

Serenity

By

Michael Kollwitz

Written by

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A new artist to me, but one that has brought a great deal of **Serenity** into my life, no pun intended, well only a little, is **Michael Kollwitz**! Now like some, I had heard of the chapman stick on a few albums that I have reviewed, but never seen one until I gazed upon the covers of this album, I feel intrigued, so why not join me on another musical journey this time with **Michael Kollwitz**, as he opens the door to his new realm called **Serenity**.

Mountain Sanctuary starts our voyage of musical plenitude and a more serene beginning you would never find. The gentleness of performance here is sublime and deeply peaceful. It would be ideal to take this music up into the mountains behind my home and enjoy the lush colourful tones along the way.

Mystic Vista, ah what a serene title, and one that we can relate to here, we have many mystical and amazing vistas in Cyprus. Again this track is utter perfection. Im sitting on my veranda, listening to this and watching the early autumn wind caress the palm trees, as sun beams dance on the wings of an errant butterfly, but I am sure you will find your own halcyon moment within this quite stunning arrangement.

The mellowness of this release is enough to bring tranquillity into anyone's life; **Greatest Possible Gift** is another fine example of that tranquil nature and **Michael Kollwitz** is the master narrator of this most bliss-filled journey. One can see why such luminaries as *Alice Cooper*, *Carlos Santana* and *Mick Fleetwood* have purchased his music.

As we move to **The Four Pillars**, we can feel so happy that the enchantment spell that Kollwitz has placed upon us is still working. Here we have another warm opus of peace to wash over us; this one has a real sun kissed feel to it, and the tones that flow from this place of musical contentment are perhaps bathed in an historical motif of sorts.

We can move seamlessly from one composition to another without any interruption to our state of bliss, and the track **A New Life**, continues that reverie of harmony. For me there is a careful and tender ethic of reflection about this piece that I simply adored, but one with a positive nature to its construction.

I am certain I could leave this album on repeat for hours, it is so layered and textured in a state of utter calmness, and that doesn't change as we approach the half way juncture of the album, where we come across the piece **Best of Everything**. *Ian Cameron Smith* from Australia once provided us with music of this ilk, but he did that on an electric guitar, here Kollwitz emphasises his skills on the Chapman Stick like I have never heard before.

The midway marker has been reached and we are further blessed by a smooth and resonating offering called **Joyful Reunion**. This composition has a really light energy about it, and the essence of happiness flows strong in this one.

The whole album seems to break down life's tiring rhetoric and creates a soothing oasis of sound to rest in. On **Simple Pleasure** you have just that, a beautiful creation yes, but one that will simply allow you to drift on a sea of reassuring pleasure. Kollwitz manifests layer upon layer of comforting tones, and this track is yet another fine example of that most pleasurable reality.

Many will love the consistency of this album, I do. The artist continues that theme with **Warm Lasting Embrace**, the mantra through this album is restful yes, but there is a warm feeling of creation here as well that needs to be highlighted. This tracks narrative also seems to have a sense of love built into the composition that is so appealing too.

The reassurance of the next piece will leave you feeling deeply moved and consoled; it's called **Never Alone Again**. The comfort that this opus creates is delightful, one could easily imagine sitting at the shore line of a beach in the

warming sun, the arm of a loved one encircles you and states, that you will never be alone again; the performance here is sublime and really worth multiple listens.

One of my favourites from the album was **Quiet Full Moon**, this is music to quieten the restless soul and install the feeling of positivity. Kollwitz has such a sensitive performance style that with each and every note played, you just ease back further into a dream world of pleasure. It's hard to judge, but for me this was one of the smoothest pieces from the release, for me it creates a vast vista of musical awareness for me to roam within.

As we move deep into the matrix of this dimension created by **Michael Kollwitz**, we come across an elevating offering called **Higher Power**. There is an increasing sense of movement within this piece that I found most interesting; it also seems to flow back and forth like the tide, with a sweet energy of harmonic bliss.

Our penultimate offering is entitled **The Seven Canyons**. The performance here by the artist is simply picturesque and wonderfully blessed. I found a similar sense of movement again within this track, but this time, one that you could visualise that headway being made by flight, or perhaps on the wings of an Eagle.

The last port of call for us is entitled **No Hurry, No Worry**. Kollwitz has given us plenty of opportunities to reap the rewards of tranquillity that this album brings, and this last piece was another favourite of mine that I could play for hours, you can literally feel the stress falling from your shoulders as you listen to it.

Serenity by **Michael Kollwitz** is an album that could never have been named better, the peace and calmness of this release brings us a haven of wonderment that we can all delightfully be a part of, and all thanks to the most heavenly and harmonious performances by the artist. Each piece is crafted lovingly to manifest a sanctuary of soft sound for us to bathe in. I thoroughly recommend this album in a heartbeat, may all your nights be long, pleasant and idyllic, and they will be with ease, by embracing **Serenity** by **Michael Kollwitz**.