

Artist: Galliano Somnavilla

Album: *365 Vol. 16 Chill, World and Downtempo*

Review by Matthew Forss

Australia's contemporary pianist, instrumentalist, composer, and author, has been in the throes of a unique musical project that encompassed an entire year of writing, producing, and playing a different song each day of the year. The personal goal has resulted in several volumes of original music on thematic volumes. *Vol. 16 Chill, World and Downtempo* includes more chilled tunes than other volumes, but most of Somnavilla's songs revolve around ambient, electronic, and spacious soundscapes. This album contains twelve songs culled from the year-long project in no particular order.

"Song/Day 291 I Love You Guys!" begins with a blurry electronic drone, jazzy percussion, and synth-pad-like notes to add a layer of smoothness rarely observed in contemporary music. The twinkling piano notes, jazzy percussion, and dreamy, almost avant-garde intonations, cement the track onto a top hit list in jazz, new age, and electronica. The synth-horn sound is subtle, yet reveals a hidden intensity behind the music as something greater than another jazz or downtempo track. The atmospheric washes near the end of the song shine through with nothing but great results. The added acoustic guitar notes at the end of the song create a lighter mood without compromising quality.

"Song/Day 209" begins with light, swishy percussion, atmospheric washes, and background, indiscriminate female vocal sounds. The vocals are repetitive throughout the first half of the song, but they become more dynamic during the latter half of the song. Still, the vocals are not the main attraction here. There are smooth, bell-like keyboard sounds with cinematic elements that create an awe-inspiring journey. The song brings out new age, jazz, and even bluesy effects perfect for any occasion.

"Song/Day 342 Luci D'Albe" opens with bass, light percussion, breathy electronica, flowing piano sounds, and an atmospheric foundation that will soothe anyone's soul. The instrumental medley contains bright tones, entrancing melodies, and a moderate beat in the vein of smooth jazz and cinematic masterpieces. The song is ripe with chilled elements, downtempo bliss, and a new age presence that does not disappoint. The upbeat notes and sporadic metallic percussion and varied noises near the end of the song only make the song stand out more.

"Song/Day 358" begins with a flowing piano melody, scattered percussion, and a jazzy beat backed by an atmospheric layering of electronic beauty. The pensive piano sounds are very cinematic, groovy, and melancholic. The spacious, breathy flute stylings and minor shaker sounds contrast perfectly for a truly diverse and upbeat result. The song contains elements of others on the album, but it still stands out as a very characteristic song from Galliano Somnavilla.

“Song/Day 232” opens with a light percussive beat, piano notes, swishy sounds, and atmospheric washes set in a dreamy soundscape. The new age-influenced song is rather jazz-oriented, but easy-listening is a better moniker for the song. There are sporadic hum sounds throughout the song, which are magnified by electronic washes. There are no vocals in the song. Galliano Sommovilla excels again with another fascinating, intriguing, and solid song creation.

Overall, Galliano Sommovilla succeeds in showcasing the chilled side of his year-long musical endeavor. The instrumental gems bring out the downtempo and jazz sides of his being. The piano makes a popular appearance on several tracks, but the percussion, electronic assortments, and upbeat percussion keep the album going in a very compelling direction. Anyone seeking a calmer side to downtempo, jazz, chill, and lounge music will love the final results. Galliano Sommovilla is an ambient king and everyone should bow down and enjoy his music.

Review by Matthew Forss

Rating: 5 Stars (out of 5)