. I haven't seen snow in December for many years, but the imagination allows me to use this music to traverse to a realm where I can sit by the window and watch the snowflakes drop from above. This is without doubt a beautiful composition and like the snow, the melody and arrangement seem to almost recreate themselves throughout this quite breath taking composition.

**Broken Wing At North Light** is another track we can explore at our leisure; it has an honest gentleness about its construction that is very appealing. The whole energy of this piece and the performance here by the artist is simply mesmeric.

The solo nature of this album and tracks contained within allow Sweeten to really draw great colour and movement into the arrangements, using her own skill set, and on **Eclipse** she does just that with great aplomb and confidence. The depth of field within this composition is fascinating; Sweeten manifests a slow onward movement as the skies begin to grow dark, and eventually the light is gone. This has to be one of the most addictive tracks I have heard from the artist and is my favourite from the release.

**Ann Sweeten** has crafted a superb album here of solo compositions that are simply outstanding, like this next one called **The Hourglass**. The subject of time is always one that fascinates many of us, and indeed there is something about this piece that reminds me of the work of *David Nevue* on his album *Winding*

*Down*. Sweeten brings not only a repeating motif of the sands falling to the bottom of the glass, but also a passionate melody, one that is bathed perhaps in memories of past events that can never be revisited.

How appropriate is this offering, as we now enter autumn, it's called **Falling Leaves**. I have a love for music about this time of year; it is such a reflective season. Sweetens skills here leave us with a smile on our faces and memories of happy summer days in our back pockets.

Our last doorway to this dimension of sound and tone created by the artist has now opened, and if we take a peek inside we can see that she is ready to perform her last track for us, this musical gift is called **On Wings Of Light**. I don't think Sweeten could have left this project any better than with this one, there is a really smooth sense of flight here, a subtle movement that is so well played and caring, it's almost angelic at times.

**Flying Solo Silhouette** is Sweetens best work so far without doubt, this is an album that has everything the legions of solo piano fans will adore. She has manifested an album that has emotion, colour, movement, a softness of touch and intensity when needed.

You will know I listen too many in this genre, but this has to rate as being one of the best I have heard for quite some time. I am sure that the radiant professionalism and outstanding skills shown within this album will also be acknowledged by those sensible enough to purchase it, this is pure class.