

Even for a Moment

By

Gary Schmidt

Written by

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I'm now on my third listen to this album, I was just doing some lengthy promotional work and decided to play this release just before I started to write the review for it, I have to say that was the best decision I have made so far today; the whole release is bathed in such a level of calmness and tranquillity, my mundane job just floated past in a reverie of this superb collection of blissful compositions, so let's all go on that musical voyage with the artist right now.

The first calming oasis is called, **If This Is the Time**. The melody here is so tranquil, but also deeply memorable and utterly reflective, one could easily listen to this whilst musing on future opportunities, as we watched the sunlight filter in through our open windows and draw patterns of light and shade into our world.

From the perfection of the first piece we now move to another favourite of mine called **Inside This River**, the piano of Schmidt speaks beautifully, with such a romantic lilt it is delightful to drift with, however when you add in the sumptuous Cello of *Hannah Alkirie* you have a meditative slice of sheer genius in a five minute plus track you simply never want to end.

The kindly **Light That Lights My Face** is up next, this is really charming, there is a certain warmth that brings this whole piece into the light, the smoothness and chilled vibe is undeniable and when the careful acoustic guitar joins the dance, the mood is lifted even further in this most pleasing of pieces.

This is **Gary Schmidt's** second release in this genre; I enjoyed immensely *Landscapes of the Heart* his previous album, and here Gary has grown further and expanded his knowledge and on this track has created a superb solo piano composition that could be regarded as truly ambient in nature and called **A Train Leaves the City**.

On **The Breath At Dawn** we are in for a real treat as Schmidt is joined by new age flute performer *Sherry Finzer* and together they create a sense of meditative ambiance that seems to float on the musical horizon with ease. The artist has manifested a musical narration here, one that truly creates some amazing images of a forest walk as dawn is breaking, and adds all the layers of that very peaceful moment into the weave whilst doing so, this as you may imagine, is yet another favourite piece of mine.

I am fortunate enough to have a copy of *La vie en piano*, Gary's Classical album in my database. That is stunning, as is this piece called **Menuet in G Minor**. It is a pleasure to listen to Schmidt in classical mode, I sit here with eyes closed and soak in the moment, and I could be forgiven to think that I have drifted back in time and am listening live to a performance by Beethoven, this is simply magical.

I had been waiting for this to arrive, it is that mid-way juncture of the release and when we climb to that musical pinnacle of the album we come across the delightful title track called **Even For A Moment**. The strings are an addition that is perfectly welcome and the slight elevation in tempo recharges our energies and fills us with such a sun kissed moment of tone and talent.

The blissful nature of this album can be further exemplified by this next amazing composition called **Sub Tide**, Schmidt's constant narrative on piano is added to by the creative acoustic guitar of *Roger Schmidt*, together they create something of a minimalistic nature, but one that contains such warmth in its arrangement.

We can find a colourful attraction on the next offering entitled **Simply By Looking**, a piece that has a beautiful elevation and a decreasing of tone built into its musical matrix. The Cello creates an extra dimension of style to one of the most fluent and captivating compositions off the album and one that has an almost film score style to its nature as well.

Crescent Light is one of those crisp and pristine tracks that will always bring a smile to the face and happiness to the heart, the energy in this piece alone is exquisite and while at just under two and a half minutes long it is the shortest track off the release, it brings such cheer and light to this musical agenda.

As we move ever deeper into the album, we come across one of the most beautiful pieces off it called **The Light Seems To Move**. The Cello is so mournful here, but its Schmidt's piano that takes centre stage as the master narrator; the artist manifests such a fine array of imagery, one could picture for instance an old country lake and the sun dappled leaves drop down upon its mirror like surface creating fractal patterns of light as they do so, this composition is simply the perfect soundtrack for that event.

On **No Better Gift** we find a present of musical peace and plenitude, this has all the hallmarks of a composition that is bathed in confidence and warmth. The added flute is a gentle addition truly appreciated, but the charm with which the artist performs here is truly satisfying and welcoming.

Once we step through this doorway we enter a realm of utter class and talent and this threshold is called **Adagio for Strings**. **Gary Schmidt's** sensitivity here is well matched by the tenderness with which his performance exudes. This is a dimension of sound that one could escape into, with a blissful sense of ambience and tranquillity. At nearly six and a half minutes long, it gives us plenty of time to relax in its peace filled realms.

It's incredible to think that we must now leave this world of music manifested by the artist, but before we do so he has a parting musical gift to perform for us before we go, it is called **Postlude to a Moment**. This is a fine musical musing, a reverie of our journey with the artist, one that is also played with such style and attention to detail.

Even for a Moment is a musical reminder that we only have, and only will ever have, the moment we currently reside in. With such style and skill **Gary Schmidt** has manifested one of the most soothing releases this year and brought to the genre an album that will be regarded as a timeless collection of beautifully performed and produced opuses dedicated to the ambience of the now.