

Awakening Path

By

David Wohl

Written by

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I had need of a little light in my life after an emotional day yesterday and I was overjoyed to see the album by pianist **David Wohl**, a man who I had briefly spoke to on the internet a week or so prior. David came across to me as a man with some positive energy and I am pleased to say that comes across in his work, in this his latest release **Awakening Path**. As I write I am now on my third consecutive listen, this is simply delightful and has lifted my mood incredibly.

The opener is the sparkling opus called **Skylight**, the flourishing piano here by the artist is magnificent, its colourful opulence at times reminds me melodically of *David Lanz*, but Wohl's fluency here defines this composition, this creation as being something very much his.

Awakening Path as a track, is a piece that seems to musically unfurl before you as it plays, it has a wonderfully gentle refrain and contains some truly light, but pertinent percussion within; this piece is played with such a calmness of spirit by Wohl, and is a track that could literally lull you into a peaceful reverie with ease.

O Que Sera pops up at track 3 to pull you across the dance floor and then enthrall you with some of the most elaborate jazzy styled piano possible, this is simply magical and reminded me of my days travelling and finding a piano bar, like the one that I used to spend so much time waiting for planes in Atlanta Hartsfield airport, a pianist could be heard performing music much like this, and I could listen to it for hours.

There is always a point when the heart breaks, but that means a time for healing can take place, this next composition is one of the most emotional I have heard for years and literally had me in tears. **Healing Heart** is a movie

soundtrack waiting to happen, its string section and multi-instrumentalist nature is sublime in its brilliance. **Healing Heart** is one of those offerings that is going to touch your very soul and in my view should be released as a single.

A moment of pleasure was had in the arms of this next incredibly warm offering called, **And If You Should Ask**. Wohl plays with such a confidence that it seems to capture the mind as well as the heart, and one can see a musical narrative develop from the very womb of the song. You can truly just flow with this composition, is it a statement, is it a question, does it matter, because the music will contain the answer you need at the time you need it, this is beautiful and smooth, classy and touching.

We are now well within the confines with the latter half of the album and as we begin the homeward stretch we come across a charming little piece called **Her Smile**. The added light orchestration is idyllic, it creates a bubble around the whole composition, one that manifests real warmth in the production and performance, something Wohl seems so very good at doing, this arrangement is like being cuddled by music.

Now hold on tight ya hear! We are off on a *Keith Emerson* styled Honky Train ride of musical movement in motion with the track **Unstoppable**. This fast paced opus is a real fun segment that may come as a little surprise given what we have heard from the album thus far, but to break into a little rag now and then can't be a bad thing, and all performed live as well.

The wide open space created by **Prairie** is so perfect and deeply moving and is a perfect soundtrack for the subject matter. The instrumentation and strings really do create the feeling of a time when things were slower and ease of pace and perhaps over the hills we can see one of the last cowboys creating some poetry as he slowly moves across the sun red horizon of another day gone, this next piece of prose was inspired by this very track.

As darkness falls you see me now

Roping a young and fallen cow

The daylights gone and I'm heading home to Mary

Along this dark path that leads from the Prairie.

Music is indeed deeply inspiring and **David Wohl** has certainly created something quite special with this album, now place your hand in mine and we will walk together in rooms that are **Dark and Baroque**. A splendid implementation of both ambience and intent can be found within this offering. The performance here is staggeringly breath-taking and contains elements of certain moodiness, but combined brilliantly with an extravagance of musical quality, that creates a clever juxtaposition of musical styles quite superbly.

To leave the album with the track **Kiss of the Moon** is nothing more than genius; the soothing energy of this piece will allow the listener to part company with what has been a literally a brilliant ride of piano with instrumentation and to be honest one that I never wanted to end.

Awakening Path by **David Wohl** is the best piano with instrumentation album I have heard this year. It was a complete thrill to listen to this album, let alone write about it and I would recommend it with ease, it is pure and utter quality with every key touched. What Wohl has done so very well here is manifest an album that is perfectly balanced all the way through, just enough of everything can be found here and the artist has also not been afraid to experiment too, but still managing to contain the overall class and magnificence of the album within its initial structure. **Awakening Path** by **David Wohl** is one of those rare releases that I like to class as a “must have” album.