

Beautiful You

By

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Written by

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The art in producing really good solo piano work is to literally take the listener on a musical journey and provide all the images, all the locations, moods and feelings along the way, there are few who can do this with great consistency, but that small number has just increased by one, with the addition of **Matthew Mayer** to the ranks of the solo piano elite, and through this very album, **Beautiful You**.

Mayer's first offering is the extremely emotional **Raindrops of Amor**. Named well indeed, as love literally pours from the piano and into our hearts. The energy of a *David Lanz* performance floats here as well; it is as if we are drifting on high with the supreme majesty of a composition that is simply beyond beauty itself.

Fly Little Bird continues our sojourn through this world of great colour and mood, the deftness on the keys here portrays the delicacy of a newly born bird as it leaves the nest. The increasing energy of the piece combined with its utter ambience gives me a true sense of freedom and of being one with all there is.

Mayer's performances on this album are beyond all that have gone before, it is simply something to behold, and this tenderness is elaborated on further through the medium of this next offering called **You Are Enough**. The start of this composition is almost film score in style and arrangement, but the sense of truth that flows from Mayer's piano is so very imploring and honest. The repeating motif is like looking into someone's eyes when they whisper a moment of love to you and for once you have the belief that it is actually true.

So far on this journey I have been deeply moved, and I can feel that this essence will continue. The next piece is called **A Modern Introspection** and perhaps offers us something different, perhaps even a moment of retrospective introspection! The offering is delightful, the deeper tones add such a lush dimension to walk musically within, and then the flowing passages that raise the energy of the overall composition do so, with a warm and blissful sense of ambience.

Now how many of us eagerly wait for the title track to appear and with fingers crossed we hope dearly that this moment of music, this veritable painting of the entire project, will live up to our expectations? The good news, **Matthew Mayer** excels here, and **Beautiful You** is the very perfect example in music, of the words used to write the very title. The fluency of this track is something to leave on repeat for a while, and it is one of those compositions that seem to just make you feel blessed and comforted with each note played.

The midway point has been breached and we come across the curiously entitled **Of Haunt and Hope**. This is cleverness personified, one can listen so intently, that you almost forget to breathe, we also wait for the next note with such a level of anticipation, and it is almost eerie. The vista and musical narrative is as alive as the expression of tone, and the mind could draw up pictures of the past and present, the choice to go left or right, to change pathways, or to stay on course, well this is up to you, but at least you now have a musical soundtrack to base your decisions on.

We have seemingly moved into the deeper waters of this album and in doing so we come across another hauntingly chilling piece called **Broken Mirror**. Imagine yourself walking up a dusty staircase, the boards beneath your feet creak, it is as if you have walked into someone's home after years of it being vacated, as you near the first landing, you see a the dark mirror appear and from its boundaries it is cracked from side to side, your choice now is whether to look deeper into the glass? This is so cleverly played by Mayer and with such a level of suspense and mystery it is simply too addictive to pass up the opportunity to play it again.

Time to change the energy and move to a homely little number called **Bill Next Door**. This is a charming example of how the artist can change flow and energy

and manifest something so warm and loving, it is delightful to behold. There seems to be such a respectful tone used here, but one that contains many changes along the way, almost like we are looking in an old scrapbook from a dusty attic, and those remembrances are flowing back into our minds once again.

Tranquillity does exactly what it says on the can. This is sublime in its ambience and will leave you with such a level of calm and peace filled resonance of bliss. At just under three minutes it is the shortest piece off the release, but certainly not a composition to be overlooked at all.

We now come across an almost classical moment of brilliance here by the artist, this reverie is entitled **Ordinary Way**. When Mayer delivers this song he does so with the ageless endeavours of a genius performer who doesn't simply manifest great arrangements, he feels them absolutely and totally, the passion with which this is played is far from ordinary and its way is utterly moving and all encapsulating.

We now arrive with such grace at the penultimate offering of the album, this is called **Dreams VII**. Sometimes a moment will come into fruition, in the same way as an errant cloud that floats across the horizon when you least expect it. Mayer pulls off a stunning performance on this offering. This feels so gentle, but there is an underlying motif of a change that is about to occur, the kind of change one may see as a dragonfly is born into the world. The beauty with which this has been played deserves a rousing ovation, what a perfect composition to set up the last track of the album with.

The aforementioned last arrangement is called **In Spirit**. **Matthew Mayer** has a talent that is so rare; the talent of making you feel each composition intently, making you almost touch the keys with him as he plays, you are there, taken along and part of this glorious musical narrative, after all, perhaps we are all there, as one **In Spirit**.

Beautiful You by **Matthew Mayer** is the artist's ground breaking new album, Mayer felt that this was something special and he is right, yes the artist has a special emotive touch on the keys, but this is beyond anything he has thus composed so far, there are levels within this album that are simply

transcendent in their energy and the tenderness with which each piece is created is beautiful on its own.

Beautiful You is an album that is played with love and honesty and each and every track is produced with such a pristine clarity of pure quality, that by the time the album has finished, one will feel deeply moved and totally fulfilled.