

Held in the Light

By

Dan Chadburn

Written by

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Dan Chadburn has to be one of the most unique pianists around today, as soon as he touches the keys you can tell it's him, he has that ever so defined musical signature it's just a bliss to behold and be a part of, he is also probably the most sensitive performer of his day, and on **Held in the Light**, we see that sensitivity roam freely, in the pastures of a meadow of musical gracefulness.

The album starts us on a journey down memory lane, with the old English hymn **Breathe on Me, Breath of God**. Now bear in mind that Dan is the master of improvisational music, and each and every track has been lovingly created from his heart. This divinely warming piece nurtures us and embraces us with its soft, but happy refrains.

I used to go to church with my parents, not out of choice I have to add, in fact I'm sure that to this date I found great solace in one thing only, listening to my father sing. I can distinctly remember him doing just that on, **By Thou My Vision**. Dan's improvisation of this classic touches my heart and allows me through the years, and past the tears, to see my father's face, and hear his voice once more through the arrangement of this memorable piece. I thank you **Dan Chadburn**.

This is Chadburn's seventh release, and with each album his style and maturity as a performer has grown experientially. On his version of **Amazing Grace** we can see that in absolute abundance. The sweetness of touch and the loving embrace of the keys are such an important part of who Chadburn is, and on an all-time classic like this, he doesn't just do it justice, he brings more colour and a little extra intensity to the game, with each note played.

One of my personal favourites was **Wondrous Love**; the fluency here of Chadburn's performance was sublime. I felt truly touched by this offering, the use of the minor chords and structures made this a deeply emotive and reflective composition and highlighted Chadburn's sensitivity and his desire to play from one place only, the heart.

Love Devine has that signature touch of the artist, but also an added layer calm and serenity about its overall construction. There is something so tender about the performance on this delicate offering that has to be truly admired. Chadburn's unique skill set on piano, gifts us a soothing and charming narrative to simply close our eyes to, and drift away, in love.

As we approach the half way juncture, we come across one of the most stylish pieces off the album called **Were You There**. This is a very mood filled opus that is so beautifully crafted; you just want to keep hitting the repeat button. The artist's use of a slight pause now and then adds to the mystery of the overall narrative, and the arrangement itself is so very reflective and profoundly contemplative.

As we take a single step into the latter half off the release **Held in the Light** by **Dan Chadburn**, we come across a very gratifying arrangement entitled **Lo, How a Rose**. This is one that will yet again showcase Chadburn's skills as a true wizard of improvisation. The simply yet charismatic style here is a pleasure to listen to, a track that will lead you down memory lane, with a loving arm around your shoulder, and performed in such an enchanting manner.

Breath of Life I have read was performed by Chadburn at the studios of *Piano Haven*, and apparently he requested from the audience that they pick a letter A-G, a flat, natural or sharp, and gave them the choice of minor or major. The following full flowing performance is the result of that moment of inspirational genius on that most magical night, and resulted in an offering that is truly inspired.

It's unusual for me to write about a song that I sing as part of my *Cat Stevens* set, but **Morning Has Broken** seems to have been with me all of my life. I remember singing this at school, it was one of a few traditional pieces I actually enjoyed being a part of. The artist has created a really rich tapestry of tone and colour that is simply delightful here.

Refuge tugs at the heart strings, and implores to be listened to by every fibre of your musical existence. There is a slight classical essence to this composition that increases the depth of the arrangements prowess. I found this track captivating and very moving. Chadburn has manifested a mysterious element of loneliness within this piece, one that is both fascinating and melancholic at the same time.

Our mood is lifted now by the empowering **How Great Thou Art**. The talent of Chadburn's creative muse is once more in full flow, and hand in hand they have created something that musically sparkles and vibrates with a shimmering intensity that is so bright. The artist connects to source, the piano speaks, and what comes forth is a symbiosis of tone and splendour.

We have travelled long and far dear constant reader, and the penultimate musical pathway is now in front of us, and the music to usher us along on our way is entitled **Beautiful Savior**. This rousing and stimulating offering from the interpretational matrix of the artists mind, is both grand and arousing, and played with a smile and a shining confidence.

We now bid a fond farewell to the expertise of **Dan Chadburn**, but before he leaves this musical realm he has thus far created, the ultimate gift of a breath taking title track is now upon us. **Held in the Light** is something special, it has a spine tingling vibrancy about its interpretation that is simply beautiful. Love pours from this track, like the tears that fall from an angel's eyes, into a mirrored pool of adoration; this is my favourite piece off the release.

Held in the Light is a transformational collection of inspired improvisations from master solo pianist **Dan Chadburn**; it burns with the desire of passion and is played with the energy of affection. Chadburn is a man who performs with a sense of sensitivity that few can match, his gentle and subtle style is a place that fans of solo piano will willingly visit over and over again, and **Held In the Light**, his seventh release, is yet another heart felt album, truly to be cherished.