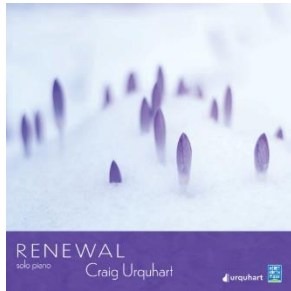


Craig Urquhart

Renewal

CraigUrquhart.com



World class pianist and composer **Craig Urquhart** offers up his 13th album of tender, emotional piano music with the album **Renewal**. Going straight at it, it is Urquhart's fervent wish that our spirits, his included, have the time and strength needed to find peace after the turmoil of the Covid years. Musically, *Renewal* is a global respite. His sincere, gentle music is a starting point that can radiate like a harmonious sun, warming every heart that hears it to find their own *Renewal*.

The tune **Renewal** is first up and it is a work full of confidence and promise. The melody is bright, accessible, but not overly cheerful. Craig's hopeful theme tells us not to give up, to try that one more time. The emotional tune turns the page for many who felt disconnected from the world for so long.

Reflection is a resplendent waltz of slow, swirling notes, its cadence is just slightly hypnotizing. There is something magically nostalgic about the theme as if you heard it once before in Europe at the turn of the century by some obscure German composer. What the music does is allow the mind to wander on its own a bit, and capture long lost moments that gave you happiness. Play this one often.

The Albatross is not at all about poor luck, but about the freedom to soar above the fray and capture a sense of peace. Craig's beautiful, flowing score allows you to escape high into the heavens and look down at the world that is now too small to offer any sadness. Instead, you experience a boundless joy in the azure firmament. Take your time with this one.

There is something oddly familiar about the tune **The Old Rocking Chair**, or perhaps it is my thoughts working overtime. The cadence is like an old world clock and the melody is warm and memorable. Craig's tune is quiet and comforting as the images of swaying rocking chairs on a front porch with the occupants trading memories comes to mind. The tune is quite comforting.

With bassy, disturbing notes the tune **The Mystery** unfolds. The melody immediately ascends into a dark and disquieting story. One can almost imagine that "dark and stormy night" so often heard about. The candlestick on top of the piano casting shadows about the room flickers from the cracked window. What happens next is up to the listener, but the music certainly captures your imagination. This is definitely another one of my favorites for the wonderful scenario it created.

Using very unpretentious phrasing Craig's song **Nostalgia** lives up to its label. Just easy going, daydreaming music that offers a time to reminisce about simpler times. No harrying appointments, no time clock, no fears, just a long pause to catch your breath and remember

friends and what fun was like. Time to remember that day at the park, the perfect wedding, or the sunset on that cruise.

Daybreak is the perfect ending to the album. In this case Daybreak is more than the arrival of the sun. Daybreak is a new beginning, a fresh page where you can write the perfect plan or just doodle an old idea. Tomorrow is promised to no one, but Craig's warm, feel good melody hides a suggestion. A hint that things will get better. Small changes and baby steps make way for grand gestures and bold undertakings. Let's keep this one in mind.

Renewal is some of the most heartfelt music I have ever heard. The ten tracks fairly lull you into a special place of comfort and hopefulness. Craig Urquhart's music has always been part music and part audio poetry and this album is no exception. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, ArtisanMusicReviews.com