

Half Moon Bay

By

Rick Sparks

Written by

Steve Sheppard

I remember being totally entranced with the album *Nightfall London* by **Rick Sparks** and now the artist is back with an incredibly beautiful release entitled **Half Moon Bay**. Like Rick I share in his passion of a love of nature and the sea, I only have to look from my balcony to gaze upon its lapis depths.

On this Ricks fifth album we explore that very narrative of the ocean, nature and the tranquil peace and the serenity that can be found by embracing it. The release is a simply delicious 10 tracks of utter summer bliss and reflection, all mixed into a glorious sun kissed compilation of tranquillity.

My first and favourite selection would be the opening piece **Sand and Stars**, I adored the major and minor combinations here, the ethereal wordless vocals are so moving that one could literally be there, in the moment, in **Half Moon Bay**. The natural floating keyboards here are divine. I fell in love with this piece, I could imagine walking in a summer sunset along this mystical beach with my beautiful wife Chrissie, yes this is a composition filled with love and created with the same wondrous energy and to be shared in love too.

Rick has a passion for the incredible talent of *The Beach Boys*, and surely they must be the musical epitome of the word summer when you think about it. The guitar here is beyond serene and **Half Moon Bay**, the title track, is as beautiful as the title suggests, I would imagine that *Beach Boys Brian Wilson* would completely approve of this moment of musical mastery, it is simply stunning.

The entire album is faultlessly magnificent, this for me is how real New Age music should be performed, with sensitivity, from the heart and bathed in love and a sense of tranquillity and peace.

My last suggested moment of genius from this incredibly gorgeous album is the final piece, **Summer's Gone**, this really moved me; I guess I am feeling that right now as autumn starts to poke its head around the corner of our world on my island. The gentle and reflective energy of this composition and the soft strings sections allows us to wave goodbye to the summer for now, and leave the album in a state of complete relaxation and happiness.

Half Moon Bay by **Rick Sparks** is one of those albums that only comes around every so often, but when it does one must snap it up quickly, and bathe in its tones daily. **Half Moon Bay** has been produced and created by the tender soul of an artist who really feels his music and **Rick Sparks** will be proud of this timeless creation of sublime beauty for many years, they don't get much better than this, and I would recommend **Half Moon Bay** in a heartbeat.