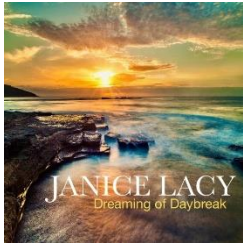


Janice Lacy

Dreaming of Daybreak

janicelacymusic.com



Dreaming of Daybreak is pianist **Janice Lacy**'s second album. Her first being *Sanctuary for the Soul* released back in 2016 under the name The Janice Lacy Project. Although the sun rises in the east, it still makes quite an impression on the California coast and Janice's love for her surroundings is the inspiration for this twelve track album of contemporary music. Some of the tracks are solo piano while others include the talents of the Imaginary Road Studios members. Their east/west collaborations make for fine listening to these honest tunes full of warmth and nostalgia mixed with a modicum of faith.

Abiding is a quiet, reverent tune with just a hint of sorrow. Janice brings forth a lot of emotions on this opening theme. It is a living in the moment tune. Reflective, serene, and refined. The solo piano works its magic and stops the clock. It is a good time to finally catch up. This piece also has a reprise at the end of the album.

A modest ostinato opens the title tune **Dreaming of Daybreak**. The melody is a very gentle mix of piano and cello. As we wait for the sunrise, muted light gives way to pale colors like a kindly artist's palette of mauve, gold, and lavender. There is a glow to cultivate our dreams, a hint of warmth, and the new day is here.

Looking down over the rocks at the coast below is a day dreamer's prize. Janice's song, **Headlands Spring** is the unhindered soul counting the waves as they endlessly fold into the shore. It is looking out and imagining that somewhere, as west as you can go, are tropical islands, sleeping volcanoes, and magical places that the spirit yearns for. This solo piano piece is quiet and pensive.

Flying Song is another violin and piano partnership of gentle uplifting music. Maybe we have heard it before or maybe we are hearing it for the first time, but again, Lacy manages to compress a lifetime of wistfulness into her song. I certainly want to be held aloft and looking down at the world below. All we have to do is listen.

What I thought was going to be a Brahmsian excursion turned out to be a very nostalgic piece that Janice calls **Hungarian Waltz**. One could feel the hands of the clock spinning backward as Janice's artistic, flowing music played. You could imagine the taffeta swishing about as grand ladies and gentlemen swirled around the floor in the main salon. This is a modern homage to melancholy.

Nocturne suggests a golden moon high in a cobalt sky on the clearest California night you can imagine. If you dream hard enough you will see your lover's face in that old moon. There will be

bright eyes and elfish grins and our whole world is in that moon. Janice's instrumental is a beautiful rendition and it is heartfelt and poignant for the listener no matter who they love. Yeah, that's a big old romantic moon up there.

I believe Janice Lacy's music to be somewhat anachronistic, but in a good way. Perhaps now is a great time to contemplate life in retrospective. The good memories are based of pleasantries, but the best ones always have something to do with love. Lacy's music has that love built in to every note. Very Good. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews