

REVIEW

**By Raymond Arseneault, The Journal-Pioneer
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Every single track on Nesbitt album a precious gem

Over the years, I've reviewed hundreds and hundreds of albums. On most albums, you'll get a few good tunes, a couple of mediums and a bunch of so-so tracks. Rarely have I heard CD that has retained my complete interest throughout the entire disc, without any wavering whatsoever. Even rarer is an instrumental album that stays consistent in every single track.

Master pianist-composer Deane Nesbitt Jr., hailing from the Toronto area, has accomplished this stunning feat. It is also a tremendous testament to the artistry of this great musician that, at the same time, none of the numbers are big, tear-the-house-down kickers.

The amazing CD *Everywhere From Here* is however an absolutely beautiful compilation of 11 stunning, wordless songs and melodies that are grandly orchestral and theatrical but still designed to help listeners relax. In fact, his compositions are the only music ever to have been endorsed by the Canadian Institute of Stress and the Centre for Corporate Vitality. I don't have a clue how Nesbitt comes up with these charmers, but he does so consistently. And although the numbers help you relax, none of them will make you go to sleep, not even the peaceful Northern Lullaby.

On Nesbitt's fourth album, we of course find his soaring and inspired grand piano and keyboard work, but we're also treated to some truly intricate Latin guitar lead work by Brian Gagnon on a couple of the tracks – particularly *Canadian Summer* (which also features some rising sun sounds, including the call of the loon), the highly emotional, theatrical and sweeping *Flowers In the Sun* and the Maritime-tinged *Fundy*.

We also get treated to some of Deborah Quigley's heart-touching Uilleann pipe sounds on *Canadian Summer* and on *Time and Memory* and Jack Jackson's big bagpipes on the captivating, military-styled march of the similarly titled *Time and Memory - Salute*. Then we get some panpipe sounds on the exceptional *You Were Always There*. *Blue Poppy* funks things right up with its extremely punchy stylings. Most of the numbers feature some pretty big orchestral-styled backing without overdoing it, including the ever-relaxing *Serenica*.

Some of the numbers sound so familiar, you'd swear you know to the words – although they actually never come to mind. In particular, the track *Will It Ever Be The Same* makes me think that I'm leaving on a jetplane to go somewhere over the rainbow. Then the punchy *Klune*, featuring native-style drum beats, delivers a great moviesque melody that almost had me dancing with wolves. Meanwhile, the dramatic, folkish and seafaring *Fundy* almost made me feel the waves of the Atlantic.

This great disc gets one of my highest ratings ever. Those who enjoy instrumental albums **MUST** get this one!