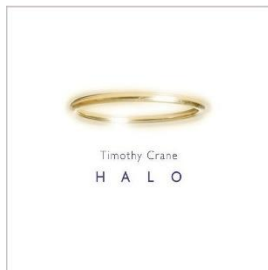


Timothy Crane

Halo



Composer **Timothy Crane** has released his new album **Halo** and it is quite different than some of his previous works. Instead of his dependence on solo piano themes, he uses strong orchestration to make his compositions come alive with vibrant color and aural textures. **Halo**, his fifth album to date, is a 12 track collection of contemporary music with a cinematic vibe. All the tracks have a strong piano influence, but they also have an instrumental pop bent. Some of the tracks favor the epic music category.

Think movie trailers and that incredible auditory strength and power that they generate. It's all in there. Crane dedicates the album to those who work in health care, the true angels on earth.

The album opens with the somewhat gentle piece called **Waterfall Secrets**. This is an ornate composition, a stylish waltz of cascading notes that hold a mystery within. Crane's music swirls around in your mind like a dance partner made out of delicate water droplets. The music shimmers with sunshine and rainbows.

Halo, the title track is almost ten minutes long, but worth every single note. The music is ethereal, light, and quite sublime. There is a background synth that carries through the intro, a run of simple notes, and then the main theme comes along, approachable, warm, and hopeful. Crane's blissful arrangement unseals a door made of light that opens into more light. Inside the room there is succor, healing, life. It is a place of prayers answered, dreams fulfilled, and a sense of welcoming that touches the heart in the deepest of places.

Timothy gets a good rhythm going on his cover of Simon & Garfunkel's **The Boxer** which was quite unexpected. It is a toe tapping instrumental in which the listener will surely supply the well-known lyrics and the familiar refrain. Simon's ballad about the down trodden, the misunderstood, and most of all, the lost is fitting fare for Crane's overall subject of hopefulness.

The next longest song on **Halo** is called **Cards**. Credit cards? Playing cards? Greeting cards? I don't know, but I do know it is the best song on the album, hands down. There is a wonderful depth of emotion in this piece, a lightness of being. It is a theme of hope in this very dark period in all our lives. The music is uplifting, and with its strong cinematic influences, it becomes an anthem for everyone on the front lines that give so much from the heart.

Timothy adds a dash of jazz in the tune **Southern Steps**. The orchestration still retains a grand perspective, but the piano lead adds that personal touch as if he is playing for an audience of one. **Chelsea Walk** is a soft tune, a rolling countryside created only in dreams. The green of leaf and grass, the blue of a clear sky, and the warmth of the yellow sun adds color to your daydreams.

Another favorite on **Halo** is one called **Tenants of Heather**. It has a serious tone in the beginning, but then the melody rolls along, buoyed by a pipe organ and somber strings. There is touch of the Celtic hiding behind some of the phrasing, attesting to a faraway place in the old world of Scottish craggy hills and fields of white heather, the symbol of good fortune by anyone from those Highlands.

Timothy puts on his jazz hat and offers up the most rousing tune on the album, something called **I-70 Sojourn**. The music is jam-packed with energy and an unmistakable sense of forward movement to the extreme. This 2,000 mile American highway bisects the country from Utah to Maryland and passes through the heartland. Crane's music touches on every picturesque landscape, every corny tourist spot, and every notable landmark that this incredible route affords. Very stirring music.

The last cut is called **Solaris**. After all the exciting music on Halo, what is left but the stars themselves? Crane's pop-tinged theme with a strong piano lead and a bit of percussion closes the show as if we were headed to the stars on a journey of a lifetime.

I liked every cut on Halo and I feel that Crane's music provided an uplifting sense that is both bright and hopeful. A lot of angels are straightening their haloes tonight with just a little more pride because of it. Highly listenable. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews