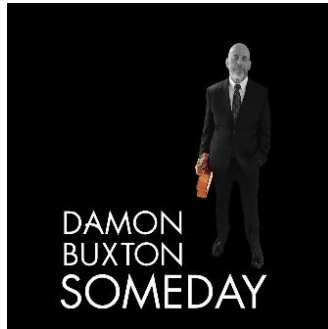


Damon Buxton  
Someday



**Someday**, Damon Buxton's latest release seems to be a project of hope. The album is fifteen tracks of musical commentary. They are keen observations of what today is like and what tomorrow could be. **Someday**. I am familiar with every Buxton album and it seems to me he has traveled from troubadour to chronicler for the era. Consider him the town crier in a modern age. And we need this kind of voice. This need to be reminded every single day that we can do better, be kinder, and more loving. Buxton's dexterous fretwork and imaginative compositions fill the bill nicely.

**Rome**, the first cut has classical intonations and no surprise there. Damon's interweaving of traditional themes reminds us that the past is just as important as the present. The future is ours to shape with our hopes and dreams. The intro of the melody has a falling refrain, suggesting the passing of time perhaps. The rhythm is fluid and smooth, as if the Tiber bisects the musical flow.

Damon's rendition of Herr Bach's **Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring** is exquisitely beautiful. It is as if Buxton somehow found secret spaces in between the notes and put music there, then he played the treasures found within. Why this sublime piece is held in reserve for holidays is beyond me. Should not His beauty be glorified every day? Although written originally as a choral piece, Buxton's solo guitar has a singular, powerful voice that is both uplifting and transcendent. Because of the renewed familiarity, this is my absolute favorite on the record.

There are two interludes on the recording. One, appropriately named **Spoken in a Dream** and the other **Waiting**. They are less than a minute long each and spaced out on the album, but they just seem to give the mind a pause, a moment to take a breath before the music grabs a hold of you again and carries you off.

The title tune, **Someday** is everything and hopeful. During these sad and perilous times (June 2020) we must maintain hope. Buxton's tune is, over all melancholy, but the sadness is fitting. The music is a poignant prayer for those that have gone before us and for those that are to come. And ...For the times they are a changin'.

There is lighter fare to be had on the tunes **Cat's Whiskers Waltz**, **Luthier**, and **Nimbus** that are all upbeat with a bit of brightness to them. **Nimbus** is another favorite with Damon's dynamic fretwork. **Nimbus** is sunny, but with a lot of cloud shapes to ponder. Nimbus clouds, those big puffy pillows of white nothing, sometimes seem to gather light and glow, a phenomenon not unlike the human heart.

There is little wonder that there is a song involving angels on a Damon Buxton album. Buxton is a believer and frankly, so am I. Using a spare amount of notes on a parlor guitar, **Angel at the Well** is an affirmation that there are forces around us, unseen and mysterious, that are responsible for, shall I say, little miracles. I'm not talking about the water into wine thing here,

just the little things. The smile at just the right time. The helping hand just when needed. The kind word, the opening of a door. Kindness is an unseen angel.

**Mother and Child** is a warm, delicate piece. It has starts and stops in the melody, but I think that is how a child grows. For a mother it only gets smooth ...never. The music is bright with love and comfort. There's a dreamy quality to the tune. A far away sound that reverberates in your memory. It's a good one full of skinned knees, puppy love, that rakish mortar board, and finally, a happy ending for all.

The final song, **America the Beautiful** is rendered with a skilled hand and delicate touch. Like in the song *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* this is another song where the notes are augmented. You can clearly hear the familiar theme, but somehow Damon has built a new scenario around it. From sea to shining "C".

Damon Buxton has imbued his new album with some sophisticated structures of sound. Each cut is a delightful vignette. Most are in color, but some are sepia and from the old days and the old ways. From contemporary to Americana, Buxton's Someday is as entertaining as it is thought provoking. Highly recommended. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews