

Kerani  
Small Treasures

### Look what I have found



It is no small irony that I am reviewing multi-instrumentalist and composer **Kerani**'s latest album **Small Treasures** just when the holidays are approaching. There is nothing small about the music however as each song in this ten-track collection of contemporary music is a gift all its own. What Kerani has done is to recount everyday remembrances and little events throughout her career that has changed her or something she learned along the way that she remembers. The little somethings amount to grand memories.

A sense of quiet mystery unfolds in the opening track **Temple of Roses**. There is a soft alluring vocal by **Chanele McGuinness** that tells a tale of how beauty triumphs over everything, even death. Kerani's music is gentle, even fragile at times, a true component of beauty. Haunting penny whistle echoes through the tune giving it a nostalgic tone.

**Fields of Hungary** takes a sepia photograph of Kerani's father's native land and transforms the memory into a beautiful waltz. The music says "Welcome to the Old World of Bartók and Liszt" and another place where history began in Europe. Hungary is home to wine, song and invention, as well as pastoral beauty.

**Sakura** features Canadian flutist **Ron Korb** complimenting the beauty of cherry blossom time in an explosion of pink and green. No spring time fantasy would be complete without the blushing blooms of Japan as a centerpiece. Kerani's poignant piano pairs wonderfully with Korb's timid, but flowery flute blandishments.

*"Her ivory hands on the ivory keys strayed in a fitful fantasy"* is a line from writer Oscar Wilde. Kerani translates that poetry into a beautiful song called **Fantasy in White**. This my favorite on the album. There is something so sublime about the melody. It has the sense of longing and sadness expressed as one emotion.

String quartet and flute emerge generously on the tune **Celtic Mystery**. This is complex tune with several parts, but they all blend into a description of a land full of magical history and lore. Chanele adds a bit of poetry as the music unfolds. With the voice of the muse in the melody, we hear the warrior poets as they weave their tales of love and conquest.

Kerani's wistful piano leads in the tune **To the Heavens**. When you look just right you can see that every tree branch in the world holds up part of heaven. There is more to glean from the music, but the feeling of love and tenderness lives in the notes of this sweet epic.

Angelic chorus appears in the song **Reflections of the Heart**. Lush flute and melodic harp dance lovingly together in a tune that celebrates a soulful union. This evocative pas de deux is magical as it mesmerizes the listener. How much love can one heart hold? The answer is limitless.

Kerani currently lives in the Netherlands, but her story began as a child in Belgium. She is a self-taught composer that embraced electronic music during its infancy. She is one a handful of female recording artist to do so successfully. Deliberate of not, this album is one for the romantics. The stories, or actually songs, each have a sense of love in them. Some of it is hidden in the notes, but in others, it is a soft caress. You are invited to embrace the music with your heart.