

Australia's instrumental composer and down-tempo music aficionado, Galliano Somnavilla, treats listeners to a new volume of music, as part of his song a day for a year project. *365 Vol. 18 Chill'd* contains twelve songs that were created on separate days and were not arranged in numerical order. The theme of the album revolves around down-tempo, chill, lounge, and new age music with a total time under an hour.

“Song/Day 324” opens with some majestic synth pads, atmospheric washes, and rippling, electronic sounds, misc. voices/noises, and twinkling piano notes. The laser-like buzz of the synth inflects a spacey tonality to the free-flowing musical concoction. Percussion does not occur until the one to two-minute mark. When the percussion begins, it ambulates with sonic sensibilities and hearty dance melodies in a down-tempo or lounge format. The steady percussion is interrupted by keyboard blurbs and bass sounds with electric guitar-like notes striking a fine balance between rock instrumental and new age electronica.

“Song/Day 295” begins with a trippy dance beat and sparkling electronic tones not unlike Tangerine Dream sequences, but Galliano still makes the track his own. The reverberating keyboard pads, buzz-laden electronica, and swishy percussion make the song stand out as something that is very serene and contemplative. The anthemic structures weave new age wanderings with a bit of Enya and Ronan Hardiman. The end of the song is rather abrupt, but it still lasts for four-minutes.

“Song/Day 150” opens with a new age dance beat not unlike most songs on Ronan Hardiman's *Anthem* release. The triumphant notes twinkle and pierce the aural abyss with glints of neo-classical, dance, down-tempo, and lounge elements that are characteristically Galliano. The rousing tune is more dance-laden than the previous tracks, but that does not detract from the overall sound or message.

“Song/Day 364” begins with glittering electronic tones, a solid drum beat, heavy bass, buzzy synth noises, and piano embellishments. The fluttering electronica noises resemble technological noises that are interspersed in-between angelic choruses of indiscriminate or otherworldly neo-vocals or keyboard vocals. However, the entire album does not contain vocals per se. Additionally, there are a few electric guitar sounds during the latter half of the song. Overall, this is a very bright and moving tune.

“Song/Day 320” is a more rambunctious tune with subtle electronic noises, tambourine sounds, swishy percussion, and horn-like embellishments that play along with atmospheric washes and piano notes. The dance beat is more aligned with contemporary rock instrumentals, but jazz is another prevalent theme here. The percussive sounds are steady, but not distracting to the other instrumental sounds.

Galliano Somnavilla created a masterful project of music over a one-year time-span and this is only one release in a slew of releases that showcase this musical endeavor. *Vol. 18...* is another strong release in the worlds of dance, electronic, pop, new age, neo-classical, trip-hop, and

instrumental. Galliano is one amazing one-man band with epic sounds coming from keyboards and such. The instrumental arrangements are timeless, emotive, and catchy in parts. 'Chill' is one word that comes to mind when summing up the album. It is aptly-titled and a joy for anyone interested in instrumental music. The new age and jazz additions are not to be ignored here. Importantly, the album is not one specific genre, but a collective of several produced and performed in a cohesive manner. There are no specific or general hiccups with this album. Each song is crystal-clear, appropriately-textured, and expertly-engineered. Coming from the land down under, Galliano certainly soars above the heavens with this release.

Review by Matthew Forss

Rating: 5 stars (out of 5)