

# **Good Light to Go By**

**By**

**Vin Downes**

**Written by**

**Steve Sheppard**

**Vin Downes** is without doubt one of the leading solo guitarists around in this modern age of so called new age music, he is certainly one of my personal favourites, and as a guitarist myself, to aspire to this level of performance would be an utter dream.

**Good Light to Go By** is charming at every twist and turn of such lush and colourful tapestries of music, from the opening joy of **Falling into Place**, to the laid back vibes of **The Flawed Heart**.

Downes is one of those performers who can touch your soul with a delicate chord structure, or a note of emotive brilliance, very much like the offering entitled **Parting**, a composition that has a sense of finalisation about its arrangement, but at all times retaining its natural beauty.

My personal favourite off this great album would be **Oak Lane**; this one spoke to me over many years and many memories, it reminded me of my previous favourites of this fine guitarist in *Street Of Sunday* and *Riverbend*, all fine songs just like this one.

The deeper realms of emotion are touched on within the pieces **Each Other's Home**, a track that was so very soulful, and of course the quite outstanding title offering **Good Light to Go By**, a composition dappled in sunlight, a musical ray of hope so perfectly performed, and with such a delicate touch as well.

It's always a pleasure to review a Downes album as you know you are going to get a collection of blissful tunes and melodies, much like **The Red Shirt Is for Crying**, a track with a real personal touch, and the fluent and translucent

offering entitled **Belmont**, a piece so carefully created, but with such skill and aplomb.

As we move gently across this lake of musical calm manifested into reality by **Vin Downes**, we come to the bankside of a track that is utterly charming and called **Dream in the Valley**, a piece that contains a certain warming narrative within its construction, that is so wonderfully all encompassing.

**So She Spins** for me was a treat, a little fun can be found within the refrains of this piece and a hint of a little folk as well, this is one of those addictive compositions that will remain in the musical mind for ages.

There is a certain sadness that starts to flow over me, no it's not this next wonderful offering called **Waiting For Fullness**, it's the fact that I am nearing the end of this quite stunning album, as for the piece mentioned above it is a simple melody of calm and serenity, one that fits so beautifully with the winter sun that now streams in through my studio window.

Our very last musical portal is a song manifested into this reality by Downes, a reprise of sorts, which also contains the talents of *Mai Leisz* (Fretless Bass) and *Kenny Withrow* (Slide Guitar) on **Each Other's Home**, this final summing up of the album is a real treat, and the perfect way to end the album.

One has to applaud the artist for this wonderful collection of great songs, each one a moment in time musically that I will never forget. **A Good Light to Go By** is an album of rich tapestries of music, creative compositional genius, combined with a certain flare for the emotive energies required to play from the heart, to the heart.

On this release Downes has achieved his goal and thus brought unto the world an album packed full of memories and pieces that will be loved for ever more, a thoroughly recommended album indeed.