

Under a Second Moon

By

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There are few who create music that have that quite outstanding ability to literally transform the images in your mind, and transport you back to days of a halcyon proportion, few that can create musical images that allow you to relive those heart felt moments, when everything seemed perfect, one such person, one such artist, who can do that, is **Holland Phillips**.

Holland has now revealed a new album; it's called **Under a Second Moon**, it is another opportunity for us all to take a trip down memory lane, and enjoy some deeply emotive moments long since gone. We start this sojourn with the opening offering entitled **Out of the Frying Pan**. This mournful repose has that, oh so delightful, **Holland Phillips** minor chord usage. The emotive quality of this piece says it all, and to my ears it is almost a composition of surrender, as within our life's path, we jump from the fire and into the frying pan!

The following arrangement is one that I have just featured in a show, you will always find plenty of tracks on a Phillips album that will not just call to you, they will scream out at you, and this is one of them. **Taking the Road Not Taken** is a suggestive composition of brilliance; it has a real energy of expectancy built into the keyboard performance. Again the memorable tones could take us back to the 90's, but this is one fine example of a memory built piece that has so much to offer, and is so very enjoyable.

A Moment in Time, this is one of those pieces that will make you sigh, reflect, smile, and move on. Wonderfully composed and beautifully written, this is a track that has a lighter heart and is an anthem for living in the moment, which **Holland Phillips** has captured that perfectly.

Upon our musical table now lay's a composition called **Possibly Maybe**. Phillips has once more manifested something truly beautiful here, but also added in through his performance on keyboards, an element of hope and happiness from the borderlands of expectation.

As we drift on the wings of musical clouds, we come across a piece that is so deeply emotional at its core, and then as a sax is added to create even more depth and passion, we find ourselves staring at the canvas that is the title track, **Under a Second Moon**. This is a treat of sensual pleasures, that has a night filled quality of a moment in the arms of someone you really love feel about it, pure class oozes from this offering and it a prime example of the genius of composition building that is, **Holland Phillips**.

A slow and mood filled piano takes us by the hand and leads us well over and into the second half of the release. **Love Comes Gently** is our partner for the next few minutes; this musical companion is soft, calming and tender to our needs. Listen carefully to the tempo and progression of this track, its smooth and magically created, to leave you feeling so very warm and nurtured inside.

We are wading in deep waters now, as we reach the piece **Long Way Home**, the tempo picks up, but it's a track of endurance and determination created to give you that extra energy to build on the desire to actually get home. This is a cleverly paced piece by Phillips that also contains some quite powerful and redolent percussion, as well as an inspiring performance on keyboards that drives us on homewards.

Ever stood and watched a distant storm build on the horizon and just allowed your senses to feel the approach of that on-coming rage and the darkening sky. What is so gentle can be so absorbing, and this quite picturesque offering called **Deepening Skies** has that very essence of energy about it. This is deeply moody and insightful; there is an element of tension in the composition that builds to a crescendo, and just hovers in its introspective *Elton John Funeral for a Friend* discipline.

By the time you have arrived at this piece, your moods will have been nearly satiated, your musical desires fulfilled somewhat, but there is still room to thrill you some more, and we can add to this state of musical bliss by laying before you a track called **Looking Back**. Like *Save the Dance*, this has that in-built

sense of time and memory, a few minutes to literally look over your shoulder at what has got you to this point in your life, a moment of contemplative and wistful reverie.

I have listened to this piece a few times now and with each spin my heart is drawn closer to its energies. **It Comes to This**, is perhaps the anthem for that moment when all the choices have all run out. Phillips performance here on keyboards draws a narrative of acceptance and cleverly so, the build and empowering efforts of the music, leave us only one choice, and that is always onwards or surrender.

So we reach the final path home and before **Holland Phillips** leaves this realm of his creation, he would like to gift us a piece of music to take along on our way, and it's the quite charming **Fairytale Nights**. The soft and soothing fluency of this track is the perfect way to leave the album, and leaves us the listener once more completely fulfilled in all ways.

Under a Second Moon is another stunning album, that provokes thought, creates musical memory, allows us to recreate moments of time, so deep and emotive, yes, there are few who can do this, and **Holland Phillips** is such a musician, who with every arrangement, every composition, manifests songs for you that literally come from his very own heart and into yours. **Under a Second Moon** is a classic piece of contemporary instrumental music that will raise the bar for all to come.