

Galliano Somnavilla's incredible musical endeavor "365 Original Songs in a Year" is a phenomenal concept and creative feat. From May 6, 2013 through May 5, 2014 the Australian pianist released one new song daily available for upload. Presently, these recordings are in the process of being remixed, remastered and cataloged into bite-sized collections. *Vol. 13 Favourites* is only three percent of a year's worth of music.

The song released on the 352nd day, which happened to be Earth Day celebrated on April 22, features soft sighs and quiet rhythmic percussion. Somnavilla's minimalist piano melody is relaxing and tranquil. The most memorable pieces on the collection are the ones where a clear melody is established and expounded upon. "More Than Fair Too" released the 100th day on August 14 begins with an acoustic guitar free form solo. This thought provoking introduction heightens the senses in advent of the percussion laying down a nice bossa nova vibe. This enjoyable listen is a highlight of the album.

On Veteran's Day (USA) on November 11, the 190th Day, the flute lead is bright and hopeful summoning feelings of awakening and new beginnings. Day 240 was New Year's Eve and boasts a funky opening that develops into a mysterious and slightly romantic piece. The unique urban sounds and groovy back-beat add flavor and sizzle.

With 365 days to choose from, it is not surprising that a variety of genres are included on *Vol. 13 Favourites*. Pearl Harbor Day (USA) on December 7, Day 216 is a slow and sensual R&B jam that remains stagnant. The chord changes featured in another R&B number on Day 61, World UFO Day on July 2 are killer. It could lay the foundation for a truly awesome song, however the dated and queer "La, la, la's" detract from the piece. "I'm Still Believin'" on Day 244, January 4 and National Spaghetti Day has a cool jazz guitar and limited vocals. Again, it is another great starting point for the potential launch of a truly great composition. If the Rhodes keyboard that is noodling around in the background could be refined and brought more to the fore and perhaps the addition of a tenor saxophone or vibraphone solo would add significant elaboration and sophistication to the piece.

The flute sounds lost and buried in the urgent undercurrent of "Mr. Gal" released on Memorial Day (USA), May 27, the 25th Day. It could be a more exciting song if the flute were filled with more gusto. The 47th Day on June 18 is International Picnic Day and the synthesized reed and cello sounds of the piece are unconvincing and melodramatic. The brief piano flourishes seem like an afterthought. However, the guitar coda adds a nice touch.

"Got Me Thinkin'" released on April 27, Day 357 sounds like the onset of an incredible journey. Alas, the prospective trekker is sidelined by introspective delays. Months earlier though on June 7, Day 36 "Maryanne's Paris" was released and is an upbeat motivational song with a driving beat making for good travel music.

A year's worth of songs equates to over 27 hours of music. Somnavilla's commendable achievement is indeed noteworthy. With the luxury now of examining and dissecting these pieces, the composer can hopefully transform a few into true gems.

Artist: Galliano Somnavilla
Album Title: *Vol. 13 Favourites* (independent)
Reviewers Name: Kelly O'Neil
Rating: 3 stars