

Stardust

By

Kerani

Written by

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I have long yearned for a new **Kerani** album and when I heard whispers that a new release was on its way that thrilled me. **Kerani** has that energy built into her work that some of us could call the wow factor. She had that with ease on *Arctic Sunrise*, but it's even more pronounced on this amazing new album, called **Stardust**.

An album about space is usually going to be a winner, but when you included over 60 musicians in on the project with a symphonic orchestra into the mix too, that wow factor is going to be off the scale, for example let's leave the space dock with the opener **Stardust**. If you ever want to start an album with something spectacular, this is how to do it. In *Vangelis* style **Kerani** manifests a piece that has a perfect build, progression and sense of awe and grandeur all in the weave, we can feel a part of it all through this totally stunning opening, we are each note played, we are the melody and the rhythm, we are all **Stardust**.

A glorious ambient and spacious beginning greets our ever eager ears with the next piece called **Cosmic Sunrise**. By some chance I was up very early today and wanted to walk the dog along the beach at sunrise, this piece of music would have been perfect for that pleasurable perambulation. This is such a beautiful composition, with many little intricacies, the deft string section, the purposeful percussion and the narration from **Kerani's** keyboard that moves us forward and onward. This is a wonderful depiction of something utterly spectacular and Kerani's arrangement is the perfect musical soundtrack for that event.

I did read the notes for this next piece and found that the composition is based on the **Rosetta** project of the *European Space Agency*. In our search for life we must travel long and deep. **Kerani** has created something very clever here; one can literally feel through the music, that a journey of that magnitude is going to be taken. There is a defined sense of movement within the arrangement that is so evident; there is also a remarkable likeness on this piece to the UK's *Medwyn Goodall*, perhaps from his days on the album *Comet*. **Rosetta** is a track that demands to be listened to multiple times, as there are so many nuances contained within; you might just miss something first time around.

The next offering **Perpetuum Mobile** is very interesting in many ways, you will find a repeating pattern here, this motif continues onwards like a machine, almost like the tick and tock of a relentless galactic clock, but its symphonic backdrop adds a whole layer of musical magnificence into the composition, could this be an anthem for the space time continuum itself?

On **Beyond** we have a track that whilst it fits perfectly into the space genre and style of *Vangelis*, it's also incredibly ambient, the artist has created a dimension of a vast wonderment here, imagine reaching a point in deep space and seeing the vastness of it all spread before you into infinity. The inclusion of flute on this piece took me back many years to an old *Terry Oldfield* album called *Across the Universe*. Here **Kerani** has allowed her skills to create something that is musically outstanding and through the tones of this track, perhaps we can even explore the myriad dimensions of inner space as well as outer?

We have now traversed over the half way marker in the album, and come across a wormhole that seems to transport us to a whole new realm called, **The Next Step**. You will find a much more up-tempo arrangement here, a lively percussive beat with synths and piano give this composition a real EM feel. This one has that special stardust feel, plenty of energy, the wide eyes of excitement and a luscious melody, with a driving electric guitar, all of that and much more can be found on this headline composition.

As we now drop out of warp and use manoeuvring thrusters to bring us into a more stable position. We can bathe in a track that is simply too huge to comprehend called **Infinity**. One can only imagine the feelings and emotions

when one gazes through the window of you own little world to sample a view of **Infinity**, how does the mind deal with that? It's emotive, overpowering and inspirational and all of those words and the aforementioned description explain entirely the arrangement, and feel of this most incredible opus of brilliance created by **Kerani**.

Our journey through the various quadrants of space has been sensational, but it's not over yet, although we now find that our musical star ship is being pulled away from its current location and towards a vast celestial body, this new planet has a **Gravity** field that is compelling and extremely powerful. **Kerani's** skill and compositional genius now illustrates that pull perfectly with a repeating pulse in the music. The percussion and symphonic build here is slow and so deeply powerful, while the added ethereal vocals from *Davinia Van der Zee* are simply divine.

You will be able to tell by the tone and tempo of this next offering that we must be nearing the end of our current trek through the stars, listen first to the marvellous strings that create such an emotional repose. Then some of the finest piano from **Kerani** ushers forth in what has to be a cinematic moment of outstanding natural beauty on the piece **Worlds Unknown**, my favourite piece off the release. I found this composition to be very moving and deeply emotive. Could this be the anthem for the universe? It gives us a feeling of utter love for all that we are part of and if we could all come together and realise this beauty, then perhaps we could all be a lot happier and more at peace. If there is any justice in the world of music, this has to end up on a space movie somewhere; it's one of the best songs and melodies I have heard since the great *Vangelis* and the *Albedo 0.369* album.

I must state honestly right here and now, that after listening to **Worlds Unknown**, I had to stop for a few minutes to compose myself, have a hug and wipe the tears from my eyes, that has to have been one of the most beautiful pieces I have listened to for years, thank you **Kerani**, you made this writer cry.

Stars (Remix) is our last space port, so as we engage docking thrusters and prepare to end our journey, we can enjoy this last gift from the musician. Whilst the nature of this piece it up beat, it has a certain purpose to it, perhaps one that states, "lets respect our world, let's stop this childish bickering and

realise that we are all one and move onwards together, in love peace and harmony". This is a fine way to leave the album and with a little *Jean Michel Jarre* flare thrown in for good measure too.

Stardust has to be the finest release that **Kerani** has ever produced, its empowering, thought provoking, emotive and simply beautiful at every twist and turn of the album. This is going to appeal to such a wide range of listeners and fans, its symphonic, contains a confident and stylish performance on keyboards, synths and piano, it includes such a vast array of musicianship and support and a top notch quality of production. I have to say this, **Stardust** is the best album I have heard this year in this genre by a mile and I don't only recommend you buy this album, I urge you to do so at all costs, it is excellent.