

# **Where Giants Roam The Earth**

**By**

**Milana Zilnik**

**Written by**

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There is a world far removed from the reality we know here on our plain, in this dimension sound and music are the only languages, each variety of wildlife, plant and flower all communicate musically, the wind blows summer from the trees in a perfectly pitched tone, and the rain falling is the percussive beat of this most amazing of realms, this is the reality of harmony, and the world in which pianos grow like giant trees.

I hope that moment of fantasy will highlight perfectly for you a world of musical fancy, which is the mood set on this quite beautiful release by **Milana Zilnik** and her trip to the most giant piano of all, this world is called **Where Giants Roam The Earth**, so let's pick up the pace and allow ourselves to accept this **Invitation to the Dream**. This is a perfect beginning for us, a confident and calming performance can be found here on this simply dreamy piece, one that allows us to flow naturally into the entire concept with ease.

The deepness of the piece **Where Giants Roam The Earth**, the title track, is up next, this is fantastical, but glorious in its construction. The magical fluency here by the artist is something to enjoy greatly. Zilnik, in just two tracks has proved herself the master narrator on our journey, and this empowering and colourful gift is an exciting place to immerse ourselves within for a short while.

As we move ever deeper in this picturesque vista of a musical land we come across a truly amazing offering entitled **Summer Tale**, we tread with care in the forest as not to disturb the natural abundance and harmonic undergrowth, and we find we can do that with ease with this next piece, this composition is simply sun dappled, but also so varied in its arrangement, I find the uniqueness

of Zilnik's performance delightful, she builds with ease and eases back with such charm

The artist's journey to Germany see the largest upright piano in the world is revealed to you right here in this offering and called **The Piano As Big As A Tree**. I remember once going to the *Tate Modern* in *London* and gazing with awe at a piano that was hanging from the roof of the gallery, but I can only wonder at the emotions that the artist must have felt when gazing up this giant. **Milana Zilnik** portrays perfectly a sense of awe and splendour within this piece as she reflects her sojourn with this king of pianos; there is simply everything here, depth, passion, quality of light and a freshness that brings a whole new energy to a constantly creating opus of brilliance.

The longest piece off the release is up next at just under six minutes and is one of the most descriptive offerings off the album, it's entitled **Hidden Inside**, this is one of my favourites from the album, it contains a nice mixture of minor and major, which manifests for me a reflective tone to caress, but there is also a gentle narrative that is so well performed within the weave as well, personally I find this composition deeply moving and will be revisiting it again many times over.

Autumn is one of the hardest months to deal with for some; where I live now in *Cyprus* it is delightful and one can enjoy its charms with a smile; here Zilnik has created something quite interesting in **Autumn Tale** that may appeal to cross over genres too. There is once more a moody undercurrent to the arrangement, but the performance at times touches both the New Age style, a slight hint of light Jazz, perhaps and even a little original droplet of the classical can be found here as too. This is without doubt a classy soundtrack to the season of mists and falling leaves.

The intensity increases with this next piece called **Burning**; one can feel a certain apprehensive and cautious energy within the piece, one that almost become haunting at times, but I must say that Zilnik has a style on piano that is so inventive and this is indeed a track that is similar to watching a fire burn slowly from the bottom to the top, a very clever performance will be found here indeed.

Interesting how I mention the word haunting and we now find ourselves at the musical portal of our next track called **Haunted Waltz**. Let me set the scene, the light of a dying day drifts its tendrils around the torn smoke damaged curtains, and a jazz like tune from an old worn and tired looking piano caresses the air, while on the dance floor two star crossed lovers from bygone a age dance to the song as if this is all they know, and perhaps it is, they move to the charm of the waltz and then slowly disappear into the last shards of sunlight, on this fading autumn afternoon.

From dawn to dusk, from autumn to winter, this is where we cross the threshold into the dark winter months, the harsh times, and the coldness of days rolls on. **Winter Tale** by the artist however brings a lighter side to the season, one that sparkles with a performance that is akin to watching snow fall in sunshine.

As we reach this next arrangement called **Walking Away** we find a musical depth that makes us realize that at times we just have to stop, reflect on what we're doing in our lives, are we making the right choices and if not, we have to simply walk away. For me this song reflects just that, it is both emotive and sad, but also filled with an empowering sense of reality, that it is time to move onward and upward and we can do that, by listening to this enabling composition.

**Solitude** is sometimes what we all crave for, we may not like to admit it, but in each of us we have felt that moment, that need, so this is our divine moment of self-reflection and wonderfully portrayed so by the artist. This has a sombre mood, but also has a sensitive energy about its arrangement which makes it also most meditative at times.

Time now to once more grow, we have reconnected with our true path by dealing with the emotions that winter offers, and now we can once more be bathed in the warming light of a **Spring Tale**. This is one of the most fascinating offerings off the album, there seems to be much here to enjoy, from the traditional new age style to an almost *Debussy* styled classical motif.

As we reach the penultimate piece off the release we find the energy picking up pace, the tempo on **Catching Up** has that perfect sense of movement about its composition that draws you in willingly, and this breath taking opus is akin

to someone pulling back the curtains in your bedroom and revealing a brand new sun kissed day brimming with hope and potential waiting outside.

It's time to open the key to the final door of the album in this last piece called **Coming Home**. The perfect ending arrangement can be found here and a performance that reminds me of other solo piano artists, one in particular that I have just reviewed in *Doug Hammer*. This is such a brilliant presentation, one can almost imagine looking out of the window and seeing your loved one wandering home after a long time away, just crossing the old bridge on the horizon and now your heart begins to quicken with joy and relief, this magical song creates those feelings of, soon all will be as it should be, as you have finally come home.

**Where Giants Roam The Earth** has to be the most enjoyable solo piano experience for me for a long while, **Milana Zilnik's** performance is unique but also honed and crafted in the forges of the fires of the traditional new age styles, and mixed perfectly with other genres to bring forth an album that has to be one of the most fascinating and all-encompassing voyages of solo piano I have listened to for years. Zilnik has a creativity that is so inventive and colourful that it is a pleasure to reside in its tones for an eternity.