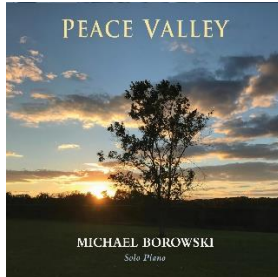


Michael Borowski

Peace Valley



Peace is where you find it. And there seems to be a world full of people joining the search. We can take some comfort in our music. I recommend these twelve scintillating stories carefully crafted with not words, but music on **Michael Borowski's** recent piano offering, **Peace Valley**. Trust me, it's a place you will want to seek out and visit often. These are solo piano contemporary pieces that grab a moment in time and hold them in echoing notes like ripples on a disturbed pond. This is my first encounter with Mr. Borowski's music and after listening to and enjoying it, I've signed up for the frequent listener program.

The first cut is called **Firefly**. Having the privilege to live in a place in Tennessee where the fireflies make their early summer dance every year, I understand the music completely. Michael's tune sets the stage for the sweet smell of honeysuckle on fresh vines and the starry night that is eclipsed by the million and one tiny flashes of nature's own neon green fireworks. Some say it is for mating purposes. Don't they know magic when they see it?

It starts as a single snowflake. Then a sprinkling. Then the all too familiar flurry. Borowski's tune is called **First Snow**. The wind is cold, yet not piercing. Tomorrow, when we wake, everything will be covered and we will witness that big white blanket. Clean, fresh, white linen landscapes for the new day. Carpe nix diem.

When we fathers look at our sons, we look into a mirror of the future. And we hope that the image owner ends up strong and happy. So simple a wish is the theme for **Dear Son**. This musical missive is all those hopes and dreams bundled up with loving care into a few hundred notes. Borowski's song is a melody created with warmth, hope, and love.

The title tune, **Peace Valley** has a paucity of notes. The message however, is resoundingly rich and beautiful. The whole scenario is one of pastoral splendor. Time slows down, warm, sunny days are de rigueur, and peace is assured to all ye who enter here. This poignant score offers a rare sense of calm we need in our frenzied lives.

There is one cover on the album that Michael renders in fine form. It is a signature tune of legendary guitarist Will Ackerman's called **The Bricklayer's Beautiful Daughter**. It is one of those tunes that I can name in four notes. We watch from above as she dances and twirls. Our hearts keep the beat. Beauty in motion. It is waltz of a different color that has a dizzying effect on the soul. Well done, sir.

The final tune, **Morning Cycle** is one of those songs that sound like they could be used as a cinematic intro. Energetic phrases full of sunlight and warmth. The music suggests a fondness for those rituals that are performed every day. Mostly in the same way. But it also suggests that

there is a blessing to be found in everything. Maybe it is more like a celebration. Good morning world.

I have to mention that the production values on this recording are incredibly engineered thanks to Tom Eaton who doubled as the co-producer along with Will Ackerman. But you can always tell an Eaton job. I enjoyed every tune on Peace Valley. You can put this music in the background of your life or you can bring it forward and live in the moment. Your choice. From house painter to bar room piano player, it is obvious that Mr. Borowski has paid his dues. Highly Listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews