

Visions & Emotions

By

Aleksandra Takala

Written by

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I always love the excitement generated by a new artist and a new album and **Aleksandra Takala** ticks both boxes, and on **Visions & Emotions** she has created one of the most unique and interesting albums I have heard this year.

I have travelled a fair bit in my life and I can really feel that vibe pulsing through this first offering entitled **World Traveller**. The constant ever onward moving narrative and global ethic were all here, and finished off nicely with a thunderstorm just before the three minute mark, in a simply perfect start to the album.

Enraptured may only be a short form offering but in just under two minutes Takala creates a sense of warmth and love, the piano is soft and gentle and the mood of the overall piece is simply charming and makes me feel like hugging my loved one.

As we move ever deeper into the album we come across a wonderfully graphic composition called **Japanese Maple**. The energy of the orient is there through the essence and arrangement, with the keyboard as the gentle narrator as we go. There is something so appealing about the tone and ease of composition on this piece that I adore, and at times a feeling of spring can also be felt through the music.

Living but a short distance from the ocean this is especially close to my heart. **Ocean Swells** moves back and forth like a veritable tide of tone, the gentle movement of this arrangement was perfect; my wife and I both love to sit on the rocks and dip our feet in the warm waters from time to time, and this

delicate offering could easily be the soundtrack for that event. This must be the most laid back track off the album, but one that contains a delightful calming percussive beat within as well.

I found this next one quite amusing, it is called **Road Trip (Hurry Up & Slow Down)**. There is an almost passive aggressiveness about this track that people can have when they take a holiday or a vacation, and I should know as I live on an island where we have many tourists, and they spend their two weeks running back and forth in a frenzy to get everything done, to see all the sites and somewhere along the way relaxation seems to have flown out of the window. This is musical storytelling at its very best and thoroughly entertaining in every aspect of its composition, a superb performance on keyboards can be found here by the artist.

The next piece is called **Melancholy** and at just under three minutes draws its narrative from an imploring sense of a need for change perhaps. The piece itself repeats its musical mantra and wends a sensitive tale, with the piano adding a little strength to the desire for an alteration in one's path maybe.

I must say this was one of my favourites from the album it is called **Groundwater**. The symphonic nature of this composition is quite beautiful and manifests for me a natural vista; perhaps in a deep green forest watching the mirrored pool of a lake slowly disappear into the blanket of summer mists, a stunning picturesque offering indeed.

Now it's time to completely change direction, style and composition, and move to a long form offering at just less than 12 minutes entitled, **Cascading Pools of Crystal**. The guitar in this piece was a surprise, but created a delicate and almost progressive rock style ethic for me to enjoy, then the percussion kicked in and transformed the piece into a full flowing arrangement that I completely adored, at times this piece caresses the chill out genre and does so with such style, that one has to listen multiple times to fully enjoy this moment of musical magic.

At just over 10 minutes we come to one of my favourite subjects in new age music, the title will give you a clue and called **Passing Clouds**. This however is far moodier than just a track about fluffy cumulus passing by, here we have a song with a dramatic flair, one that is supremely played on the piano and with

the slight symphonic backdrop, perhaps manifests for us a sense of feeling or emotions that are negative and passing by like clouds, one minute were down and then the sun comes back out to lift our happiness from the pit and so on, this for me is the cleverest composition on the album, and also the penultimate offering on the release.

So we finish this musical voyage with the artist, but before we go we have one last gift she would like to perform for us, and it is called **Moonlight Over Havana**. Speaking as one who has spent time in the Caribbean (Jamaica) which isn't that far from Cuba, I can tell you this fits beautifully with the night time vibe there, the keyboards and percussion create an undeniable rhythm and thus the magic of an unforgettable night is born.

Visions & Emotions by **Aleksandra Takala** has to be one of the most inventive and original story telling styled albums released this year, one could travel with this album and find something familiar, but also new each time. **Visions & Emotions** by **Aleksandra Takala** is an album that entrances the listener and pulls you into an exotic tale with ease, it is beautifully performed and produced and with a good deal of thought and attention to detail too.