

Kathleen Ryan

pianist & composer

A Handfull of Quietness

From the title, I expected **A Handfull of Quietness** to be very calm, simple, and serene, so I was surprised to discover that the music is complex, full, and often quite bold. A classically-trained pianist/composer, Kathleen Ryan brings her rich background to her music ... Inspired by a verse in Ecclesiastes, the album was created as a unified work and performed in silence. Ryan calls it “not always quiet music, but music achieving quietness of the soul.” ...

A Handfull of Quietness is a fascinating musical journey, reflecting a wide range of moods and emotions. The music has a complexity that will open up with each listen, letting you find something new each time.

~ Kathy Parsons - MainlyPiano.com (Sep 4, 2006)

Ryan paints in the impressionism of silence, with notes resonating over the vast plains of the soul. Tasteful and elegant with just enough austerity to avoid sentimentality.

~ *Echodiscs*

Under the Greenwood Tree

With the creative goal of making the piano “sing” with the expression of the human voice, some of these twelve pieces are lyrical while others are more improvisational; the emotional content is always conveyed passionately and honestly. ... Recommended!

~ Kathy Parsons, MainlyPiano.com (September 16, 2009)

The Rebirth of Light

The frenetic pace of the holidays is all too often accompanied by endless renditions of Christmas classics pumped blaring through shopping malls—a far cry from this lovely, contemplative holiday CD by pianist Kathleen Ryan, of Mountainair. While many of the holiday melodies here will be familiar, there are no screeching voices or ringing bells. This recording is the one you’ll put on while you sit by the fire to write your holiday cards. ... People who like George Winston’s classic December album will probably enjoy Ryan’s compositions, which are written in a similar vein. ... [S]he plays with emotion and amazing sensitivity throughout.

~ Emily Drabanski – *New Mexico Magazine* (December 2008)

Kathleen Ryan’s **The Rebirth of Light** has high musical interest and superb playing, containing originals as well as seasonal standards in totally fresh versions (check out her “Drummer Boy”). The opening title cut is just a gorgeous ray of peace.

~ Dr. Christmas – Gerry Grzyb - *Appleton (WI) Post Crescent* (Dec 16, 2007)

Drivin'!

Drivin'! is pianist/composer Kathleen Ryan's fifth solo piano album, and this one will come as a bit of a surprise to those who are familiar with her earlier recordings. A few of the twelve tracks are the mellow piano sounds that make up much of Ryan's previously recorded material, but on *Drivin'!* she also really cuts loose and demonstrates her bluesier, high energy side. The combination makes for a rather eclectic blend, but it's great fun and very exhilarating! ... I love piano blues, and if you share that love, ***Drivin'!*** is a must have! ... Recommended!

~ Kathy Parsons, MainlyPiano.com (April 17, 2012)

Verbs

This interesting and appealing project is a celebration of left hand repertoire, a musical friendship, and the art of the Prelude and the miniature. Recommended.

~ Frances Wilson, *The Cross-Eyed Pianist*