

Life Spring

By

Joseph L Young

Written by

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I must say from the off, to review an album of such depth and content so vast, was an utterly pleasurable way for me to start the working week, I am extremely impressed with **Life Spring** by **Joseph L Young** and here dear readers is why.

From the very first track ***Gaea's Tears***, we have a doorway opened up for us to a new musical dimension entirely, forget all that you thought you knew about flute music, as Young is going to take you across the border and back again.

This stunning picturesque opening track is followed by the eastern sounding title piece, ***Life Spring***. There is something very haunting, but incredibly beautiful about this composition, it creates an immediate ambience, that when joined by the percussion and other instrumentation, immediately manifests it's self into a warm sounding composition of great skill and emotion.

It hardly matters what Young plays, whether it be Anasazi, Chinese xiao, Irish pennywhistle and Slovakian fujar, he is truly a master of his trade, but now indulge yourself dear listener into the ghostly and almost ethereal world of the next piece called, ***The Crying Sky***. Flutes create the flow, and the percussion is so powerful, it brings forward an energy so large and complete, but then there is a symbiosis of sorts at the half way part, of what has to be said, is an extremely brilliant track, you could even put a rock guitar into this piece and it would still sound awesome.

Dancing Waters reminded me in style of the UK's, Niall, there is a smooth, very calming sense within the piece, the music is very visual, but Young gets that bang on the button each time. The percussion is lighter here and the added instrumentation is sublime, all is indeed a perfectly balanced arrangement; I could see this very easily being used in television.

One of the things I adore about the work of **Joseph L Young**, is that he is not predictable, I hold up for example the next piece called ***Toxin***. This has a real global collective style to it and the didgeridoo brings a certain power to the piece, the percussion is energetic and exciting and this is a song that I think will get spun a lot on our station.

The grand soundscape returns now for a track called ***Melancholy Rose***. With strains of an 80's rock opening and mix that in with a Celtic twist, a dash of Native American flute and we are gifted a piece that conjures up a sense of far off emotion, but a smooth and colourful composition that interplays beautifully with the myriad of instrumentation used, in a way that can only be described as sensual.

Now dear reader and listener, ***Lady of the Falls*** maybe the shortest track off the album, but you will really appreciate it's depth, again the harmonic resonance gives us a powerful backdrop to listen to more stunning flute, in a piece that once more creates some quite elaborate imagery and whilst listening to this track it's not too difficult to manifest the image of a goddess of great beauty bathing in the falls.

This track was always going to be fun to listen to and called ***Gypsy River***. One has to really admire Young's ability to not only offer us a multitude of styles, but his sheer skill of creating the visual brilliance in his music, to allow us to enjoy something different each time, with ***Gypsy River***, I really enjoyed this piece, the flute was joined by some well-placed vocalization, the drumming at the latter half escalated, for me, probably one of the best tracks on the album.

Joining Young for the next piece called ***Stream of Thought***, is **Mike Lemieux** on keyboard. Again we witness a completely original start and as Young's flute takes centre stage, we are really given a musical masterclass by the artist. The tempo is slower here, but that just allows Young to create a really stunning performance, that with its minor chords, will instil a sense of inspiration within you all.

We now find ourselves dear constant reader and listener, at the penultimate track off the album and what an incredibly moving arrangement it is. ***Red Feather Angel*** has that element of a sullen, but growing passion deep within it, the percussion here is again superb and adds the right level of depth to an already quality filled piece. Young's performance on this song is very moving and heartfelt.

We can now see the doorway to the end of the album coming up, but before we leave the realm of **Joseph L Young**, he will gift us a last track to part with, it is called ***MetamorPHI.sys***. This is quite the powerhouse of a piece, but has a real Terry Oldfield Zen style sense to the composition and the swirling wind effects and ethereal vocals add a real element of mystery and imagination to the composition, another favourite of mine this one.

Life Spring by **Joseph L Young** is an album of total quality and regardless of your particular penchant for a style or genre of music, I would recommend this album to you in a heartbeat, it's a magical moment of flute genius that you just have to be a part of.