

Valencia Vas

The Beginner's Listening Guide for "Reflections"

Providence Records

This is a guide to help you enjoy your purchase of the wonderful music album “Reflections”. The music was written by the very talented and prolific film composer Ludek Drizhal and the esteemed vocal master Valencia Vas.

“Reflections” is a musical masterpiece full of emotional twists and turns, ups and downs, and candy for your ear and mind. This guide is for BEGINNERS and will help you find a few points of interest with each song. Our intention is to get you started so that you may find your own gems within the songs.

Valencia Vas is writing an ADVANCED guide for those who want to journey further into the mind of the music. Make sure you join her mailing list to be included on the distribution.

I hope you enjoy the music as much as I do.

Kevin Michael

Providence Records LLC

kmichael@ProvidenceRecords.net

Get Prepared to ‘Really’ Listen

Listen to this album in three different ways:

1. Once on your normal CD/radio in your kitchen or bathroom. Get familiar with the songs.
2. Next on your stereo system with bookshelf speakers. This will help you hear the full depth of the symphony orchestra. Get out the lyrics from the CD case.
3. Finally, listen to “Reflections” with headphones and this instruction booklet. Adjust the volume enough to really be able to listen to the instruments.

1. Home

4:42

Inspired by the soldiers who serve in war and their families who wait and pray for them, this song squeezes your heart. The lyrics fit the music perfectly helping you share the feeling of loneliness and longing, but reassurance through love to be reunited.

What to Listen For:

- 1:25 - “Call Home” – Hear the call blend into soft strings.
- 2:47 - “I’m holding you...” Listen to the sincerity, then loneliness that transitions into hope.
- 4:06 - “Until you come home...” Listen for the call, then the pleading of the strings, and the prayer of the final words “come home.”

2. Wondrous Love

4:08

This beautiful song demonstrates the highest level of gratefulness for the greatest sacrifice to a people. The symphonic interlude and the chill-inspiring ending transfer the spirituality of this wondrous mystery.

- 2:07 - “To lay aside his crown for my soul” – There’s a pause; then listen for the strings, horn, plucking of a guitar, and thought-provoking piano. This transitions back into the strong vocals of Valencia Vas with more passion and gratefulness.
- 3:32 – Hear the mysterious and spiritual call of “while millions join the theme I will sing,” with an increase in strings and a fade out.

3. Piangerò

5:30

“Longing and weeping for my sad fate,” This modified Handel aria echoes in melody what it repeats in text. With an approach that at times floats and soars with beauty

- 0:15 - “Piangerò” – Listen for the vocal purity of Valencia’s angelic voice. Feel free to replay the beginning or come back to the softness of the beginning after listening to the fullness of the rest of the song.
- 1:40 - Listen for the dramatic change in color by Valencia “La sorte...”
- 4:35 - Valencia sings an amazing build up to a vocal climax that is stunning. (You should hear this one live.)

4. Lullaby

3:14

A beautiful song on every level, this melody yields a love and soothing that only a mother can give. The symphonic and angelic voice takes you on a cinematic-type journey in which the world of reality melts away into a peaceful and comforting world of dream.

- 0:09 - Listen to the flute set the stage then transition to the oboe.
- 1:19 - “In a world so cold...” Here’s another beautiful show of Valencia’s range and delicate angelic voice
- 1:42 - “Hush” - Listen to the soft prancing of the strings in the background...leads you to a dream state

5. Lament

1:49

This improvisation on Henry Purcell's 'Dido's lament' is powerful in sharing the feeling of regret and remorse. The simplest presentation on the entire album (only sparse piano chords), Lament allows the emotion to resound in its loneliness.

- 0:22 - "In thy breast" – sounds like crying. Note the depth in range and the rich color.
- 1:03 - "Remember me..." - You can just hear the regret and the sorrow.
- Play this song loudly in your car with your windows open. Or try putting some sad photos to it.

6. Me Dices

4:45

This part English, part Spanish ballad describes a betrayal of the heart. The vocals are pure emitting senses of the shock and anguish of lost love. The masterful Spanish guitar helps provide a Latin setting and enhances the story of the emotional roller coaster of lost love.

