

The Path

By

Mark Barnes

Written by

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Mark Barnes is one of the finest keyboardists around in the new age music genre, his passion for a good melody and his skill at achieving it is phenomenal and striking to listen too, here on this latest release entitled **The Path**, he has once more created something so listenable and enticing it is a pleasure to literally layback in the arms of the music, and just enjoy.

We start with the opener, it is of course proudly the title track, I mean how else could one start a journey like this? A mysterious film score styled composition opens up our dimensional doorway to possibilities never before explored. **The Path** is a wonderfully classy arrangement; one that will sit in the mind's eye for ages afterwards.

Our first stop on this voyage of plenty is called **Through the Eyes of a Child**; a gentle beginning akin to the innocence a child gazes upon the world with, is before us, a light but soothing backdrop of sound is our foundation of calm in a track that explains literally what it says in the title.

There is a somewhat serious energy that begins this next piece called **Remembering A Friend**. The sombre, yet loving tones and vibrations are quite beautiful in construction and this piece in particular reminds me of the UK's *Mike Rowland* in composition style and presentation, the flowing narrative on keyboards on this piece is deeply moving indeed.

I have stood before the doorway of the dawn, and gazed upon the angels of the morning, as from the mist they did arise, in all the splendour and glory, then simply to fade away and die, in the arms of the sun, all gone, until the

next morn. That paragraph was inspired by this magnificent track called **Misty Mornings**, Barnes plays with such a depth of emotional power it is hard not to be inspired.

On **Painted Lady** we have a track that literally dances with you as you listen; it's cleverly interwoven melody moves in and out like the tide on a summer's day, and on the very wings of a beautiful butterfly, this composition flutters by with such grace and charm. **Mark Barnes** has once more created a truly colourful and natural offering that has a delicacy of performance that is sublime in its own translucent structure.

Time to move into the rich garden of all flowering melodies now with this next piece called **Benedicta Tu In Mulieribus**. This is such a lush offering and one that seems to have a decidedly delightful fluency about its arrangement, that is pristine and gentle in composition, indeed, blessed are you!

Give Me Shelter From The Storm gives us a fine example of the artist's ability to manifest a great musical narrative from a title that offers up so much potential. The imploring performance inspires the imagination to explore the narrative of the storm, it maybe weather or an inner emotional storm, or both, either way Barnes has it covered with this fine symphonic musical gesture.

Grand Central would turn out to be one of my personal favourites from the album, a track that has a delightful moodiness about its way to start with. I'm also glad that it happens to be the longest composition from the album at just shy of 5 ½ minutes, that gives me plenty of time to explore the swirling keyboards. An energy of excitement and expectation can be found here, the inevitable explosion of sound comes with a sublime build and progression at the half way mark of the track, in one of the most powerful opuses on the release.

Barnes is known for his emotive style on the keys and here on **I'll Love You To The Moon And Back** he brings us, his eager fans, just what we all crave. A touching musical pathway of chords and a melody so deeply sentimental you can literally feel it in your very soul. The ear Barnes must have for a soundtrack to a musical moment is impressive, and on this piece he has once more been successful in manifesting such a sensitive mood.

The lightness of this next track is breath taking, and called **Dreaming Of You**, this is **Mark Barnes** at his very best and playing with home field advantage. There is a nice interplay on the melody here that is beautifully written and most certainly dream like in composition, one that goes to bring to us the listener, something incredibly listenable indeed.

We are now within the deeper realms of this musical lake called **The Path** by **Mark Barnes**, and now and as we reach this point of no return we come across another of my personal favourites called **Just One**. There was a depth within this offering that I found really attractive, Barnes utilises his keyboards to their best, and seems to create a delicate guitar sound that reverberated with such a level of sensitivity, it was a pleasure to listen to and be a part of.

We now near the shores of the penultimate offering of the album and it is called **Uncharted Realms**. Like the Misty Mornings composition there was a little mysterious quality about the beginning of the piece, but that soon altered its perception to one of a more confident in approach, we may indeed be moving into uncharted realms, but it could be a good thing. Barnes performance on this track was superb, a full flowing confident composition that deserves applauding.

So we knock on the doorway to the last piece off the release, it is called **Snowbound**. Now that happens to be perfect timing as it is winter here and the first snows have fallen on the mountains behind us, this is also indeed an offering that you could listen to whilst watching the snow fall, it's delicacy is divine, it's sensitivity perfection, and is simply the best way to leave this quite wonderful album.

The bad boy of chill out has done it again, once more he has manifested something beautiful to listen to and enjoy, each and every composition on **The Path** has been carefully composed, produced and performed and anyone who is seeking music that is truly emotive, deeply moving, transcendent and colourful, will find a very happy refuge within this album of outstanding natural beauty.