

Small Treasures

By

Kerani

Written by

Steve Sheppard

You can pretty much guarantee yourself a feast of passionate empowering music when a new **Kerani** album is released, her style is addictive and I personally rate her as one of the foremost female electronic and new age composers of her time; on **Small Treasures**, she has raised the musical bar up sky high.

This musical sojourn starts with the haunting and quite stunning **Temple of Roses**. This utilises the extremely delightful vocal talents of singer *Chanele McGuinness*, and **Kerani** just builds layer upon layer of synth based harmonies to lift you into a wonderland of musical magic. The Celtic feel is enhanced further with a delicate but delicious percussive beat, creating a perfect opening piece for us to drool over.

Her last album *Stardust* captured the hearts of the listeners and I think this one is certain to do that and more, just listen to the string development in this almost classical reverie entitled **Fields of Hungry**. On this piece **Kerani** wanted to give us a flavour of the culture of Hungry, which is where my next door neighbours come from. I must play them this and see what they say. In my view, the artist has created a soundtrack of a composition here, one that is absolutely glorious; the exciting crescendos only add to the supreme brilliance of the piece.

This next piece has fellow chart musician *Ron Korb* within its construction and his style on flute only adds a whole new layer of class to this already stunning

arrangement called **Sakura**. The gentle keyboards manifest a soothing reverie and the flute of *Korb* accompanies the natural beauty of the song; just listen to the simply seamless genius of the strings here, one could almost see the performers playing for us under the cherry blossom filled trees of Japan.

Kerani is one of those artists that you may think how she can get any better, but constantly and with each and every composition she continues to excel and thrill, as much the same can be said about this next piece called **Fantasy in White**. When I first heard this piano based track I was convinced it was *David Lanz* playing, the motifs were similar, the minor and major combination and melody, all of which were so lovingly performed, this has to be some of the best work on piano I have heard from the artist.

Now a return to the Celtic lands and an oasis of tone and timbre now opens up for us that could easily take us to the otherworld and beyond, **Celtic Mystery** is a sublime composition of creative cleverness. **Kerani** certainly has a wonderful ear for an addictive melody and a passionate ability for manifesting great arrangements, here on this light hearted offering you will find all of that in a piece that is as fluent as an ocean stream in autumn. Ethereal vocalisations are provided by *Davinia Van der Zee*, while the spoken word gives a return to the album, for vocalist *Chanele McGuinness*. Listen to the build here and the simply amazing partnership on piano and flute by **Kerani** and *Isaac "les" Muller*, utterly stunning.

This is an album of outstanding natural beauty and when you arrive at this next instrumental work of clarity and colour, you will once more be amazed by the simple yet poignant fluency of this piece entitled **Garden of Dreams**. The strings are once again so scene setting; we can immediately be transported to our own secret garden with this opus. For me this is a mix of *Debussy*, meets *Kevin Kendle* and that can't be a bad combination can it?

The soothing narrative of this next piece called **Where the Heart Belongs** is now upon us, it is a combination of strings and piano that wend a tale of an aged energy, the melody has an almost timeless feel about its essence; it's one of those tunes that you may have in your head for years and will never leave.

We now move to **Echo of Our Souls**, this features Brazilian guitarist *Carla Maffioletti*, together they bring to our ears something completely

transcendent, something utterly awe-inspiring, with strains of *Medwyn Goodall* and a crescendo worthy of the great *Vangelis*. **Echo of Our Souls** is a real stand out piece, a composition that will literally make you tingle from head to toe, perfect build and construction and timed crescendos that raise the emotional level so high, your heart will burst with love whilst listening to this outstanding arrangement, this is what magnificent contemporary instrumental music should be all about.

We are now about to unlock the doorway to the penultimate offering of the album and the gift that awaits us inside is called **To the Heavens**. This created for me an intensely moving moment of musical emotion. Here lies a track beyond beauty, beyond a simple melody, one feels like this very composition has been created from the deep sense of love and reverence two people can have for each other, that all empowering essence of partnership through struggles and bathing in the ponds of happiness, it is all here in this utterly charming offering.

So sadly we come to the end of the album, but **Kerani** has one more gift to give us before we must go, and she will now perform for us the last piece called **Reflections of the Heart**. I must admit I thought I had heard this before and when I checked the notes with the album I was correct, it originally came from her 2011 album *Wings of Comfort*, although that offering was well over 20 minutes long, one must applaud *Kerani* for finishing with this piece, it has the perfect energy to allow us to leave the album, with a feeling of total peace, harmonic bliss, and a feeling of being utterly fulfilled in every musical way

Small Treasures is one of the biggest albums of this year with ease; it is an award winning album waiting to happen, it is a collection of some of the finest new age styled music I have heard for absolutely years. **Kerani** has proven herself as one of the finest composers of this modern age and albums like **Small Treasures** should be part of any sensible music collector's library, this is ageless music, created with such skill and talent, but birthed from a passion of her art, a completely recommended release indeed.