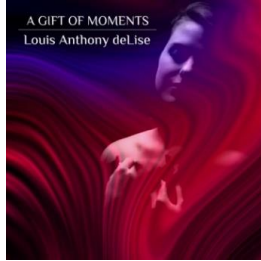


Louis Anthony deLise

## A Gift of Moments



Without a doubt it is all a bit anachronistic, but the latest work from pianist and composer **Louis Anthony deLise**, called **A Gift of Moments** was discovered deep in a lover's heart. These memories are from long ago. Sometimes we learn the hard way that the greatest gift of all, may not be love, but time. Time to share that love and time to cherish it. Because when the time is over, cut short, or taken away, it is a destroyer of worlds.

DeLise's poignant music suggests we hold onto that time with two hands and dear life and treasure it. Those words are made simple and understandable by his ten passion infused tracks of contemporary music. There are some hidden classical elements in the mix as well as are a welcomed cinematic feel. The piano and light orchestra are featured in most tracks, but some demonstrative solo piano makes it to the forefront.

The first cut is the title track **A Gift of Moments**. This lingering melody is a slow swirl of notes like a lazy waltz. It is the kind of music that doesn't care if you can dance or not. Just hold on. The spotlight on the two of you. The cello comes in like a shadow across the floor. DeLise's composition is a loop of that cherished moment, not exactly frozen in time, but playing endlessly in your heart.

**Always in My Heart** has a dramatic Henry Mancini-like theme of a love that never ends. This retrospective tune is from what they used to call the "salad days". It was time of innocence, a time of carefree experiences that only lovers know. Whether they be young or old, for them romance is the engine of love. Louis's tender music is an enduring rhapsody for the soul.

**Heart of an Angel** is deeply romantic. It is tribute to one with a giving nature. The music has a heartbeat tempo, measured, relaxed, strong and steady. It is a story song of gifts given, not festooned with a bow and ribbons, but with an open heart. Gifts of love, compassion and forgiveness. Things that really matter.

The past is remembered as a new start, a trial and error of emotions that ended up as a special love. **In the Before Times** is a recounting of the little falters, the silly mistakes, and the misunderstandings that made the heart grow fonder. This one, a sensitive solo piano leitmotif, is sort of a look back on all that happened to be where you are now. It wasn't so bad, was it?

Louis offers the deeply emotional subliminally jazz-flavored tune **Song for My Children**. This is Louis' sentimental journey song. A big swatch of your life is taken up by your children and you give it up unselfishly. And you'd do it all again for the times when those little fingers wrapped around one of yours and saying goodbye to training wheels day and here's the keys to the car, be careful kind of moments. All that and so much more is nuanced in this pensive tune.

**At the End of the Tunnel** is a dream-like sequence with full orchestra and a lush piano score. The flute darts about as the journey forward takes you through landscape after landscape of

colors and patterns. The finale proves that the light you see is created by the flame of passion. You might want to take your time with this one.

DeLise's music is like a book you can't put down. It flows like ink out of an old world pen, indelible on the mind, etched in the heart. These finely crafted songs are just what we need to remind us that life is beautiful despite these tumultuous times. We can use this music to remember the wonderful times in our lives and hope for them once again. Life will never be normal. Forget that word. But remember the word hopeful instead. Now hit the repeat button. Highly recommended. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews