

Adrift in Wonder

By

Robert Linton

Written by

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There is always something to admire about a new **Robert Linton** release, he plays the way I only wish I could, his style is fluent and extremely artistic and with every note and chord played, he pulls so much emotion from the guitar.

Linton is back with a new album called **Adrift in Wonder** and it is this musical journey we must now joyfully take, we start with the moving opus called **Gliding the Current**. Linton's choice of titles for this piece is spot on, we are literally on a boat, drifting down a stream, is life but a dream? Who would know and more to the point care, whilst listening to this most wonderful of compositions.

Robert follows that up with the sublime **Weaving Through the Waves**; this is one of those tracks that will completely melt you with its utter beauty, trust me, as one who lives close to the coastline this is simply perfect in every way. The fluency of Linton as a guitarist must always be highlighted, he may physically perform with his hands, but the music truly comes from the heart.

As we reach track three we find a piece of music that is stunning in its graphic nature and emotive qualities, that is the sublime essence of the arrangement called **Traces of Reflection**, it also happens to contain some of the most marvellous work on Cello by the master of that instrument in *Eugene Friesen*. The nature of this piece is simply timeless; it is like watching the sun filter in through the curtains in the early autumn light.

Linton's relentless drive into a wonderland of tranquillity continues with another slice of magic, can this experience even get any better? Well of course it can, and this simply emotional arrangement is further enhanced by a stunning performance on violin by *Sara Milonovich*. **Gentle Descent** is so soft and calming; one may well float down a mountain instead of making a descent. Linton's sweet and good natured performance on this one contains such a colourful musical narrative.

So we now cross over the half way marker of the album and as we do so we reach a point of sublime natural beauty, this masterful musical narrative is entitled **Sifting Through**

Daydreams and reminds me a lot of Linton's work on his, *Throughout the Autumn Light release*, but in a more major key styled way. The alto flute of *Premik Russell Tubbs* here creates such a tranquil musical moment when partnered with the guitar of Linton, it is really hard to break free from its beauty, and at just under nine minutes long this is the longest track to my knowledge that **Robert Linton** has ever recorded, but I wouldn't have minded if it had been twenty minutes long, I was lost in its realms of magic already.

Casting in the After Glow has a richness of musical colour and a great depth to its arrangement that really needs to be appreciated. There is also an almost classical energy about this offering that makes it even more attractive too; this is probably enhanced by the addition of Friesen on Cello and *Jill Haley* on English horn. The depth here is truly mesmeric in its qualities, and seems to create a sense of warmth to its creation as it plays out, a truly fascinating and intricate offering indeed.

As we move deeper into the weave of the release we come across a fascinating piece called **Murmur of Chimes**, there is a distinct feeling of solitude here, one that is created by a masterful performance brought into this reality by Linton on guitar. Just to sit and listen to this gentle but purposeful performance is breath taking and quite restful, this is certainly one of those tracks to have on whilst sitting and watching the sun set on the horizon, on a warm night in late August.

Robert Linton's overall portrait of purpose is now unveiled before us, of course I am referring to the title track **Adrift in Wonder**. I adore this moment on an album and here the artist does us proud and produces one of his signature musical dishes with the consummate ease of a true professional artiste. Here is a piece that will stop you dead in your tracks and demand you listen to each and every nuance contained within, Friesen's Cello at this point has most certainly formed a symbiotic partnership with the guitar of **Linton**.

The last footfalls home can be taken via the natural beauty of the composition **Hovering in the Sun Rays**, this is so very beautiful and the picturesque qualities of this arrangement are simply outstanding. Linton's gentle musical narration has such a tranquil tempo it is simply the best offering to listen to if you desire relaxation, without doubt the perfect composition to leave the album with.

Adrift in Wonder is that moment I have waited for since 2016 and Linton's last release **Beyond the Clearing**. He is a true master of his art and an inspiration to me as a part-time guitarist, and once more he has brought into our world an album of pure peace and serenity. Linton's honest and heart felt compositions will manifest for each and every purchaser of this album, a veritable musical sanctuary they will never want to leave, and thus is an album that hand on heart, makes it very easy for me to thoroughly recommend.