- 0:04 - Almer Imamovic plays the opening guitar as well as plays with Valencia at live concerts
- 0:54 - “Un inutil fallen star..” Here’s an example of Spanglish...an influence of Puerto Rican-Americans growing up
- 1:39 – “ My life’s turned upside down..” - Hear the bass and the rhythm of Valencia’s voice.
- 3:00 - “Ooh” – The voice is another instrument here with percussion and the tweaking of the guitar.

7. Tango

4:04

This is a fun Argentinean-based Tango that will have you moving in your seat.

- 0:00 - Turn up the volume for the beginning of the song and listen to the bass, the accordion, then the percussive screech of the strings.
- 0:56 - The spoken word “Bai-la-mos” is spoken giving pause to a fun and passionate dance.
- 1:45 – Hear the xylophone with the Budapest Orchestra.

8. Remembrance

5:07

This tribute to the people impacted by the tragic events of 9/11 will have you remembering the feelings of that painful day. The sincerity in Valencia's voice with the emotional lyrics will leave tears in your eyes by the end of the song.

- 0:47 - "I knew that we'd have to say good-bye" - You can hear the pain. Valencia wrote this thinking of someone calling their loved one from an airplane they knew was going to crash.
- 1:31 - "There will never be a time..." – Here's an emotion filled cry. Listen for the slight echo on "time", followed by "you'll not be mine"
- 2:07 - "I will remember you" – The voice reflects patriotism and strength.
- 2:42 - "When all our lives seemed to have no sense of rhyme" - Remember the shock, the disbelief, the confusion?

This Italian song generates an outpour of emotion from an excitement of a new love and an anticipation of a blissful future. The mix of vocals, the violin, and the Spanish guitar sing a tune of sincerity and honesty of the soul.

- 0:00 - Listen to the violin and guitar in the beautiful “cinema paradiso” inspired intro that gives way to strings and a horn and finally back to a soulful violin.
- 2:50 - “Tell me “yes”” (Di mi “si”) – the words match the music revealing the bursting joy and excitement of love’s invitation.
- 3:22 Listen for the lift before the second verse that eases you into the “new day”.

10. When the Sun Comes Up

5:10

This song was inspired by women affected by breast cancer. The lyrics ask the listener to pause, yet keep hope for tomorrow. The song includes a unique percussion line and a harmonizing chorus attracting the listener to sing along.

- 0:52 - “Open up to the possibilities” – The vocals are soft and Valencia’s voice feels comforting.
- 3:42 - The song breaks into a really fun arrangement with Hungarian pop singer Balasz joining Valencia in the buildup.
- 4:35 - Strings and a horn give a triumphant ending to the song. The worst has been overcome.

11. The Christmas Promise

5:10

A theme and variations on the American folksong, Shenandoah, this melodic heart-warming Christmas song reminds us that the season of the greatest joy of all starts with the hope and promise of a baby boy. The soft vocals touch upon the gentleness and appreciation of life while the choir adds a climatic joy to be shared by all.

- 0:27 - The flute sings the original “Shenandoah” theme and acts as nostalgic invitation to a traditional holiday.
- 1:33 - “Snow is softly falling on the ground.” Valencia sounds like an angel, gentle and reassuring.
- 3:43 - “Wake and feel the birth of Christmas morn” - The joy of the song and the season is poured out with Valencia and a children’s choir with reminding us of the true reason for the season.

12. Forever

5:32

“Forever” is a celebration of love in all its ages and stages. The symphonic melody is straight-forward in this song and the vocals are strong and forth-coming giving no question to the strength of the infinite love.

- 0:41 – “Come lay with me” - The lowering bass, strings, and Valencia’s voice contribute a very sincere invitation to a lifetime of love.
- 1:14 - “I love you...” – These vocals brings the song back up to the outpouring of truth, telling it to the world.
- 4:58 – Listen for the echo of “forever” in the strings as the album comes to a close. Love lingers on.