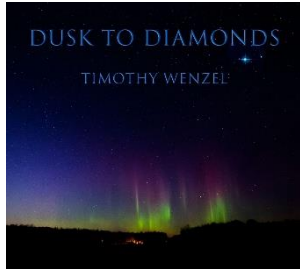


Timothy Wenzel

Dusk to Diamonds



Timothy Wenzel is one those composers that go beyond the boundaries of known genres. His recent album **Dusk to Diamonds** is a convergence of New Age, contemporary, and cinematic themes that results in an absorbing aural experience. Every one of these dozen tracks has a light, delicate touch that seems to ease into the cracks of the broken spirit and fill them with comfort. When Wenzel plays, the fantastic journey is assured.

The album opens with the enigmatic cut, **Ghost**. Inspiration is where you find it, even if it is in an empty room. There is an echoing softness to the tune that suggests an unseen touch, a wisp of a breeze, and a spiny chill. The music appears out of thin air. Violinist **Josie Quick** and cellist **Graham Cullen**'s string music floats about while the piano plays a memorable refrain.

The door is ajar. You nudge it and you can imagine the song **Opening** playing in the scene. No fear. Just a change from the everyday to the fantastic for a short while. Many seem to just look through the crack along the hinges, but those that step through are in for a new world just waiting to be discovered. A mournful horn, breathed into life by **Jill Haley** greets you inside and says "Welcome".

The title tune, **Dusk to Diamonds**, is hands down my favorite on the album. It is the night sky in a time lapsed vignette. Musically, Tim's composition has a lot happening from the arrival of twilight to the onset of those glittering nighttime jewels. The main theme features a gentle cello and hushed chorus. At times this song had a Celtic veil around it and it is appropriate.

Our Stories is a sorrowful piece with violin and piano weeping together in commiseration. Are they sobbing for our losses? The many souls that have left this earth? Are they crying for our troubled world? The hate, the bigotry, the lack of compassion? I listened to this one with a heavy heart, but I reveled in its sonorous beauty. Our stories have to be told. This is our history. Our chronicle of what the present is like. Wenzel infuses this lament with a Max Richter Blue Notebook feel and I liked it for that. It is emotional music like this that indelibly imprints on the soul.

Strong piano lead opens on a lavishly orchestrated piece called **Enchanted**. Someplace deep in a wooded land, elves dance around the fire while magic fills the night. Others fly about on soft wing spreading fairy joy. This is a song of nocturnal celebration. Join in the dance and come alive.

Another favorite on **Dusk to Diamonds** is called **Dance of the Dead**. Tranquilly reverent, this fragile requiem combines the voice of a mysterious sorceress (**Vicki Smith**) who talks in breathy whispers like the wind in the air; soft, clear, and true and the expressions of **The Teenangel Chorus** who make an appearance in this one to soothe the lost soul.

The last tune is called **Walking So Sweetly**. This is a lighthearted finale to a collection of music that provides true escapism. Wenzel's keyboard aire flows along, neither fast nor slow, but reassuring and hopeful. Sometimes the soul feels so light that the body never touches the ground. This music conveys that rare feeling. The modern day poet Debasish Mridha said "*Light is not out there. It is in your heart always ready to show you the path.*" Perhaps that is why you are Walking So Sweetly.

Timothy Wenzel has eight other albums that are just as freeing and pleasing. He likes the cold of night, the beauty of nature, and the hidden realm of the fantastic. Every one of his albums are infused with introspective themes and stunning soundscapes. Listening to this album is like buying a ticket to a new & improved tomorrow. I'll take two, please. Highly recommended - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews

Dusk to Diamonds, the latest release from imaginative composer Timothy Wenzel, opens up a delightful fantasy world in which to escape. The magic in the night sky and these twelve transporting musical tales open the doors to that secret realm. It's time to get away in new whimsical dreams. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews