

Silvard

Moment For Yourself



Marine biologist by day and composer by night, **Silvard** submits his latest album of “Freeflow” music called **Moment For Yourself** using his own brand of improvisational composing, that is, music simultaneously composed and recorded in the studio. It is a twelve track collection of contemporary compositions, some fanciful in theme, other bold in melody, but all palatable to the New Age music listener.

New Day, the first track has neo-classical influences that remind one of Stravinsky in seriousness of tone and strength of melody. The music is bright, energetic, and resonant. The music suggests that the sky is bluer, the temperature warmer, and the day more improved just because. The next tune, **Inner Peace** is not as quiet as I would have imagined, but it does have a certain reverence to it. The melody changes its flow and eventually reduces into an atmosphere of deeper feelings.

One of the more gentle tunes on the album is the title tune **Moment for Yourself**. I could not determine whether it was the tone of the piano or the melody itself, but the tune seemed melancholic throughout. Silvard’s pensive tune lets you catch your breath and daydream for a while.

Both of the tunes **Sweet Dreams** and **Moon over San Carlos** have a childlike gentleness to them as if they are destined for a music box medley. Sweet Dreams sounds like an old world lullaby, virtually born of a minuet. In Moon over San Carlos Silvard uses the higher register to create the feeling of a starry night with the moon glowing over everything below. Either one is a dream filled experience for the young and young at heart.

We never take enough time for ourselves. Work, family, and life all gnaw at the scant 60 minutes in each of the hours. **Reflecting** is a thought provoking tune. The medium tempo and skillful melody gives one pause to take count, ponder, and generally consider the day-to-day happenings in our lives. A hundred years ago we heard many say “stop and smell the roses”. It is something that is just as important today. This one is so true to the main theme.

I do not know if Johan Strauss would consider **Waltz of Celebration** a top ten on his chart, but this slightly decelerated version has a lot of heart. If anything, it is a dreamy version of a waltz, almost a fantasy form of a time when music could only be fashioned by the hand and imagination of man. Silvard’s soothing solo piano slow things down to a reverie.

Time to Let Go has some strong classical elements to it that give it an impression of gravity and of solemnity. The fitting finale is a heartache in musical terms. I could imagine a curtain ready to close, a door almost shut, or a clock striking the top of the hour. The music suggest that it is time to wake from the dream.

I liked the entire album. I could not tell that it was overtly improvisational as the flow was positive throughout. Silvard's music suggested various thoughtful moods and many emotions, all brought on by the skillful intricacies of his compositions. A good album for a rainy day. – R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews