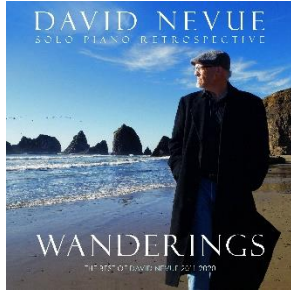


David Nevue

Wanderings: The Best of David Nevue (2011-2020)

davidnevue.com



For decades west coast pianist **David Nevue** has been using a combination of creative talent and unyielding faith to create his music. His thoughtful compositions are contemporary, emotionally imbued narratives that touch the heart and soul on every level. **Wanderings: The Best of David Nevue (2011-2020)** is a collection of eighteen tunes that provide introspection and comfort as well as endless hours of entertainment. It does not matter what time of the day or night you play Nevue's music, it is apropos. Out of the eighteen memorable tracks, I have selected a handful about which to write.

Nevue has taken to casual walks and I believe he has become a victim of “forest bathing”, nature walks that seem to produce continual inspiration. The introductory tune **Open Sky** features imaginings of a vast, azure sky that reaches so high and so far you can only envision where it ends. David's music features a clarity, a feeling that the color blue is perfect, and the openness is an irrefutable indication of a great Presence. The tune segues appropriately into the next song **Walking in Trust**. This one became my favorite on Wanderings. It has a somewhat familiar melody despite the fact that I have not heard it before. The cadence is a less than brisk, more surefooted. Because of the music I was compelled to look around and witness the world as if for the very first time. Awestruck doesn't even come close.

David takes us on **Down by the Sally Gardens**, via a popular 19<sup>th</sup> century poem by William Butler Yeats. I know this one well and enjoyed its fairytale arrangement which seems to suit this Irish poet so very well. The composer offers up the ever popular **Jesu, Joy Canon in D** in a cascade of notes like falling leaves in a windy autumn day. He also imbues a lively exciting feeling you get when you hear this modern day mashup of two of the most venerable pieces of sacred music ever written. **Out of Pain, Comes Beauty** derives from David's album *In the Soft Light of Grace*. The quiet, solo piano tune is overflowing with emotion. The struggle between beauty and pain is a very old one, and humankind continuously tries to find the cause of suffering and eliminate it on every level. Obviously, in this case music is the medicine.

**A Delicate Joy** is an achingly beautiful tune that intermingles love and family, something Nevue is prone to do every time he sits down in front of the keyboard. The theme builds slowly over its duration until it bursts with emotion. **The Water is Wide** is a song that once you've heard it, you will always recognize it. I first heard it back in 1968 and it touches me whenever I hear it. David's rendition is soft and gentle and so reverential that it is almost like a hymn. The tune has been recorded many times by others including Peter, Paul, & Mary and the band Oregon. *“There is a ship and she sails the sea. She's loaded deep, as deep can be. But not as deep as the love I'm in, I know not if I sink or swim”*.

**Traveling Light** is a blithe tune that suggests that old saying, there is joy in the journey. David's carefree ballad moves forward in heart and spirit and it is just the right companion for any journey. You're going to want to play follow the leader with this one. And finally, the last tune is **A Thousand Years and After**. And it does sound like a fare thee well kind of song. Hidden inside is a promise, a vow never to be broken. It is a commitment of endless love that goes beyond the corporeal. Beyond this life. A real love is like that. It lasts beyond forever. David's song is that promise, sadly sweet, but enduring.

I liked all eighteen tracks of David's recording and I had no problem playing this album repeatedly. No emotional roller coaster here. Just an ongoing, steady stream of somewhat meditative music to accompany your day, your mood, and your feelings. Music wise, from somewhere around 1992 until the present, Nevue has always worn his heart on his sleeve. But his fabric has always been crafted out of beautiful, emotion filled music. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews