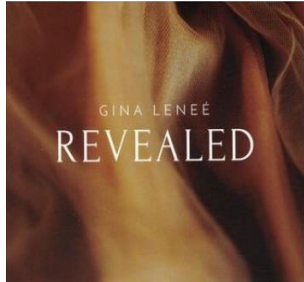


Gina Leneé
Revealed



A shy child from a musical family befriended by a piano. That's the short version. The long version doesn't matter. The music is wondrous. Fast forward to the latest album of eight by pianist **Gina Leneé** called **Revealed**. The theme suggests that individuals have the power to do anything, everything, all things. Leneé's music is a powerful force of eleven tender, contemporary titles that each have their own subject and their own direction. Gina's piano is melodic and most of all, genuine.

The album is co-produced by Tom Eaton (also the engineer and bass) and Will Ackerman (on guitar) for Imaginary Road Studios. It features sidemen Jeff Oster on horns, Charlie Bisharat on violin, Jeff Haynes on light percussion, Eugene Friesen on cello, and Premik Russell Tubbs on sax and EWI.

Leneé opens the album with the tune **Undeniable**. It is gently rolling, a memorable sound with distant, echoing horns and a piano score that is light, yet assuring. It feels like a 3 am tune. One that is played to chase the blues way without being boisterous. Without waking anyone else. A thoughts to yourself tune. **I Want to Get Closer** is similar in feel, but a little warmer. Many of the cuts on *Revealed* are quite personal in the sense that they touch little places in the heart and they are places we usually keep secret.

The song **Over** is a point of starting again. Something new and exciting is coming your way and you only have to open your mind and heart and let it flow in like water. The waiting in over.

Run Away with Me is a whisper of a tune with just a hint of guitar by Ackerman and Oster's flugelhorn that, even though it is in the background, seems to be forefront melodically almost like a sigh. It is a favorite for its innate tenderness.

On the Wings of Love lightens the mood considerably. Gina's interpretation is a dynamic re-imagining of Jeffrey Osborne's 1983 pop hit. Her piano sounds like a compassionate music box, her rendition returning us to a special place in our minds where words are unnecessary, but we sing them anyway. With a touch of drama, almost a sadness, the solo piano tune **Even If I Have to Stand Alone** is one of the most poignant on the recording. I could imagine a fist shaking in the air, an oath taken, and a promise made as the song unfolded. The tipping point in your life has been reached, and it's now or never.

Between What's Lost and Found is a song of introspection, plain and simple. You can chalk it all up to experience, but the scales might never balance and you have to be prepared for that. Gina's tune suggest that you keep the treasures you have before you and not the ones left behind. The final tune is called **To My Younger Self**. It is a tune of compassion and encouragement. There's a twinkle of nostalgia in the mix, but the message says never give up. Never surrender. Never quit. I am the proof.

This is my first listening experience with Gina Leneé's music and I am very pleased to hear her. She reminds me of the more important private moments we have in life where self-doubt seems to creep in. The music says fight back and remember you are only human. I like that. Highly recommended. All eleven tracks are warmhearted, thoughtful, and gentle. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews