

# Reflection

By

**Shoshana Michel**

Written by

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My favourite style of solo piano is always the more reflective kind; so I was absolutely elated to find a new album by the award winning pianist **Shoshana Michel** on my desktop to review.

This is the artist's fourth release and follows hard on the heels of her amazing award winning album *Prelude to a Dream*. **Reflection** is an album of memory packed compositions, the narration of her life as a composer and we start that voyage with the first sparkling opener called quite appropriately, **A New Day Today**. Here is the perfect composition to start an album of reflective memories with, its full of light and respect for the journey taken, and the excitement of what is still to come, played by Michel with a real lightness of spirit on the piano.

I found something that moved my soul deeply within this next offering; this wonderful opus is called **Shooting Stars**. The reflective mood here is magical and took me back to an old *Neil Sedaka* song from 1974, now whilst this composition is nothing at all like that, it does contain some of the finest emotive playing I have heard for quite some time in this genre since then.

The more this musical sojourn continues, the more impressed I become, and from the luscious refrains of the track **Finding Bliss** that respect grew tenfold. I felt this was quite moving, but in a totally different way to the preceding arrangement, this moves me from a point of enlightenment, finding bliss truly does sum up a happy performance, and perhaps one in the final respect of having achieved your goal, as the light bulb goes on, and you bathe in your own destiny.

Within in us all there is a storm ready to cause ripples on our little lake of calm, this is perfectly illustrated by the quite brilliant performance on the piece **Soothing the Tempest Within**; what the artist does so well here, is to illustrate that tempest, and then show the cure can be found inside us all. The dualistic nature of the performance here is stunning and very enjoyable to listen to many times over, just so you don't miss a thing in this magical theatre of a composition.

We can now approach the half way juncture; by enjoying the tones of this next offering entitled **Bittersweet**. The reflective nature of this piece is deeply emotive; the taste of happiness and sadness combined gives us all a bittersweet taste. Here **Shoshana Michel** really plays with her heart on her sleeve, in a truly fluent and emotional musical presentation.

As we gaze down into the meadow of the last half of the album we come across a charming offering called **Island in the Mist**. Through the quite beautiful and full flowing narrative emanating from the piano, one could easily be transported to the top of a vast green hill, to glimpse the view of this almost mystical island from our vantage point, a classy recital indeed.

The moon is a powerful energy in my life; its silver essence captures my imagination and bathes me with a purifying light. Michel really turns on the style on this piece, this is a magical offering that really sparkles like the night sky called **The Moon's Lament**, but there is also an underpinned essence of sadness here too, perhaps one that tells us not to take our lives for granted, a very clever offering indeed.

**In a Time Lapse** is a track that seems to be very familiar to me in narration. Whilst this is a smooth and peaceful performance, one can feel a mood of memory within the construction of the offering, perhaps one that is pondering on one's life path, and perhaps thinking that, it feels like I have done this very thing many times over and it feels like I am stuck in a time loop.

Now as we edge deeper in this musical forest we come across a marvellous piece called **Forever and a Day**. There is a more delicate sense of reflection here, but one that is perfectly balanced with a sense of blissful positivity, that one is doing the right thing. The artist manifests a melody here that is quite

memorable, so much so I may be whistling it around the house for a few days yet.

Our penultimate song is entitled **Labyrinth**, and as you may guess it has that sense of mystery and suspense built into its musical narrative, one that weaves its way superbly through the composition, perhaps illustrating all the corridors, alleyways and labyrinths that life presents to us on our journey.

So we finally arrive at the very last track off this glorious new release from **Shoshana Michel** and her album **Reflection**. This last gift of musical brilliance is called **Through the Eyes of a Child**. There is a delightful elevation of energy in this piece that is really exciting and from the performance, perhaps we are once again seeing life through the eyes of a child, learning from mistakes of the past and just getting on with what really matters. The artist has really pulled off a masterstroke by ending with such an upbeat last offering, and delivers a very empowering end to what is a truly elegant album.

**Reflection** by **Shoshana Michel** is her fourth album, but a release that shows the ever growing maturity of her path in the business, and her willingness to show to the world that she constantly has more to offer. **Reflection** is an album that will take you down memory lane, introduce you to thoughtful moments of solo piano that are beautifully played, and create an insightful awareness into the journey taken by the artist thus far.