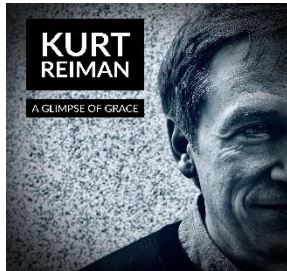


Kurt Reiman

A Glimpse of Grace

kurtreiman.com



From the vast financial world to the humble world of music, composer **Kurt Reiman** has made a successful transition of it. And welcome to the music, sir. His sophomore album **A Glimpse of Grace** is everything I want in a contemporary work with a foundation in faith and gratitude. **A Glimpse of Grace** is a generous sixteen tracks of solo and light ensemble music with themes of appreciation, reverence, and profound musical observations. The album was recorded at the Imaginary Road Studios under the guiding hands of Will Ackerman and Tom Eaton as producers and Eaton on the mixing board. Eaton has a gift for adding presence. The result is a crisp, clean recording of all the instruments that sound as if you are at your best friend's Sunday recital.

The opener is called **Dawn to Dusk**. A few tentative notes as soft as a whisper and the time lapse begins. Reiman's melody is bright and fresh in the beginning, just as you would think the start of a new day would be. All during the day you can feel the warmth, the busyness, but then, nightfall is on the horizon. The music has a flow and you can imagine the time going by as shadows grow and disappear. Here comes the night.

**Quiet Confidence** opens with a bit of solo piano until the subtle voice of Premik Russell's saxophone creeps in like thief and covers the theme in blanket of shadowy bliss. Kurt's melody gains in intensity, expanding, strengthening, and culminating a noticeable air of conviction.

**Blessings** became an instant favorite for me. Its hymn like quality and power and its obvious piety brought back lots of memories for me as I sang in many a Sunday choir. There is a beauty to the music and a devotion to the theme that unconsciously makes one bow the head and close the eyes, if only for a moment.

**Goodbye for Now** features the soft voice of Noah Wilding. Her seraphic contribution is the quintessential example of the human voice as an instrument. Reiman's piano sings a sad, tender song about absence and the pain it causes. Jill Haley's English horn and Charlie Bisharat's mournful violin form a nostalgic sounding chorus that hopes for a reunion sometime soon.

Kurt presents us with an elegant waltz, a sophisticated solo piece called **This Dance**. You can feel the lovers as they turn and turn and for them it doesn't matter if it's in the main ballroom or her grandmother's living room. The world exists only in their two hearts for all of time.

The main theme **A Glimpse of Grace** imparts all of Reiman's characteristics in the previous songs into the tune. The warmth, the tenderness, and the reverence are all interwoven into a transparent fabric of musical virtues that you can wear like a cloak. The music creates a peaceful glow that radiates like an aural benediction.

Finally, the **Dusk to Dawn (Reprise)** which featured Jeff Oster on haunting flugelhorn, was also quite remarkable.

I thoroughly enjoyed every track of Reiman's fine work. A Glimpse of Grace is a rainy weekend background, a Tuesday night book read, or a get together with friends that you haven't seen in years and there is a lot of catching up to do. Most of all, it is perfect for the alone times when heart and mind just want to wander free. Kurt Reiman's first album is called North Maple Road. You might want to go find it. A Glimpse of Grace is Highly Listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews