

Spiritual Haven

By

Russell Suereth

Written

By

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I needed this album, this for me was a pasture fresh and exciting to explore, that field of plenty, this hillside of paradise, comes in the guise of **Russell Suereth's** brand new album called ***Spiritual Haven***. Dear reader and listener, I have a feeling you're going to enjoy this new sojourn of musical bliss with me.

Starting with the opening piece called ***A Magic Flight***. I would say from all of the albums I have listened to this year, this album has to be one of the most unique, the delicate weave in this composition alone, is quite fascinating and almost portrays the opening path of a very ancient journey, there is also a global feel to the music as well and in the latter half of the track, the tempo gains energy and poise, to really lift us off, in a magic flight or musical proportions.

Distant Voices starts with a the sounds of nature and the very essence seems to be of a past culture, emphasised by the mournful refrain on the notes, the cymbals and crescendos also give this track a multi-cultural eastern feel to the music. As if to complete my point, Suereth adds the sounds, of what could be villagers going about their daily business into the mix and creates something uniquely interesting, that I have not heard the like of, since the new age duo Amanaska, on their album Panorama.

There is also another dimension to connect with in **Russell Suereth** and his music; there is an ambient element that is created on the next piece called ***Glimmer of Light***. The keyboards and effects used create an almost quest like piece, with the crescendos being moments of enlightenment, thus creating an overall narrative in the song of darkness and light, of seeking, finding and dealing with loss, the vocalisations are also very respectfully added, to give another level of hope and perhaps even prayer in music, one must say this is a very intricate and clever composition indeed.

I sometimes wake in the night and a variety of ideas flood in, while I tell my head to turn off, I open the window in my room and listen to the sounds of the night and hopefully the occasional Owl. ***Night Dances*** is a perfect illustration of one of those moments, when the day is done and all the creatures of the night come out to play, the tempo and melody of this composition creates a beautiful feeling of movement and gentle dance.

There is a slightly mysterious feel to the next composition; the percussion throughout this entire album has been very primal, especially so, here on the track, ***Swirling Spice***. By some strange coincidence I have just lit an incense stick and I now find that the aroma of that flows extremely well with this music, this vista filled slice of keyboard magic, that Suereth has created here, brings me images of an eastern bazaar, vases filled with oils, merchants selling wares, this is a truly fantastically picturesque arrangement, that I am going to listen to again and one of my favourites off the album.

Dear reader, we now move with care to a track called ***Nightingale Rushes***, for those of you who have been lucky enough to have heard one of these most remarkable birds, you're going to get the opportunity once more, for those of you who haven't, you're going to be treated not only with the bird song, but a sublime piece of keyboard mastery that creates a wonderful nature filled landscape for you to enjoy.

Notions Astir is upon us, a gentle piano and keyboard lulls us into this track, there is a real essence of an early morning here. The ease as to which this piece falls upon our senses dear listener, is almost for me like watching first light, I have a sudden glimpse, of watching from the side of a vast mountain, the day beginning to take shape, while behind me all the creatures of the jungle awaken.

This has to be one of the most fascinating and cleverly woven albums that I have had the pleasure to listen to for some years and through the track ***Sudden Awareness***, we can see why, the opening sounds and keyboards are filled with an another reality, an almost beach of an inner world of thought, the tempo is similar to the previous track, however a symbol crashes with style and sounds float around us like the workings of the inner spiritual mind in a meditative way, then the rhythm starts once more and it's like were walking the path towards enlightenment again.

Two tracks now with a similar title, this one is called ***Red Moon Calling***, this as a composition dear reader, that has some very neat guitar sounds included into the piece, but the narrative of the music now, has more of a space feel, than that the previous arrangements, but only perhaps in the aspect of one looking up to our glorious moon and gazing at its stunning beauty, with a respectful wonder. We then move right into ***Red Moon Rising***, it just so happens that tomorrow night we have a full moon here in Cyprus and this stands in the sky, like a huge silver jewel glowing orb, shining its radiant silver light down upon us, the keyboard here portrays perfectly, a moon moment, as it begins to rise in the sky and I may well play this tomorrow night, a delightful piece indeed.

Realization is our penultimate piece and this is probably the most melodic track off the album, the vocals add a real depth of peace and contentment into its progression and overall we are gifted with a piece of beauty, the keyboards of Suereth have created here something idyllic and special and one can truly feel a sense of awakening or realization from the manifestation and construction of this composition. We almost feel like there is a tip of the hat to the journey that now lies behind us, with the lessons learned.

The very beginning of the final track, ***The Village Breathes***, is brilliant, I was delighted to hear the villagers again and this time the tone and overall feeling of the piece is light and happy, the energy of this piece is indeed lively, the natural sounds included in this arrangement, are perfectly placed as usual and one can feel a certain contentment at this point. I think dear constant reader; it really does feel like we have taken a journey back to a time when life was a lot simpler, than the fearful confusion that abides now.

Spiritual Haven will be an album that will be of interest across the many genres of music, those that love a global fusion or world feel, will relate to this release, while those who like a defined narrative, of perhaps a spiritual quest through music, will adore the album, apart from that **Spiritual Haven** by **Russell Suereth** has got to be the most fresh and unique albums that you will have heard for a long while and total respect has to be paid to the musician, for the sheer amount of detail, attention and self he has placed within it, this is an album you will most certainly enjoy, time and time again.