

Pastoral Memory

By

Dan Palladino

Written by

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It's always a pleasure for me to review an ambient music release, I find this genre can be so creative, so image filled and calming, and it is this realm we go to now with artist **Dan Palladino**, as we take a look at the dimension of music now known to us as **Pastoral Memory**.

The blissful beginning of a distant storm rattling across nature's landscapes and soft sounds of water greet our ears, in one of the most soothing musical narratives in the ambient genre for years. **Rising**, the opening piece is both transformative and transcendent, what a master piece of a composition it is indeed, its multi-instrumental nature adds to its collective musical weight, and I for one could get lost within its ambient constructs for eons.

Thankful is a track that is so smooth and deliberately timeless, it is simply one of those ambient moments you would crave for when seeking out music of this ilk. The light guitar, the gentle pads and hovering synths all go to bring us a spacious, but also warming music narrative for us to enjoy.

As we reach **Joyful Cleansing** we find a composition that creates an atmospheric environment all of its own. The small bass segment here is delicious; the delicacy of musicianship needs to also be applauded, and the purposeful and professional arrangement that is birthed from this particular offering is literally perfection in utter ambience.

For me **Aftermath** was a track of a different energy signature, there was a hovering sense of anticipation in the keyboards, but the backdrop of natural sounds and bird song was so deeply charming. The organ sound nearly brought

a *Pink Floyd* lyric from my mind's eye, "Remember when we were young, we shone like the sun"! But if there was any doubt that this must be the best ambient album released in 2019, then this piece will explain why it should be up there with the best, a moment of genius can be found here, and one that also reminds me a little of early *David Wright*.

Our penultimate offering is entitled **Yesterday's Dream**; there is indeed a floating sense of reality within the construction of this composition that is incredibly artistic, a gentle flowing stream trickles it's ambience through the pathways of this fine offering, and a light and fantasy filled musical arrangement takes you on a journey, in a sonic voyage of peace and tranquillity.

The last portal to this dimension of ambient brilliance is called **Counting Stars**, the soothing narrative of the last track continues the theme of the previous piece here as well, and emphasises a sequence of images that appear pleasantly within the mind's eye. This is a beautiful and peaceful way to leave the album, and one that can only be matched by having this release of constant repeat.

Pastoral Memory by **Dan Palladino** in my view is the best ambient album I have heard for a decade, it keeps its balance and its gentle but floating energies never lose cohesion. Palladino, in gifting the world this work of masterful proportions, has given us an album that we can drift away to indeed, but also a timeless collection of opuses that we will willingly return to at any time.