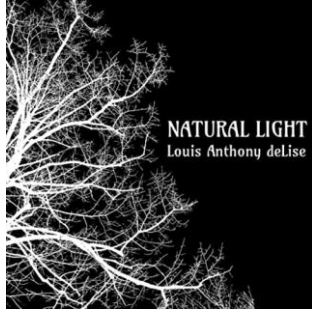


Louis Anthony deLise

## Natural Light



**Natural Light**, the new release from **Louis Anthony deLise**, is magical. The first cut, **Mosaic**, is a twinkling, illuminating tune of light as it dances through an imaginary kaleidoscope. The shapes swirl and change with every turn, but the light, or in this case, the music remains bright, clear, and enchanting. Every little piece fits into every other little piece. In fact, that pretty much sums up the entire album concept.

**Natural Light** is eleven dynamic tracks of contemporary piano and light ensemble music with a bit of solo piano to sweeten things nicely. It has contributions by Jeff Oster on trumpet, Nancy Rumbel on oboe, Christine Hansen on flute, and Marjam Ingolfsson on cello. It is all very light and very harmonious. There is a sense of ease in the album. Not laid back mind you, but an overall effortlessness that is soothing even upon the first listening. There may be a slight of hand classical treatment in there somewhere and just a flick of the cinematic, but it all culminates into an album of relaxing, creative scenarios.

**Variations on Moonlight** has that familiar feeling to it. An old song that just stirs around in the back of your mind that you remember from long ago. deLise's allusion to a soft, silvery light stays with the theme and his solo piano has a medium tempoed voice that is just right. There are two silhouettes and two hearts every time you think about it.

**Autumn Twilight** features multi-instrumentalist Nancy Rumbel. The piece has a subliminal oriental overtone as if one is playing the koto in the background. Maybe it is just the way the bass notes resound in the piece and the arpeggios counterbalance everything, but the sound was definitely exotic. deLise's music suggest the time slowing process of leaves falling from the tallest trees. You can feel the coolness of the evening, when stars wink on like planetary fireflies.

One of my favorites on **Natural Light** is called **Spring Rain**. It's the perfect kind of storm. The tune captures the beauty and power of a storm through deLise's vibrant piano scoring. Thunder shutters, rain falls, and the sensation of a clean, cool immersion for the planet washes away our cares. The song features Jeff Oster on muted trumpet. In the tune, his horn sounds like a voice from far away. Calling... calling.

Of course, any creation that features light would have its opposite. However, **American Darkness** is an echoing piano melody that is neither somber, nor dark. That's not to say it isn't moody. The solo piano has but a single voice, but its tones and timbres number endlessly. Perhaps the song in melancholy. There are days in our lives that have long shadows no matter what we do.

The final cut is the title tune, **Natural Light**. This is contemporary music at its finest. Christine Hansen's flute uplifts on the warm currents of Louis's music box piano. You can almost feel the

warmth of this flowing piece. The ensemble work is enchanting. If this melody teaches us anything, it is that there is no stronger, brighter light than that from within.

This is Louis Anthony deLise's first instrumental foray and I think he will do just fine. It turns out to be one of those recordings that you put on, press REPEAT, and go about your business of living and loving and the mood will always be just right. Highly recommended.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews