

Australian composer, arranger, and instrumentalist, Galliano Sommovilla, releases a new album, *365 Vol. 9 Guitar and Keys*, which was part of a one-year project between 2013 and 2014 where Galliano composed a new song each day for a year. The result will be featured on several volumes, but the songs are not numbered sequentially from their date of conception on each volume. The songs were originally uploaded to Soundcloud and Facebook. *365 Vol. 9 Guitar and Keys* contains jazzy instrumentals, new age compositions, and lounge music with a down-tempo feel and dreamy soundscape throughout the twelve tracks.

“Song/Day 355” begins with a muffled, but vocal utterance of ‘go’, while the ticking percussion and fluidic keyboards, a smattering of cymbal clashes, flute stylings, and a steady, instrumental beat sets the pace for the rest of the song. The cosmic, new age-isms are present, as well as a gritty; almost funk-laden beat with a few sporadic vocal lines. The rippling guitar work is akin to some North African blues compositions, but this song is primarily rooted in sophisticated and sensual, jazzy Americana. Breathy vocalizations and a little electric guitar sounds fade out near the end of the song that runs a little under four minutes in length.

“Song/Day 60 More Than Fair” opens with symphonic keyboard washes, a fluid guitar line, breezy sax, and swishy percussive accompaniment that add a touch of flair and class to the composition. The instrumental foundation contains free-flowing melodies with a few urban vocals that do not hinder the song in any way. The song is shorter at three minutes, but the sounds are long-lasting.

“Song/Day 131” begins with a few keyboard notes, a poignant, yet down-tempo beat and sweeping piano melodies held together with occasional electric guitar chords that are rather steady and electronic in nature. The song traverses chill-out, down-tempo, jazz, and rock instrumental greatness without drawing lines between genres. The multi-faceted song is entirely instrumental and an excellent addition to the album. Some of the electronic sounds are indicative of horns that are electrified with vibrant elements. There are adventurous moments with piercing atmospheric washes, beautiful piano sounds, and a glorious bass beat that is unparalleled with other similar music today.

“Song/Day 127” opens with a steady, percussive thud, rousing bass, and spacious electric guitar stylings amid an anthemic intro. The militaristic drum-beats echo a nostalgic presence with the majestic guitar solos and ever-increasing instrumental accompaniment and sound. There are rippling electronic sounds and innovative guitar-work indicative of some North African blues guitar groups today. At any rate, the song is cheery, catchy, and enveloped with a magical sense of musicality and originality.

“Song/Day 333” opens with a few electric guitar displays, swishy percussive beat, plaintive guitar stylings, and atmospheric washes. There are horn-like sounds, likely emanating from the keyboards, give the song a Native American ambiance, but the melody is pure jazz fusion. The bass surrounds the other instruments with such perfection and timing that the song borders on magical. The instrumental rock and jazz beat is driving and upbeat, but not too overt. The jingly

percussion and reverberating keys make the song a new age anthem that is a bit more gritty than serene.

Galliano Somnavilla's new volume marks a pivotal achievement as something that is part of a musical journey from a year long task of creating new songs each day. Though daunting at times, the result is a very engaging, diverse, and fluid mix of world jazz, fusion, electronica, new age, and down-tempo/chill-out compositions that never go out of style or fade into oblivion. Galliano's new recording could not have been made possible without Gary Ritchie on guitars, as well as Barry De Marco. *365 Vol. 9 Guitar and Keys* is another keeper in the world of contemporary instrumental and down-tempo.

Artist: Galliano Somnavilla

Album: *365 Vol. 9 Guitar and Keys*

Review by Matthew Forss

Rating: 5 Stars (out of 5)