

Mark Pinkus

Ballerina in the Sky



Ballerina in the Sky is the latest release from Canadian composer and pianist **Mark Pinkus**. On this fifteen track album Pinkus uses classical blandishments over contemporary themes to create a solo piano recording of relaxing and pensive tunes suitable for all listeners of many genres. The music is lighter than a graceful jeté and more delightful than an afternoon in a turn of the century French parlor. Mark Pinkus is an award winning composer who plays on the global stage. Mark likes to perform live and his music is often heard on satellite and radio stations around the world.

The album opens with the tune **Simple Music for Complex People**. Pinkus' subject is an attention getter without being showy. There is a lot to hear in this unpretentious song including the suggestion of sunny skies and romantic walks. You can easily get enchanted by this music.

Je Ne Fais Rien De Ma Vie translate as "I Do Nothing with My Life". It is one of the more poignant songs on the album and I cannot believe this applies to this remarkable artist. But if we succeed on some level in life, it may not be the level we hoped for. The music, however, is persistent.

The Ballerina in the Sky may be help aloft by this song called **The Wind**. Mark's tune is heartfelt and beautiful. The melody may suggest a blustery time once in a while, but a consistency is found by the end. The tune **The Light is On** is a kind of promise. A promise that you will wait no matter what. Night after night you watch the path hoping for a return.

The Early Morning Coffee Club is a favorite of mine for its classical undercurrents. Although the day is bright and new, you have your own plans. Every new day is a new opportunity to try again. Sometimes the club only has a single member, but that does not dissuade you from trying to beat the rising sun at its own game.

Total Lack of Communication is somber and seriously moody. There are even some dissonant notes in the phrasing that lead you to think there is a problem on every level. There is a storm in this mind, as if almost on the brink of despair. There is a sadness in the music.

The title track, **Ballerina in the Sky** is an intricate composition with a lot of delicate movement, some flowing strides, and a great deal of elegance. Mark has imbued the song with a graceful symmetry, a balance if you will, of melody and message. It is obvious that the ballerina appears weightless, but in fact, she bears the weight of her commitment. Great arrangement.

Twisting of My Mind is one of the more animated tunes on the album. It is waltz of complications and confusions. The melody starts out somewhat romantic, but the theme seems to find a murky place and hover there. It is not all dark, but there is a feeling of overcasting sensibilities. Take heart. The clouds will part soon.

There is a warm familiarity about the tune **The Tree of Prayer**. The melody is light and reverent. The music suggests to me that there is salvation in a smile. There is hope in every good deed. But most importantly, our God(s) hear every prayer.

Other tracks include **Caught Between, Miracles, Dream After Dream, Breathe in Peace, The Bird and the Dog, Take Your Time, and Mi Amica Graziella**.

There is a lot of music on this album. Mark Pinkus is generous in his offerings to help you find calm, but also to do a bit of thinking along the way. There are memories to recall, romances to live over, and dreams to fulfill with the help of this sensitive and sometimes sensual music. With an additional fourteen highly listenable albums to his credit, this composer seems to always be on the right track. Highly recommended. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews