

Lux Natus Est

By

Mikuskovics Baum

Written by

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One always finds a beautiful sense of fresh originality when **Mikuskovics Baum** offers up a new album, and this release entitled **Lux Natus Est** is just that and more, this musical sojourn will take us to many lands and many styles of music created to celebrate this time of year.

The beginning of this voyage is called **The Angel Gabriel**, it is one of the most beautiful folk songs I have heard for many a year. A gentle Harp, and other instrumentation combined with some delightful pristine vocals brought to me, were a most agreeable start to this album indeed.

We move to **Maria Durch Ein Dornwald Ging**, the piece starts with an enticing and riveting opening, we're moving into the realms of long form here as the offering is just under 10 minutes long, but never the less a piece most listenable. Throughout this release you will hear instrumentations that are also original, such as harp, overtone vocals, overtone harp, horn pipe; Jew's harp and Shruti box, and used here to create such a delightful perfection as well.

Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen is up next, the Harp is such a beautiful instrument and within this piece its full flowing narrative is sublime, the pipe as well. I believe the title can be translated to *A Rose Has Sprung Up*. I felt I had heard this before, and I felt a certain familiarity to its energy, the vocals and production on this particular offering were of a delightful quality.

Acoustically this is one extremely fine album and the performance on this next piece entitled **Was Soll Das Bedeuten** just goes to emphasises this further. Now if my research is correct I believe this song can be traced way back to 1656. Never the less the smoothness of this offering is only enhanced further by the crafted and careful vocals.

This next short form composition contained a charming interplay between the Harp and Jews Harp, what a bright and uplifting offering it would turn out to be, a piece called **Menuett Aus Arbesbach**.

We now cross into the latter part of the album and come across the composition called **Es Wird Scho Gleit Dumpa** an Austrian Christmas Carol by its very nature, and a pleasantly performed opus with which to continue this colourful Christmas mood we find ourselves deep within, one that again emphasises the skills and talents of the artists on both aforementioned Harps.

The vocals are such a treat to listen to on this next track called **Ich Steh an Deiner Krippen Hier**. The harmonies were simply wonderful and the full flowing composition was so very redolent of the subject matter, which I believe translated means, *I'm standing by your crib here*; the lullaby energy within this German carol was indeed very soothing indeed.

That undeniable Harp combination is also at the forefront of this piece as well, and called **Mitt Hjerte Alltid Vanker**. A Danish Christmas offering this time and a Norwegian connection can be found here too, one that continues this lush seasonal narrative with the finest of performances and productions.

So we now find our way to the penultimate offering off the album and this is called **Varjele Jumala**. Within this track you will hear one of the finest performances on harp on the entire album, the Shruti box is employed to add a little extra depth and mood and this works brilliantly.

The final composition is probably the most well-known one off the album and called **Oh Tannenbaum**. This one has been in my life for many reasons across the years, and has been sung by many artists over the decades too, including *Nat King Cole* and *Andrea Bocelli*. **Mikuskovics Baum** has however crafted a version here that has warmth within its production and a performance that is deeply moving as well.

Lux Natus Est has to be the most original and unique albums I have had land on my desk over the many years of writing with reference to Christmas music. **Mikuskovics Baum's** respectful attention to detail and charming musical arrangements will no doubt bring a lot of seasonal cheer to the listener during this holiday season and so it should. A gentle collection of time worn compositions and arrangements can be found here, all manifested in their own imaginative and unrepresented style, a sure fire winter hit with ease indeed.