

Reflected In A Flowing Stream

By

Kathryn Kaye

Written by

Steve Sheppard

Each year that passes I wait with patience for the next **Kathryn Kaye** release, she is a pianist of great quality and sensitivity, and each time that wait is always worth the while. Now on her latest album **Reflected In A Flowing Stream**, we are once more fortunate enough to be able to make another musical journey of great beauty with the artist.

I have never listened to such a gentle and calming start to an album before, as Kathryn treats us now with the quite amazing **A Lark in the Last Night of Day**. If you're a lover of nature, this one will really relate to you, I sat for a while yesterday and watched the larks flutter on high, and this beautifully constructed composition, that includes some quite breath taking pauses, would have been the perfect backdrop for that moment.

The deeply moving Cello of *Eugene Friessen* joins **Kathryn Kaye** on Piano, to deliver one of the most moving and memorable tracks from the release, this is called **As Seasons Change**. The melody is familiar too, for some reason it reminds me slightly of the *Steve Miller Band* track "*Winter Time*", it too stirs the passions with the sense of a defined change of seasonal times. For a while we can walk through the woods and feel the first comings of autumnal damp starting to creep into the air around us, a simply transcendent piece.

The style completely changes now for the track **Procession of Moon and Stars**, in fact we almost turn towards the classical side of Kaye's abilities and that movement of a forward march or procession is pronounced. One can also sense a little European ethic to this piece, however when *Jeff Oster's* Flugel

horn hits the arrangement, it adds a wonderfully regal element to the composition.

We are now in for another treat, as one of my favourite horn performers joins Kaye for this next offering called **The Stillness Before Dawn**. Now, for any of us who have had the pleasure at rising before dawn to watch a new day be birthed, when you listen to this quite stunning piece, it will further emphasise that moment for you. Kaye is fast becoming one of the leaders in her trade, her ability to become a musical artist is undeniable, and this is a talent that draws us such wonderful melodic pictures. This reminds me so much of *David Lanz* in construction and performance and that cannot be a bad thing, a tip of the hat to *Jill Hayley* for once again proving her sensitivity on the English Horn.

As we approach the half way marker, we come across a composition that poses a question; it is called **No Reason Not to Dance**. As you may imagine from the title, this is a track that has both a full flowing melody, and a distinct elevation of tempo, but not one out of context. A couple of things to watch out for here, the extremely delicate performance on percussion by *Jeff Haynes* and the accordion of *Tom Eaton*, if you then also add the smooth and charming violin of *Charlie Bisharat*, you have a complete and utter winner of a composition.

As the moment of dance wanes, we now gaze out of the frost lined window upon a cold dark night, as we witness and listen to **Winter's Deepest Sleep**. This is a skilfully played piece by the artist; Kaye's fluency is on full show here, as she plays light and dark in a stunning performance that contains the talents of *Will Ackerman* on guitar and the returning Oster on Flugel horn.

Remember those long days of summer and then one day you walk out into the morning and feel, smell, and sense the gentle fingers of the first touch of autumn upon you. Birds are still in song, but we know with each tick and tock of the clock, that the fall will soon be upon us. In a similar melody and mood to the track "*As Seasons Change*" but with a little more added intensity and power, Kaye delivers us another simply picturesque offering entitled, **As Summer Fades to Fall**.

On **April Rain** Kathryn returns to her solo piano style and manifests for us a composition of warmth and light, a slight hint of the classical brings forth a real fluid performance that just has to be admired; one can feel through the tones

of the arrangement the first warming rays of an April sun, through a shower of idyllic tones.

We now move ever deeper into this new musical dimension created by **Kathryn Kaye** and come across a delightfully calm composition called **A Shower of Summer Nights**. Kaye's ability to create such lovely musical canvases is sublime, and once more we can feel, hear, and see, that blissful warm evening in August through her performance, the inclusion of *Bisharat* on violin was also stroke of genius.

The penultimate offering and the title track is now upon us, and of course called **Reflected In A Flowing Stream**. I have listened to this piece a few times now, and there is a real dream like quality about its creation, one could almost see Alice drifting down the river to this one. *Jill Haley's* horn and a very reflective *Friesen* on cello have combined with Kathryn's music to create a real master piece here, a timeless offering perhaps, one that is ever drifting down the stream, and lingering in a golden gleam.

Before we leave this magical musical realm created by **Kathryn Kaye**, we are gifted one more piece and this parting gift is entitled **Artic Night**. The artist builds a superb sense of the deep wastelands of the ice-filled tundra's here on this final composition. I found the experience of listening to this incredibly absorbing, and I wondered if this perhaps should be used in a film; it has that cinematic quality about its creation and one of the most ambient pieces off the release.

In my humble opinion I rate this to be the best album that **Kathryn Kaye** has produced thus so far, the attention to detail, the added instrumentation, the wonderful flow and fluency of each and every composition and every arrangement, takes the listener on a musical journey that completely hooks them all the way. **Reflected In A Flowing Stream** is a thoughtful and reflective moment of genius from Kaye, a real bar raiser for sure.