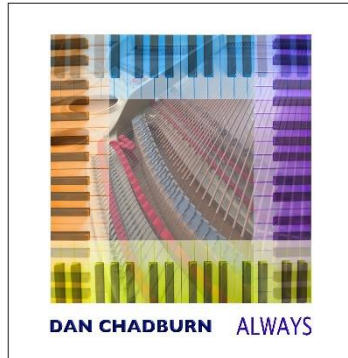


Dan Chadburn

Always

[www.danchadburn.com](http://www.danchadburn.com)



Contemporary pianist Dan Chadburn has released a new album called **Always**. Such a simple title for such a big promise, but I get it. It is music for those with an indomitable spirit, those that persevere, and the many with an unmeasurable sense of fortitude. They never give up. It is also about love, an emotion that also never gives up. The album is twelve tracks of original tunes with a single exception. All are sophisticated solo piano fare driven by passion and an ability to transform heartfelt sentiment into music. This is Dan's ninth album.

Everything on the album rings with a sense of nostalgia starting with the opening tune **Always**. It is sentimental statement that promises that they will always be there and they will always love you. No soul needs more. Chadburn's wistful tune sets the tone for the album, and it is something to anticipate hearing. Dan renders an old chestnut, **O Shenandoah** in a reverent manner. He turns the tune into a nostalgic homage to a bygone era that is measured in memories. Although the folk song has its roots in North America, it has been adopted by sailors and singers worldwide. The tune has gone from folk song to chanty to classical adaptation. This particular version seems to embody a little bit of all of them.

The song **Turning Point** is rather delicate with a great deal of complexity. The tender ballad is abundant with arpeggios and understated emotional rifts. Dan's stunning piece is one of my favorites on the recording as it has this subtle classical finesse to it. I listened to this one a lot. With a sparse, somber bass line the tune **Uncertainty** has a quiet dignity that is pensive and gentle. The music poses questions that only a calm heart can answer. The low key, soothing melody gives you that time to think and decide. One of the best cuts on *Always* is called **Sacred Breath**. It was only a matter of time before faith played a role in this expressive collection and it is evidenced by a quiet reverence entwined among the notes of an intricate composition. The contemplative theme gives you pause. It makes you consider the bridge between corporal and spiritual worlds. Perhaps, if you surrender, you will be able to travel between them.

**The Final Curtain** is a light, emotional denouement of Chadburn's work. The intro is fragile, almost transparent, but the main theme has a lot of memories tied up inside. From the first tinkling to the last resounding note, there is a lifetime of hopes and dreams to be acknowledged. Mr. Chadburn seems to be able to speak for a number of us in this closing piece. I liked all the tracks on *Always*. Additional numbers are *Uncharted Waters*, *Yesteryear*, *Minuet*, *Missing You*, *The Wishing Well*, and *Synchronicity*. Highly listenable. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews



