

Michael Joseph  
Into the Blue



It is what musicians do. They bare their feelings, layer after layer, and reveal everything down to their innermost thoughts. Down into their very souls. **Michael Joseph** does this on his debut introspective offering called **Into the Blue**. He composes his music from an introspective point of view. Music changes a person and a lot of music makes many changes. Michael has taken his experiences, his achievements, perhaps even his failures and transposed them all into notes of passion.

**Awakened** is music that reminds us that there is something in all of us that makes get up every morning, do the job, and fight the good fight, not necessarily for ourselves, but for others. It is our passion and our drive. It is something not given, but often found. And it can only be found inside.

Staring into another's eyes is the first step in falling in love. Having them stare back is the ultimate response. Michael Joseph uses his eyes as a portal to his soul and that path is created using music in the title tune **Into the Blue**. The music is wistful, sensitive, and rather calming.

**Carpathian Echoes** is a folksy tune, dynamic tune. Using what sounds like a clavier, Joseph renders several tunes that put me in mind of the wonderful Switched On Bach Series of the late sixties. The music is spiced with the old world and it suggests old world memories. There are stories to be told and history to learn.

With the toll of distant bells **Church of the Heart** had a *choir of angels* feel to it, something I admired. The glass harp was like musical glitter. The gentle voices produced a peace sorely needed in my busy day and somewhat busy mind. The literally, bell shaped tones of the main theme made the music come alive, bright and blissful.

Another tune with flavor from the past was **The Quiet Within**, but the message is contemporary in scope as Michael guides us to a place we all know of, but hardly take the time to visit. It is not a modest thing to be at ease with your own thoughts, but practice is the key.

**Escape** and **Into the Storm** both share a Yanni-esque vibe with their ethnic perspectives and their exuberant tempos. It is a musical manifestation that has been absent for a time, but lest we forget the man the opened a thousand doors for thousand emerging pianists, let the music play on. Joseph's tune, **Escape** has that sense of urgency that is translates into intensive musical motion. It declares that an exploit with a mystery is forthcoming. **Into the Storm** may start out with a hint of inclement weather, but it ends up in a deluge of emotions and fury. In this case, the fury is passion.

The last track **Another Chance** is a tune with noticeable classical nuances, but the theme is beautifully poignant. You are going to remember this one. There is a touch of melancholy with a trace of hopefulness. And who does not need a second chance? Forgiveness, after all, is what makes us human.

Michael Joseph has some notable themes on thirteen track New Age collection, Into the Blue. The music has enough variety to remain entertaining while keeping the mood low key. It makes you wonder about your own way in the world. Your own path. That is what music is supposed to do. Make you think and make you feel. Joseph has done both. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews