

THE
INSTRUMENTAL WEEKLY
REVIEWS OF CONTEMPORARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Comforting, Simple And Straightforward Melodies

Artist: Ken Elkinson

Album: *Revelry*

Label: August Son

Released: 2000

Reviewed: Tuesday, February 19th through Friday, February 22nd, 2002

Following up his wonderful debut release *Midnight Conversation*, Ken Elkinson presents a collection of elegant and emotion-filled pieces of solo piano on his 2000 release *Revelry*. Often I am amazed by how much feeling can be expressed using only a single instrument...this album definitely conveys a full range of emotions through simple and memorable melodies.

With an album such as *Revelry*, I imagine that it would be easy for an artist to play "over the top" and present compositions that are far too syrupy or pretentious. Ken's performance is the exact opposite...if anything, I can sense he is playing with a moderate amount of restraint, and perhaps this is why the album has such an accessible sound. Also, it may seem to some that the pieces on *Revelry* are of a somber note...I think that's true for a few of the cuts, but overall, I get the feeling that these songs are intended as a reflection of life, which obviously is going to have its good and bad days.

"Sunshower" opens the album, and right away one can discern that this is not just another solo piano album. This piece has a lot of depth and emotion to it, and gives just a subtle taste of pieces yet to come. The title track on *Revelry* is bit more upbeat as its name would suggest, and is one of the finest cuts to be found here. The reflective "Solutions" is another favorite of mine, as it brings a warm and comforting sense of introspection to the table.

The only "odddity" to be found on *Revelry* is a cover of the Jimi Hendrix tune "Little Wing". Though it is a bit different compared to the other tracks on the album, Ken brought enough of his own style and personality to the piece that it fits just fine where it is.

"Post Nubila Phoebus" brings *Revelry* to a perfect close, as this piece projects a feeling of renewal and deep spirituality. On a trivial note, the title for this song is also found as lyrics on Enya's *Watermark* album on the track "Cursum Perficio"...why is that important? It's not...I just knew that I had heard those words somewhere before!

There is a hidden track of music that precedes "Post Nubila Phoebus"...hopefully your player will be able to find it without any issue.

Those of you looking for something new in acoustic music would do well to check out Ken Elkinson's body of work. *Revelry* is a wonderful and friendly recording that will leave you wanting more after the last note is played.

I'd like to note that Ken also has a great sense of humor, declaring in his biographical info that accompanied the CD that he hopes to become the David Hassellhoff of Solo Piano. Such lofty aspirations should not be denied! :)

For more information about Ken Elkinson, see www.kenelkinson.com.