

# Precious Memory

By

Alan Hanslik

Written by

Steve Sheppard

It is always enjoyable for me to write reviews for new age music artists, especially ones who are new to me; **Alan Hanslik** falls into that category, and thus it is a total pleasure for me to immerse myself into his latest work **Precious Memory**.

We begin this musical sojourn with the opening track entitled **Abundance**. Hanslik creates something quite refreshing on this beginning opus, something that seems to create itself as it plays; this composition is almost musically organic, but never the less a superb way to start off the journey we must now take.

Hanslik follows up with the title track itself, **Precious Memory**. This is simply gorgeous, the soft sounds and gentleness of the opening refrain is a delight to listen to. The ambience within this creation is very special, and allows me as the eager listener of good music time to wander within its halls. The stringed elements and musical nuances employed here create a sense of calmness that is rare to find these days, and thus manifests a truly tranquil title offering for me.

This next composition contains a mystical opening to its construction, the deepness of the keyboards brought into being a whole new realm of musical energy, one that seems to hover around me as I listen in an almost angelic style. **Chambers** is the title of this track and I love it, the delight to be able to listen to truly inventive and crafted music of this ilk is a wonderful thing indeed, and Hanslik's efforts here have manifested something really enticing.

On **Back of Beyond**, the more electronic side of the artist comes through; the moody sounds of the keyboards remind me of the EM artist *Lord of the Ants*, in an almost modern art styled performance. This stylish, but completely original offering, is extremely alluring to listen to, one wants to hear what is going to come next, but wants to take the journey getting there, as slowly as possible.

We now wade in the deeper waters of the release and come across an arrangement called **Rin Song**. This continues our ambient journey, the chimes and the keyboards subtle nuances made a new reality out of the energies that seemed to flow from the recording. The smoothness of performance here is very noteworthy and allows the listener time to explore the labyrinths of this truly artistic offering.

However, when we arrive at the penultimate offering of the album, we come across my personal favourite off the release, it is called **Soft Wind**, personally I think this is one of the most superior pieces of ambient music I have heard for decades, and reminds me a little of *Michael Allison (Darshan Ambient)* in mood and composition. The keyboards of Hanslik here create for me a wonderfully open yet calm world to get very lost within, a sonic sanctuary of the soul perhaps.

The last portal to the album is called **Wading**, and the skills of the artist change the mood slightly as a more stringed based approach takes us gently out of the release. I have listened intently to this offering and could see in my mind's eye an *Avocent* wading in the shallows catching small fry, on the borderlands to some distant and unknown realm. I found this an incredibly peaceful way to leave what has been an incredibly tranquil and ambient experience.

**Precious Memory** has been a real breath of fresh air, one that has blown away the cobwebs of the ambient electronic music genre with such skill and dexterity. I needed to go on this musical voyage of bliss today, and I can also see that this is going to be one of those rare albums that will probably never leave my side, I rate it that highly. If you are a fan of pure ambience within music, then you are going to fall head over heels in love with **Precious Memory** by **Alan Hanslik**.