

**By A Wire**

**By**

**Jennifer Defrayne**

**Written by**

**Steve Sheppard**

When I first listened to this album I was walking along the Cyprus coastline towards the Paphos lighthouse, the day was roasting hot, but the opening track off this album was so calming it soothed my senses. **Sunrise to Sunset** is a composition that is not just beautiful, but outstanding in so many ways, using the talents of many wonderful musicians she has created an album of outstanding natural beauty, **Sunrise to Sunset** was stunning, I watched the waves crash upon the rocks of the sea defences and felt truly moved and truly grateful that I get to see another sunrise and sunset.

The story of the musician is one to read about and please go to her website to read about her trials, her courageous attitude and her determination to overcome a stroke. While I listen to **Calling Angels** again I am deeply moved, from one who has lived in the dark halls of despair in my time I can really relate to this composition, for in the very darkest hour it is when we give up and surrender we find our own angels and understand truly that all is as it should be. Here Defrayne has created a composition that eats into the very heart of the truth, her playing is so filled with a deep sense of seeking a deep understanding and I was going to say reminds me greatly of Fiona Joy Hawkins, until my research lead me to find that she is a co-producer of this very album. Back to this track, it is spectacular, it is deeply emotional and I am finding it hard myself to stop a large lump forming in my throat whilst listening to this composition.

On my walk I came to one of our meditation places, a wild and lonely place on the very outer reaches of the western seas, two rocks jut out like monoliths from the shore line and I listen to yet another composition that is so redolent of where I am right now, and I am proud to say it is the title track **By A Wire**. Jennifer lost her father at a young age and didn't have the words to express her emotions, but instead let her music do the talking and here on this amazing piece she does herself justice and connects all of us who have lost parents to a higher energy and with a full awareness that they are with us at all times. Here Defrayne proves she has not forgotten the

face of her father by producing one of the most emotional and deeply moving pieces of many a year, guaranteed to strike a chord in the hearts of many.

Dear constant reader there is something so very floating and ambient about the next track called quite appropriately **Hope Floats**. Capturing the moment again with the combination of some gentle brass, Defrayne yet again hits the proverbial nail on the musical head and one at this point has to really wonder, is this really her musical debut? The talent and skill shown here is immense and one can only wonder what other creations of great beauty will the artist be delivering in the future? Hope Floats says it all, when all else fails, never lose hope for it truly floats above all the dark shadows that try and pull us under.

But dear constant listener there is more yet; a lighter side can be felt in the next piece called **Summer Reunion**. With the combination of some very respectful light percussion, some ethereal vocals and a brass and string section that is so peaceful, this truly is my summer anthem of 2014. The tempo is sublime and so very well produced, but when you have Ackerman and Fiona Joy in your corner, how can you possibly fail? and here Defrayne shows her skills in the best light possible.

We move into the second half of the album with a sumptuous piece called **Once in a Lifetime**. The subtle use of guitar here is outstanding, this is a composition that is as easy as Sunday morning, a truly relaxing song that will ease the hearts and minds of the eager listener and lift the spirits of the soul to new heights. Her style here has an almost dualistic nature to it, its purposeful, but plays with a certain duality with the guitar and ends in a totally mellow drifting away sensuality.

Now it time for **I'll See You There**. This is one of those pieces that I would defy anyone not to like; a light passage is underpinned by some wonderful strings that play in tandem whilst the Defrayne narrative on the piano tells the tale in depth. This album really works well with my location, I am now sitting in a bar with a summer breeze floating over me, the waving green trees and bushes are almost dancing to this piece and the summer sun creates shadows that seem to sway with this utter delightful melody.

So as Monty Python once said, "time for something completely different" and here we have it with **Mexican Daydream**. This stylish and wistful composition plays out this fantasy so well that I am transported to a café in Mexico, the waiters buzz past and deliver drinks and food, whilst traffic creates that sun filled, sun kissed sense of

movement, the sweet danceable tempo of this track is absolutely undeniable, it paints such a perfect picture of a fine day in some delightfully placed bistro in a back street, where I would hope to hear this very music being played.

Oh for the love of a Cello, one of the world's most moving instruments and here Defrayne hits home again with a deeply sensate track called **Letting Go**. Again this is a composition that I can totally relate to, the very personal nature of this piece is so evident and filled with the intensity of the subject matter. Letting go is one of the hardest things to do, but one of the most liberating when completed. Jennifer DeFrayne has executed a perfect performance on this the penultimate track off the album and should be applauded for it.

So once again dear constant reader and listener we come to the end of another album review and Jennifer DeFrayne's *By a Wire* is brought to its conclusion by the track **Clear Night** and at this point, chills run all over my body. The start is so haunting that I now tingle all over, most artists talk about saving their best till last and boy has Defrayne done that here, *Clear Night* is expressive, passionate, moving and poignant and her performance is totally outstanding.

**By a Wire** is an album of true natural beauty, **By a Wire** is an album that speaks from the heart and finishes with such a flourish, I will defy you not to be moved. Using the talents of Fiona Joy, Will Ackerman, Charlie Bisharat, Eugene Friesen, Jeff Haynes, Jeff Oster, Jill Hayley, Noel Wilding, Rebecca Daniel and Tony Levin she has brought into this world the best debut album ever recorded, I was truly deeply moved by this album and I really urge you all to run out and buy it, if you don't you will miss out on a total gem.