

Notes from Zion

By

Faith Angelina

Written by

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In 2017 we saw the birth of a talent that is still building, with the arrival of an album called *Reaching 12* by **Faith Angelina**. Just over a year later, and now a teen, Angelina has already gone from strength to strength, and with her latest release called **Notes from Zion**, she combines her love of the great national park and her faith, and comes up with an album that is truly magical.

Let's start this new musical voyage with the young artist now, as we wander through every alleyway of her new release. Starting with **Top of the Mountain**, now I am sure at some point most of us have had that halcyon moment, when we stand atop of a vast hill and look down at all the beauty that falls before us. Within us we feel the wonder and gratitude of the universal genius that created this beloved nature we are viewing at this very moment. The performance here is simply perfect, the composition starts with a tentative yet picturesque style and then just constantly grows with such an open heart, that by the time the end of the composition nears, we hear such a powerful yet balanced elevation of power, which leaves one filled literally with a sense of utter bliss at its conclusion.

The arrangement of this next piece just happens to be beautifully crafted and this is perfect for one huge reason, it is the title track of the album, that blank canvas, that moment when the artist, the creator, gives us through music her interpretation of the entire concept. **Notes from Zion** is a truly peaceful opus, and whilst listening to this on numerous occasions, I have found it very textured and meditative to listen to, a fine example indeed of what a title track should sound like.

The next arrangement, **Baby Faith** has a wonderfully gentle refrain; the high notes give us a soothing musical narrative, one where a childlike energy can be felt. In life we grow and mature with the lessons we have been given in this realm, and this fluent and knowledgeable offering contains just that, a sense of growth and maturity in performance and in all things that go to make us who we really are. Listen particularly to the start and end of this amazing composition; it speaks volumes for the narrative of the overall energy of the track.

Kolob Canyon is part of *Zion's National Park*; this is one extremely colourful arrangement, there is a melody here that is completely captivating, the performance style is equally addictive to listen to, and this is one of my favourites from the album. The very classy approach here is truly exciting to listen to and for me shows just how far the artist has come in just one short year.

From one Canyon to another, this time **Snow Canyon** is portrayed in music by the artist. The beauty of the area is as textured as the track, and just when I think I had found my favourite song another one comes along, this offering has a delightful melody and a sublime tempo to gift us not only a dramatic vista through the music, but also a true sense of movement through it as well, a very clever piece indeed.

The midway point has now been reached and at this juncture we find a glorious piece called **The Living Planet**. This maybe the most emotive and moving composition from the release and **Faith Angelina's** growing maturity can be found in abundance here, with each note played one can see before us a tableau of nature's grandest moments being played out. This would be one of those tracks to add to your walking or hill climbing playlists, it has such an all-encompassing energy of grandness but respectfulness about its energies'.

There is a change in overall tone on this next offering called **Ensign Peak**. In my view this is one of the cleverest compositions on the album, and a good deal of thought has gone into showing different perspectives within all things through music, with this composition. There is a sharper edge to the performance here, the intensity seems to be more elevated too, and perhaps instead of gazing on beautiful fertile lands we are looking at the vast width and breadth of the

mountain itself. Faith has really pulled off a masterstroke on her performance on this offering.

The softer refrains of the piece entitled **Flowing Waters** is now upon us, the artist uses her amazing skills to once more create a feeling of movement here, but one that drifts in and out of the eddies of an arrangement that is like painting with musical tones themselves. There is a real lightness of spirit here, one that grows into a sense of excitement, as we can witness through this piece, a sense of almost musical enlightenment occur, a real light bulb moment of a composition is within this offering.

The Narrows is up next and is one of the most visual pieces off the release, each time I listened to this composition I could see the mountain waters cascading down the rocky surfaces, I could see a vast trail before me with so many changes in landscape patterns it was breath taking, and that is exactly where this quite stunning arrangement has taken me. Personally this is one of those pieces I would find easy to leave on repeat with no problem at all for ages.

We have moved to the deep pathways of this album and as we do so we arrive at the pass called **Finding Your Why**. The artist has had her life struggles and has risen above them all, this one for me could easily be an anthem to her successes, however her performance on piano here is so confident and fluent, perhaps its saying even more, perhaps this is a musical moment of realisation, of happiness and understanding ones true nature in the universe.

The delicate refrains of the keys on this next piece called **Angels Landing** gives us our penultimate offering of the album. I have a feeling that this one could be quite breath-taking to see performed live. If one listens intently, perhaps we can hear a slight apprehension in the song, one that seems to be witnessing something quite amazing, but a little daunting, for an artist to create something so powerful and intense, with a little built-in sense of concern is simply remarkable.

It could be said of this last offering, **This Is The Place**, that it holds a similarity in arrangement and energy to the composition *Finding Your Why*, not in comparison of melody or song, but more in the energy of a performance that seems to quite strongly suggest a happiness, that all is as it should be, or as

Dorothy once said “There is no place like home” The warmth and confidence of performance here is sublime and both deeply moving and blissful, what a great way to end the album.

Notes from Zion is a fine example of what can happen, when a young artist like **Faith Angelina** finds her way in life, in just one short year she has eclipsed her last album and brought to our musical table a release that is utterly fantastic, one that contains many standout compositions and performances, and manifested with such passion, love and determination, I can see this one going all the way to the very top, this is solo piano at its very best.