

Irish Mist

By

Richard Dillon

Written by

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We travelled to the realm of sleep with **Richard Dillon** on his last release *The Land of Nod*. This time we traverse the barriers of emotion, love and memory on his latest album **Irish Mist**. **Irish Mist** is a tribute to his mother who passed earlier this year.

The beginning of our journey to the emerald isle starts with the mournful, but quite breath taking title track **Irish Mist**. This powerful and thoughtful composition sets the scene perfectly.

On **Mother Ireland**, we have a heartfelt moment of solemnity, but one that if you turn away, has a little cheeky sense of fun built in as well. The track **Smiles** follows and is a light filled opus of gentleness, there is a real childlike quality here that has to be admired.

The curiously entitled **My Bed is a Boat** entranced me and is one of the most beautiful performances from the album; the dream like quality of the performance is truly charming.

As a pianist in the solo piano genre **Richard Dillon**, is among many others, in a genre that is jam packed with artists, but Dillon works really hard at establishing his own identity and on **Shadows on the Wall** that can be seen in stunning evidence. This one comes from his last album *The Land of Nod* and reminds us all of our childhood, laying in the dark and watching the shadows dance across the night walls of sleep.

We lighten the mood now with the light hearted **Freckles**, an almost dance like melody runs through this piece, and then we fall head long into the arms of

Dancing on the Light, which has a beautiful narrative to its energy, and at times reminds me a little of the work of *David Lanz* as Dillon creates great movement within this composition.

Almost the alter ego of the previous offering, **Dying of the Light** gives us a sensitive and emotional performance that is amazingly touching and deeply moving, perhaps even a performance for the end of days.

We now drift with ease in the second half of the album and come across a track called **A Different Time, A Different Place**. There is something quite cinematic about this offering, but also something very memory filled too and another deeply moving opus can be found here.

On **Skye Boat** we can really feel the Celtic influence in his new arrangement, in a track that must have many memories for us all. Our musical boat then takes us to the shore, where we can wander in the **Wild Mountain Thyme**. I once heard the *Strawbs* perform this song, and I love it as much now as I did then, this is a quite sparkling arrangement from the artist.

There is always going to be a special place in the heart, mind and soul for the person who gave us life, our mothers. Here, on this respectful composition, we have a piece, performed beautifully, with a touch of heart and a glint in the eye, **Mothers Eyes** is an anthem to all who have cherished us with that motherly love.

The Long Goodbye is a sombre reminder that while life seemingly lasts forever, it is over within the flicker of a flame, and we *must* make the most of each spark, of each day. Here Dillon plays with his heart on his sleeve and produces a poignant and expressive piece that expresses his feelings perfectly.

We have been on a journey with **Richard Dillion** to the emerald Isle and through the *Irish Mists* and now we find ourselves at the penultimate offering on the album called **Deidre's Dance**. Once more the artist plays with a musical memory box, and as we listen we may be forgiven for joining in the dance as well, on this very fluently performed composition.

It is now time for us to leave this realm created by **Richard Dillion** but before we go, he would like to present to us with one last musical gift before we depart, it is called **Into the Mines**, and it actually contains a sound sample of a

lift door to the mines opening at the start. Listen carefully to this one, the narrative draws you in deep, very deep into the mine, until you find yourself digging as well, the strings here really added a great depth to the piece, which was one of my personal favourites off the album.

Richard Dillon has accomplished one of the hardest things to do, and that's to produce an album in memory of a loved one, but he has turned a heart rendering and emotional situation into a release of cathartic genius. This whole album is played with complete honesty and love and anyone who adores the solo piano genre, will be very eager to make **Irish Mist** a part of their musical collection.