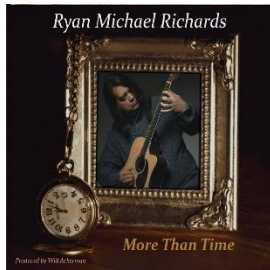


Ryan Michael Richards

More Than Time



There is not a lot of biographical information on guitarist **Ryan Michael Richards**, but then his artistry speaks for him. His current EP **More Than Time** has five pieces of contemporary music that are quite relaxing. As in his previous works, *Experiences* and *Pathways to Love*, he relies on gentle themes that are warm, positive vignettes of life spied from around a corner and transformed into thought provoking music by an acoustic magician. The album should have been longer, but we must make do.

Moving Forward is a warm solo guitar ballad that is inviting and dynamic. There is something folksy about the tune. There is progressive feel to it as if you are strolling through the landscape and the sights and sounds are a comfort to the senses. It is a very good start.

A little upbeat and lively, the song **At Your Leisure** lets you have all the time in the world to get your act together as we used to say and take the next step. The world is full of trepidations that give us pause and make us fear. Ryan's song is encouraging, offering a musical interlude to relax and regenerate. A notable addition to the song is veteran sideman Premik Russel Tubb's Lyricon, a wondrous wind instrument that adds waves of sonic delight to the mix. In the background subtle bass by Michael Manring balances out the track.

Like an old timey waltz, **May I Have This Dance?** is a song that you would hear in your grandmother's parlor after a big Sunday dinner. It is a homespun melody with a one-two- three cadence that makes you want to sway and hold on forever. Jill Haley's English horn adds a light, airy tone to the song. Charlie Bisharat on violin adds a neighborly note of friendly cheer.

Friday at Five is a promise to keep. Ryan's flowing ballad is a walk in a wind driven rain. A bus ride across the city, but there's a lot at stake. It may be the last chance to make up for the mistakes, the harsh words that should never have been spoken. There is a lot of character in the music, a lot of determination. This was one of my favorites. It fires up the imagination like a movie in my head. Don't know if he made it.

The final cut, **Timeless**, is a languid piece with a few side trips. This is a light instrumental that frees up the soul for a little daydreaming. It has an improvisational feel, but the music is catchy and just takes you along for the ride. The complete work was co-produced by Will Ackerman and Tom Eaton of Imaginary Road Studios.

Ryan Michael Richards' album literally, gives us a little more time to do what our hearts want to do. These five fluid, well compassed songs are just what we need to star gaze and day dream. Take your pick. Yes, these are literally, five easy pieces, all highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews

Recorded with renowned musicians Premik, Michael Manring, Jill Haley, and Charlie Bisharrat.