

Ben Kingwell - Serenity

A conceptual album by up and coming local musician Ben Kingwell

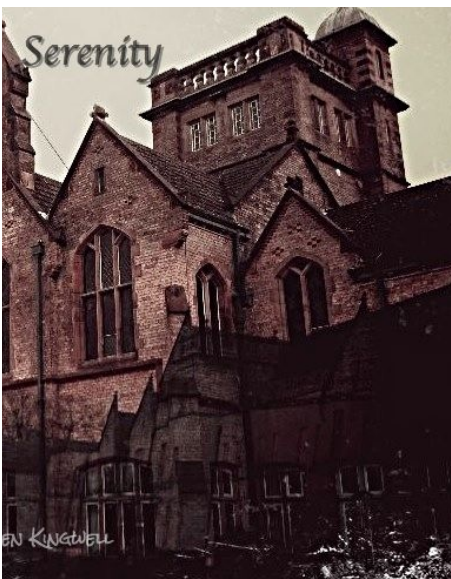
I was first given wind of this album a few months ago via our favourite social media site Facebook. I myself, was of course very excited. Having worked with Ben before I was ready for the impeccable craftsmanship and beautiful, atmospheric collage of sound that I'm so used to hearing from a musician of this obvious calibre. Ben's first album 'The first light and the last fight' was an excellent first step into the world of cinema sound. A honest attempt at controlling the whole orchestra as a working organism. This author believes The only direction Ben could go after writing this next album is up.

Serenity

Exordium. This is the first track of the new album. The first surprise with this track is it obvious different direction from previously released material. Ben is a well accomplished piano player, but in this piece shows he is more than just a one trick pony, and allows all of his creative amplitude to be shown through beautiful instrumentation and an excellent use of creating a diverse atmosphere through reverberation and drone notes. An excellent start to the album. My only gripe with this song is that I want to listen to a ten minute version, not the snippet that we see here.

If you want to sleep at night I wouldn't suggest listening to the third track on this album. Entitled 'Black Market' the artist really encapsulates creepy in all of its Essence. The voices in this piece chill me to my core. I think this is an excellent use of distorting the words and fully allows the listeners mind to travel and create its own narrative.

Through my personal projects I had the opportunity of using a piece in the album on a film I was a part of. The scene essentially had a main protagonist passing over to the other side, in a peaceful sense. I asked Ben if he would help provide me with a sound track and a freebie for an old friend. Ben sent me over track 6 of this album 'One hundred Suns'. I believe this to be the best track of the album. The fact I received this as a gift from a friend made me think at the time "Wow! I would of paid good money to use this song." For me, it perfectly put what was being portrayed into sound and I was in turn very proud of the scene and it will always have a special place in this writers heart.



Cover art for the new album

Although this album has a definite dark side to it. It also has a softer more heartfelt side. Ben doesn't tap into this often but when he does it's always a perfect combination of melody and space within the music. I can see that Ben's philosophy is more is less. This usually signifies a lazy composer. However, it's always a breath of fresh air when you can tell that this has been done intentionally and that in fact every note in this album has been well thought out and has a part in the grand scheme of things.

In conclusion I believe this to be another massive step in the ever evolving style of Ben Kingwell . He finds his feet more and more with each release he does. As a self confessed introvert Ben continuously tries to make his music heard everywhere, but this author believes that with the right push, you might hear some of his work in films in the future.

By James Lloyd