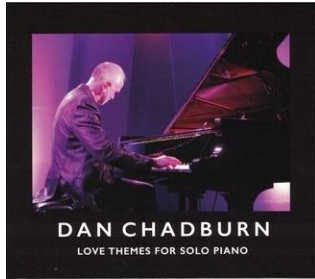


Dan Chadburn
Love Themes for Solo Piano



I envy pianist and composer Dan Chadburn. You have to envy anyone that has the gift of love and shares it unconditionally. Furthermore, Mr. Chadburn is able, through his harmonically-rich and evocative homage to love to transport the listener into the dreamy land of true believers. His album is called **Love Themes for Solo Piano**. It is thirteen intoxicating variation on a common theme. This is uncommon contemporary music however, and it is sentimental and thought provoking. And if you listen closely, you can tell that it is also music of gratitude.

Starlit Waltz, the opening number, gives itself away in the title as the music dances blithely with your feet never touching the ground. Dan's wistful composition sparkles with passion as two hearts whirl to music that goes deeper than dreams.

With just a handful of notes, **Cherished** seems to expand and grow as does love in the right situations. Obviously, this is the right situation. Love is a jewel for the soul, and this music catches ever glimmer, every multi-faceted reflection and is cherished.

No matter how many times I listen to Love Themes, I seem to come back to **Timeless** as my favorite on the album. There is something deeply heartfelt in this sophisticated tune. Chadburn is writing a musical love poem on this one. Every note a word. Every word a true feeling. It is a grand piece.

Sometimes when I use the word grounded it usually has an electrical connotation. When Chadburn uses it, as in the title to one of his solo piano pieces, **Grounded** means centered, balanced, and aware. There are people in your life that do this to you and for you. This melody is flowing, sweet, and memorable.

For me **Stars above Sedona** is just a friendly reminder. I have been under that same sky a number of times, and I know what Dan is talking about. The magic in the air is palpable, the night sky a blaze of diamonds and every one of them represents a special wish from a hopeful heart. Yes, you certainly can feel the energy in the red rocks, but at night, the energy is redirected back to the receptive soul. The music is stunning and refined, with a trace of nostalgia.

Unconditional is a word that is bandied about, but unless you have loved and you are loved, it might be a stranger to your heart. Not so with Dan for he is loved. The music suggests that he has learned the compromise of spirits, the give and take of hearts. Strangely, there is a note of melancholy in the tune, unexpected, but understandable as love is not always smooth sailing, but an adventure for the brave, the optimistic, and the dreamer.

As I said, this album is also a work of gratitude and the tune, **Grateful** is a thousand cards and letters. A thousand thank yous and more than a thousand smiles. We get up every morning

thankful for having that special person in our lives. They create balance and give us purpose. Dan's tender tune is for the thousand and one kindnesses he receives every day.

Shalom finishes out the recording. It is a thoughtful piece chock full of memories mixed with hopes. It is a peaceful, not conclusion, but a continuation for a lifetime of dreams. This is one of those songs that has a beautiful sadness to it and the tears, more than a few, are love in liquid form.

I liked all the tracks on Love Themes for Solo Piano. On it, Dan Chadburn proves that with a single piano and a loving heart, notes can be changed into passionate musicality. This is Dan's tenth album and the music is light, emotional, and highly listenable. I close with the following quote.

"This is true love. You think this happens every day?" - William Goldman

Highly recommended. - R J Lannan. Artisan Music Reviews