

# Stranger Days

By

David Wright

Written by

Steve Sheppard

**David Wright** has been known in the music industry as one of the leaders of quality electronic music for decades now and it is an absolute pleasure to get to review his latest release **Stranger Days**.

The opening piece sets the scene for the entire album perfectly; it hovers like a massive sentinel above us, it is entitled **A Moments Contemplation**, it is as if we are seeing a vast vista of sound, time and space open up before us, but before we set off on this musical journey, we must survey all the lands we will cross before doing so.

**Re-Connected** is just that, it reconnects us, to a reworked version of the track originally released back in 2012 from the album *Connected*; more depth and texture can perhaps be found on this composition, while we forever float into the arms of the next piece called **Beyond Glass Mountains**, where we will travel back even further to 1993 to find the original inspiration from the *Ocean Watch* release, but now it features the talents and skills of *Carys*, bringing it right up to date with such style and panache.

I remember the release of *Walking with Ghosts*; it has several memories for me personally and on **Walking with Ghosts Fantasy** we have a track that retains the same feeling of the 2002 release, but adds an almost *Pink Floyd* styled ethic about the arrangement.

This next one is packed with memories for the artist as well and dedicated to his friend and musician *Klaus Hoffman-Hook*, who sadly passed away before this was finished, here David completes the smooth tones of **Krystal Halls**, with

a delightful percussive beat and a stunning guitar combining to manifest an excellent slice of classic EM.

My personal favourite is up next the simply gorgeous **Always Tomorrow**. In my opinion the flow and fluency of this track is simply sublime, this is one of those pieces that one feels was created in the moment, it has a certain lightness of spirit to it; if **David Wright** ever wanted to release a single from the album, this would be my suggestion.

Wright has brought us a double album of such quality and depth that I am sure will appeal to more than just electronic music fans, it will certainly appeal to *Tangerine Dream* followers as indeed this next piece was designed to do, it is called **Once Upon A Dream**, this was inspired by the band, and here Wright has created a masterful offering of perfectly paced EM to literally dive head long into.

Now we have a moment of musical explanation here, as you will see from the album that there now follows seven separate tracks entitled **Stranger Days parts 1 through to 7**. These compositions were originally designed as one piece and is the title track broken down into sections. I am sure that as you graze through them you will find your own favourites, from the dark and deep labyrinths of **Part 1**, to the exciting vibrancy of **Part 4**, or maybe even the moody ambience created by the end piece **Part 7**.

This is a double CD as we have said, so let's cross the threshold now into the second album of many memories, and as we do so we are gifted a piece that I am sure many fans will drift back to 1995 with, **Rysheara** is a stunning track that must be a real fan favourite. For me at times we are perhaps drifting into the realm of *Mike Oldfield* and who else but *Code Indigo*, now that's an interesting combination

Ever heard the DJ say, "Well lets slow things down a little now" we get that right here with a new version of the original 2015 piece **Call to Me**, from the album *Beyond The Airwaves vol 2*. This must be one of the sultriest tracks that Wright has ever gifted us, the addition of singer Carys adds to the mood greatly as we drift on the tranquillity of the moment, what a beautiful reworking indeed.

*Dave Massy* makes his appearance felt on another **Walking with Ghosts** offering, this time it's a Chilled Mix version; a gentle construction, but one with a true onward purpose that can be most certainly found here, one that is extremely chilled, crafted brilliantly and cleverly put together.

*Dave Massy* and *Carys* combine again to keep us in the chill out zone with this next piece entitled **Melt Away**. Cary's vocal skills here are extremely effective at creating with Wright and Massy a wonderfully tranquil, yet light composition of great quality and serenity.

We can now push away the clouds and as we do so we see a **Harmonic Heaven**, this comes in two parts; the first section Wright manifests a perfect soundscape for the subject matter as if we could be literally pulled into the continuum of the universe itself. In **Part Two** the artist then literally takes us by the hand and walks us through this wonderland of EM, with such a level of fluency that only a grand master of the synth could do.

The *Tangerine Dream* effect has inspired many musicians and artists over the years and on this next two track offering **Light Source Parts 1 & 2** we have another example of how Wright has been inspired by the genius of the man known as *Edgar Frosse*, just close your eyes and enjoy the moment.

Cast your mind back to 1991 and what springs to mind? The end of publishing tycoon *Robert Maxwell*, the end of the *KGB* or the beginning of a new era for **David Wright** with the superb album *Marilynmba*, such memories indeed, here Wright reworks the track **Colours of the Night** for our delight, and succeeds with every nuance and note played, what a stunning and beautiful piece indeed.

It's amazing to think we have travelled far and deep within the realm of electronic music with **David Wright**, but we must now end this voyage of plenty, however we can do so with great elegance and flair, by listening to the next four tracks as one, entitled, **The Forgotten Symphony, Movements One through to Four**. Fellow musician *Robert Fox* started this mammoth opus with the artist, but sadly after Fox fell ill, it was down to Wright to finish off this work. This is a poignant collection of musical movements that I actually found quite emotive at times, they contained some of the finest work, in a sensitive

styled performance from the artist, what a truly memorable and graceful way to leave the album it is as well.

**Stranger Days** by **David Wright** could be classed as a moment of electronic music majesty in motion, it is also a release packed with many memories and moments of musical time and created by a man who is at the top of the tree in his own genre with ease. **Stranger Days** by **David Wright** is an album that all fans of EM and contemporary instrumental music must have in their collection at all costs, one that has been created by an artist who clearly knows his art and loves every second of it.