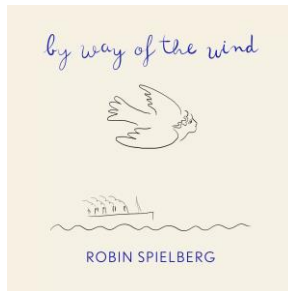


Robin Spielberg

By Way of the Wind

Robinspielberg.com



To see and hear that someone else's dreams have come true is a kind of gift, and that is what I felt about composer **Robin Spielberg's** new release **By Way of the Wind**. Four decades in the making, it is Spielberg's orchestral effort to encapsulate everything she deems beautiful and challenging into an eleven track album of symphonic splendor. Spielberg's interpretations emerge as if she is a leaf in the windy throes of life itself. Luckily, she had the wherewithal to take notes and translate them into gorgeous music. Her music is light, airy, uplifting, and in her case, it never seems to touch the ground. Hence, the first cut, *Flying*.

Flying is a bird's eye view of a journey through an endless sky of clouds. Spielberg's opening number is a joyous prelude to the entire symphony which now travels aloft on notes made of silver and gold, changing into stars in a darkened sky. To say the tune is uplifting is an understatement of the finest kind. The flight is thrilling as well as jubilant.

Wherever You Go continues to characterize Spielberg's gentle, emotion filled themes. The tune is sunny and filled with warm refrains of sentiment. Robin delves into the higher registers to add life and sparkle to the song, but the strings sway and flow throughout, filling in the emotional aspects. Grace and gratitude go hand in hand in this one.

Return of a Knight is Robin's celebratory tribute to a not-so-mythical world of knights, sorcerers, and a realm of honor and nobility. Neither Arthurian, nor Tolkienian, it is music for every valiant soul that returns from their destiny in triumph. This bold, thrilling musical featuring a gallant array of horns marches along in homage that is suitable for every hero that ever stood in front of the castle gates in courageous return.

In the Arms of the Wind is one of my many favorites on the album. Robin seems to start out on a somewhat dark day, full of gusts and billows. Then the theme surrenders to the wind and the journey continues. Now a bit lighter in more ways than one, the music becomes more free, and with a certain direction to aim for. Every note say "come along with me". And I did.

Walk with Me hints at what it really is, a graceful waltz with sparkling little passages running loosely inside it, and with the sense of an elegant theme of royalty and romance spiraling across the boundless ballroom in your mind. Robin's radiant refrains swirls about unrestrained and uplifting, as dancing on air becomes a reality.

Ireland: An Orchestral Portrait is another dream come true for the composer. This series of musical postcards offers up the flavor and color of the Green Isle in classical Hibernian Style. The music is a background for anyone that ever wanted to visit the fens and hills of the Emerald Isle complete with the glossy green meadows and ancient stone walls to keep the magic alive.

The orchestrations are wide and lush, with squeezebox, piano, and flutes mixed into a depiction of a land full of humor and history. At more than eleven minutes long, it is a journey unto itself. I can't wait to return.

New Freedom Suite is a long, poignant story in three parts. Somewhat like one of the previous tracks, it is a homage with military vibes and bright, instrumental accoutrements that chronicles the world in war and in peace. Conceptualized in over three decades the story seems to echo the conditions that prevail in the world as we know it today. The question is who will prevail? The ignoble or the righteous?

The album was accomplished with the contributions of Péter Illényi and the Budapest Scoring Orchestra and the amazing talents of Louis Anthony deLise hovering tirelessly over the orchestrations. Robin Spielberg makes us think of the wind as a sometimes questionable, sometimes friendly companion as the driving force in a life. On *By Way of the Wind* the composer displays an incredible sense of virtuosity in regards to her complex melodies and her poignant themes. Robin's work more than adequately sums up her narrative and musically ponders the subjects in a creation of memorable movements of woodwinds and brass, piano and strings, and overall, entertaining orchestrations that beg to be performed in front of a live audience. For now, the recording will do. The album is available in a unique package that includes a descriptive booklet with liner notes, postcards, the CD, and an enameled "dove in the wind" pin to commemorate your listening experience. Very highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, ArtisanMusicReviews.com