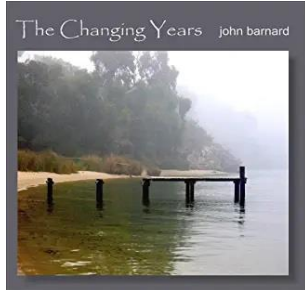


John Barnard

## The Changing Years



Australian pianist and composer John Barnard has been creating music for many decades. He has won over audiences with his combination of passion and calm. His music has been featured on British Airways flights for just that reason. Barnard has been a world traveler from an early age and his experiences are sometimes found hidden in the notes from his piano. His epiphany occurred while practicing on his keyboard and the rest is his history. His 1995 album *Beyond the Clouds* was his beginning. At age eighty, there is no end in sight. He has three more albums to his credit. Read what I heard on *The Changing Years*.

The first tune on the recording **Be All of Who You Are** has a Brahmsian flow with a surreal atmosphere. Think vast oceans of memories. Think faraway galaxies of dreams. But most of all, think of peaceful moods. Barnard's lush tune envelopes you like a blanket of musical notes. Warming, soothing.

The title tune **The Changing Years** has a great deal of expansive grandeur. The music fills the scene as if we are in a great ballroom alive with determined dancers. Everything starts in slow motion, but then the air starts to thaw and movement begins. The music spirals and turns like the hands of a clock. Like John's pondering piano notes, the progress moves very slowly at first, but then the changes take place and new developments occur. Such is life.

**Beyond the Glass Wall**'s theme is slow and comforting. The music invites us to explore, to yearn, to travel even if it is in our own minds. There is a wandering quality to the music as if the spirit is set adrift on some invisible ocean. No disturbing waves, no storms to worry about. Just a calm journey on a calm sea.

Iridescent piano notes open the tune **Look Yonder to Your Future**. If anything, John's music is never in a hurry. This hopeful number has an idyllic theme with very little embellishment from other instruments except a harp like accompaniment. It is music just right for star gazing, for basking in moon glow, and for dreaming.

**The Kindly Light of Hope** is uplifting with a moderate tempo. Just a soft background wave and tender piano combine into a harmonious beacon for those that need a little help along the way. Think of it as a lighthouse that guides you to safe shores in your life long journey. This was my favorite on the album.

Other tracks include **Setting the Past Free** and **The Winds of Time**.

John Barnard's recording reminds me of music that was so popular in the eighties when synthesizers went full bore onto the scene. Sometimes just a wave or drone was added to a song to give it depth and dynamics. On this album there were small intimations that added to the overall sound. *The Changing Years* is music to accompany your years, whether it is the

beginning, middle, or culmination of your journey. All during which, Barnard's message is a balance of peace and hopefulness. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews