

Earth Angels

By

Niall

Written By

Steve Sheppard

There is always something to be said with how an album starts and to be brutally honest I haven't heard such a powerful and all encompassing start to an album for ages as we have on this new release by *Niall* called "*Earth Angels*"

With natural sounds and angelic vocals, leading us into a conceptual album like this one, it is an utter delight to experience it, as is the first track off this six piece album and it's called ***Nature Angels***.

Long have I been an admirer of Niall's work, with the world class *Reiki River*, the genius of *Power Animals* and now free from the constraints of his former label, Niall is not only back to his best, he has found musical freedom in his work, he has re-found his soul and once more produced a New Age music album of such high quality, it has to be admired as a true work of art.

Nature Angels the track, has a mixture of everything that is good in this genre, starting with natural sounds and a superb cinematic build up of instrumentation, which leads us down a gentle woodland pathway partnered with delightful angelic harmonies, that will not only raise your spirits, they will lift you from the mundane into the realms of the magical world of beautiful music that has been created by an artist who really cares.

As the composition fades out, the natural sounds still echo around the forest with a cuckoo guiding the way and then a small stream leads us into the wonderland of Native America and the utterly brilliant ***Native American Angels***. A familiar territory for Niall this one, *Native American Nights* being one of my favourite Niall releases. Here we are given a track of not just pure talent, but a respectful opus of genius with some wonderful guitar, some charming flute and what has to be said some outer worldly vocals by easily the best singer Niall has ever worked with in Heidi Carascon, reminds me greatly of the style of my friend Miriam Stockley from AO Music fame.

Niall's dream was to create this concept, a world of angels from all types of terrain, from all corners of the world and from the desert! This one may surprise a few, but now Niall goes world music and enters the territories that a certain mister Phil Thornton has been king of for years. Here on the track ***Desert Angels***, Niall doesn't only do justice to the greats of the New Age/World music genre, but adds a new level, creates a new bar to be jumped, this is one more awesome composition that dear constant listener you will immerse yourselves totally into with ease.

Here on ***Desert Angels***, Niall brings to the table a powerful and emotive cinematic track, that literally will shake the new age music world by the scruff of the neck, it is without doubt ,it will be albums like this that will lead the next generation of musicians within this genre. This composition has also

got within it a delightful symphonic feel and a subtle but poignant male vocalization which only adds to its overall character. Just wait for the crescendo at the end, simply amazing.

As we move the next piece called ***Sacred Angels***, it has to be noted that I have already had to stop and get my wife to listen to various outstanding passages from this album several times, I now have to refine my aforementioned statement, this has to be one of the best releases I have heard this year if not this century, yes it **IS** that good.

Sacred Angels lifts us higher and above the astral and into the very arms of the angels themselves, uplifting and inspiring could be two inadequate words used to describe this track alone, describing the ability of the musician, would be to say that Niall is an artist of outstanding genius and a mastermind of harmonic brilliance, his effortless ability to compose a track that has so many peaks, climaxes, crescendos and feelings of utter majesty is even beyond me.

There is barely an instrument that isn't used on this piece and at the half way point we even get a heavenly organ, my goodness I have not heard the like since the great Isao Tomita and his album Kosmos. To me this track has everything and at this point I must stop writing and take a break, to cry, I feel so deeply moved by this music and the feeling of hope, power and grace that it gives.

One whole hour later I feel emotionally balanced enough to come back to my writing, I can truly say that no album has ever effected me with such powerful feelings as this, I had to stare at the window and watch the clouds drift past the Isle Of Wight in the distance and then watch the sun shine down from the left of the south downs to feel completely grounded and now I am back, I am treated to a composition that works very well for us coastal people, it's called ***Angels Of The Deep***, this track has a great gentleness about it and like the waves lapping through the music, it flows with a magnificence and splendour that will allow you to experience this entire gorgeous melody and picturesque piece.

Well we finally come to the end of a musical journey dear constant readers and listeners and this parting gift from Niall is called ***Celtic Blessing (Angel of My Heart)***. This is one of the most scenic pieces I have heard for quite some time, Niall's flute is sweetly played with a positive intent that flies on the sound waves of time. The vocals of Carascon here are extravagantly splendid and Niall must be applauded for creating a composition that ends this album with such a calming repose.

Earth Angels by Niall is not *one* of the best albums I have heard this year, it is one of the best albums I have heard *this century* and I would urge anyone who loves this genre, or just likes good music to make sure this becomes part of their musical collection, but this release is more than even that, I believe that *Earth Angels* should be regarded as a iconic piece of work that will not just relight the musical genre of New Age, but literally set fire to it and re launch it, if this is what the 21st century has in store for us musically, in this field of music, then let it play on. Niall gets 11 out of 10 for this one!