

Dreams of Peace: The Very Best of Rick Sparks

By

Rick Sparks

Written by

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Rick Sparks has pulled off something of a master stroke here on this his greatest hits album **Dreams of Peace**; it's a release perfect for the holiday season and for any time of year, it is jam packed with loving and warm compositions from his albums over the years.

Each piece has been throughout time lovingly put together, and with such a thoughtful mind and heart, like this new version of *Stings Fields of Gold*, a piece I know very well, as it was part of my singing course a few years back. Here the keyboards of Sparks create one of the mellowest moods you are ever likely to hear in a recreation of this ballad.

With offerings like **Little Flower** the keys are stroked with a tenderness that is sublime, and come from his last soothing collection of great music *Hushabye*, then onto **Dream Angus**, a composition that originally takes us back to 2014 and his album *Endless*, and as if you may have guessed by the title, it has a sumptuous Celtic refrain to its energies.

The exciting but mellow **First Love**, through to the more recent **No Greater Love**, both contain such an emotive signature to them and hold a sensitive angelic repose with ease.

For our next offering we return to *Half Moon Bay* with the piece **Sand and Stars**, an album of outstanding natural beauty, the perfect track, for the perfect album, one which floats with a translucent beauty into the arms of this next pleasurable sojourn in music called **And She Dreams**. There can be no doubt, that by the time you reach here, your mood will be totally chilled.

The second half of this 14 track collection of greatest hits gives us offerings like **Be Still My Soul**, the last track off the 2014 album *Endless*, and the inspiring **Dreams of Peace**, from the last album *Hushabye*, both tracks are bathed in the perceptive and delicate time signatures of classic new age music from the decades.

Tokyo Rain is one of those tracks you just can't stop listening to, it's eastern styled melody and tones make a wonderful juxtaposition to the following composition entitled **In the Bleak Midwinter**, this connection of moods gives us our first Christmas classic as well, and in my view, one of the most relaxing versions I have ever heard.

We can drift back to Sparks quite moving release from 2016 called *Matilda's Flowers*, through this next song called **Memories of Her**, a personal favourite of mine, it's warm structures and keyboards manifest a song that should be used in a movie romance scene.

Our last two magical compositions comprise of **When the Stars Come Out**, a track to ease the soul and soothe the mind, and our final opus of grandeur in the ever young **Auld Lang Syne**, a piece of music that is usually the very last one to be played at the end of each year; the performance on this arrangement is as it should be, uplifting and thoroughly connective.

Rick Sparks has done it again, it's the end of the year, but he has graced the musical airwaves with something so beautiful and tranquil it's the perfect Christmas gift. Sparks is one of those artists who will always manifest something special, warm and all-encompassing, and an album that contains such tender loving warm compositions on it like this, must always be completely recommended.