

John Paris  
The Long Goodbye

A little wave at the end.



Some music is born out of beauty. Some music is created out of pain. Then there is the kind of music that is the beloved child of both. Pianist and composer **John Paris** reflects on a portion of his life when he was a caregiver for his wife. For some, the pain of seeing a loved one disappear from your life is heart rendering. But then John felt his pain transform into music. **The Long Goodbye** is the result. Paris hopes that you can find some comfort in hearing the music the way he did while composing it.

The album features fourteen tracks of contemporary solo piano music.

With just a handful of notes the title tune **The Long Goodbye** launches the album. It is a pensive melody. There are long, deep thoughts in the music. Paris' crafted contemplative theme is used throughout the recording. This music is made by a gentle hand and a gentle heart. The sorrow is evident, but so is the gratitude. If there is anything more self-sacrificing than being a gift in someone's life, then I don't know what it is.

I was fretful when I read the title. There is a sense of finality to it. However, **Eternal Night** is somehow comforting. Stars appear one by one. Their light is distant and cold, but the very idea of those twinkling suns is warming. In the long run, we are all made up of stars.

**Everywhere I Look** is one of the lighter tunes on the album. Perhaps John remembers some of the sunny days when all was well in the world. The days when holding hands and walking on the beach were all that mattered. Days when the smiles came from deep within and the feelings came from deeper still.

I was particularly drawn to the tune **Wounded Angel**. It is music made from glass notes, delicate, fragile, and transparent. It is one of those songs that when you hear it, you stare off in the distance and wonder. There are a lot of whys mixed into the melody. The song reminds us that life is full of unanswerable questions.

There is diffused joy on this album. The tender ballad **Wings of Love** offers some kind of balance to the sorrow. The song is beset with the good memories. Times when hearts and bodies were strong. When laughter was like music.

**Long Ago and Far Away** has some superb jazz elements in it. Paris works the theme in a satisfying interlude to the past. The chance encounter, the rendezvous, and the prize of falling in love are all evident within the notes. But there is a haziness to it all. As if there is a fog shrouding the memories.

John's musical conclusion is called **Going Home**. For its subject matter, it is lighter than I anticipated. It was an ostensibly happy ending to an impossible experience, but there is a certain peace to be found in everything. It is interesting to note that John left quite a silence at the end of this tune. Maybe for a contemplative moment? It certainly made me think about it.

John Paris dedicates this album to the caregivers of the world. Few will ever know the great responsibility of caring for another in times when sorrow and confusion permeate everyday things for both parties. It takes a great deal of inner strength, an unrelenting resolve, and an unselfish love to fuel the task. John Paris captures all of these elements in *The Long Goodbye*.