

Kerani

Sands of Time



Kerani, *The First Lady of Symphonic New Age Music*, has a new album called **Sands of Time**. Well known for her elaborate electronic incursions, this time she takes to the piano bench to offer up eleven tracks of orchestral variations that suggest a mystical journey through time without leaving your present domain. Our heading is the land of the ancient Greeks, our objective is spiritual relaxation and quietude. I can assure you we will find both on this collection of contemporary instrumentals and ancient themes. Kerani uses electronic piano and other blandishments as well as a serene voice that permeates the album making it entirely enthralling. Accompanying her on flute is Helen Hendriks, on guitar, Max Jeschek. The string ensemble is Kremi Stevens-Minerva and Alina Merx-Jong on violins, Linda Custers on viola, and Joep Willems and Anna Ágnes Nagy on cellos. Voice is by Davinia Van der Zee-Kropivšek.

Voice adds a dreamlike quality in the opening track **Sands of Time**. Imagine if you will sands falling through an hourglass. As you stare at the grains of sand you imagine yourself falling into the sands and you are swept away. Fortunately, you find yourself in a place of incredible beauty. Kerani's tune has an ethereal theme that is light, but strong. You, as the hero, have made your entrance.

Kerani's sweet piano lead is your guide when you next find yourself on the **Shores of Gold**. You witness glistening sands with flecks of gold that make up the beach. Waves lap the seashore and the sunlight warms you. You walk along the beach and find footprints. Gentle horns and bright piano summon you further. What will you find?

One of my favorites is **When the Night Comes**. The tune is somehow recognizable even though I am hearing it for the very first time. The piano and guitar song is comforting like stars blazing in the dark sky or when the moon offers up her silver light. The moon has always represented the passing of time and just seems appropriate for this beautiful tune. Perhaps it is Kerani's own Moonlight Sonata.

The Touch of Love Prelude has some of the artist's electronic elements for its opening. Combined with the main leitmotif of **The Touch of Love** it is over nine minutes of blissful instrumentation. There is a dramatic sense of growth throughout the music. With a booming basso background it is mysterious and primal. With angelic voices on the horizon, we are spectators to an organic creation.

Another favorite was one called **The Philosopher**. Using classical music elements Kerani paints a vivid picture of the wizened figure with long, gray hair, in a time worn embroidered robe surrounded by flickering candle light and dusty old tomes. She studies so that she might gift the world with her knowledge. On the album, the musician does no less. Davinia Van der Zee-Kropivšek's voice is sublime on this one.

Finally, the last track is **Muse**. Boasting a memorable piano score, Kerani takes you back to your beginning, but not before treating you to an outstanding orchestral theme that is both bold and breathtaking. There is something immortal about Ionic columns, cave dwelling oracles, and goddesses who bless lovers wherever, and more importantly, when ever they are.

It has been said in many ways by many people, but never in music; only through the past can we appreciate our future. And that I think that is the whole point. There is a future. Our little visit using the Sands of Time might be fanciful, but dreamers always seem to turn out as winners. Kerani's music is just the background we need and at a time when we need it the most to dream on. Highly listenable. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews