

*DARK
SPARKLES*

*Neoclassical
solo piano music
composed and
performed by*

Tim Fatchen

*Available as CD or Download
www.flyingtadpole.com
www.CDBaby.com
iTunes*

Collected here are myriad gemstones for the heart and ear: the voice of Tim Fatchen's piano invites, cajoles, repents and glitters with wry humor and unabashed loveliness.

There are no soothing songs that slink into the background. Instead, we are carried forward and back through seasons of encroaching chill and rains that sigh down on parched hopes just often enough to renew faith that there will be, again, a Spring.

These are pieces that may lead down and through the emotional landscape of a moment, an hour or a decade, but always through. No shortcuts are taken, no bramble-laden paths turned aside from for safety's sake. No simple tinkling prettiness awaits.

Here is music that exults in each honeycomb cell of a given experience; as much in the tender wounds of love as in its glories. Music that is intelligent, cerebral even, but always approachable, unselfconsciously joyous or brushed with melancholy; darkly sparkling.

THE TRACKS:

- 1. Lost Summers 3:38**
- 2. Dark Sparkles 1:41**
- 3. Romancing 3:43**
- 4. The Last Night (8pm) 2:10**
- 5. Snippet 2:23**
- 6. Retrospect 4:50**
- 7. Nightrunner 2:49**
- 8. Losing 2:40**
- 9. Panic Panic 1:41**
- 10. Firelight Piano 2:32**
- 11. Before the Front 1:27**
- 12. Embers 3:09**
- 13. July Rain 2:15**
- 14. Goodbye Song 2:42**
- 15. Ten Minutes 2:36**
- 16. The Secret life of Snow 3:24**
- 17. Thank You & Goodnight 1:43**

Liner and track notes: Mari Kozlowski

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Dark Sparkles was recorded at Flying Tadpole Productions, Dunn's Mill,
Mt Barker, South Australia.

Tim Fatchen

***Tim Fatchen* is an Australian songwriter/composer, a master pianist and keyboard performer. He writes and performs classical and neo-classical, neo-celtic, and New Age original music, using acoustic and digital pianos and keyboards, also with layered and midi-supported orchestral interpretations.**

Tim's original background is classical, also with a long-term run of church music as a church and cathedral organist. His influences have been very wide: romantic, impressionist, neo-classical, jazz and blues, new age, Broadway, Anglo-Celtic dance and folk song.

Tim Fatchen has written, performed and produced three other CDs of piano, layered keyboard and orchestral music in neo-classical and New Age styles, with music available at iTunes and CDBaby.

His alter ego and associated band, Flying Tadpole, specialises in scurrilous satire.

More of his music can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/timfatchen> and <http://www.reverbnation.com/timfatchen>





LOST SUMMERS

Dream through the eyes of childhood, the eyes of squinting sunshine, the rich days and sweet times flown too quickly; and the golden possibilities we all remember in the breeze of a perfect summer evening--when we have long moved past our own perfections.



DARK SPARKLES

When your heart walks in shadow, when the calm stream of life is teased to a ripple by wild airs, listen. Let these notes move you through the dusk tangled edges to a place of new freshness, where each bubbling scent and sound resonates, darkly sparkling.



ROMANCING

A soft touch of hand against hand, the spark of mind meeting mind, the fears that come with loves new or old, are carried here on a sensual but restrained coverlet of interwoven themes. An unabashed declaration of joy, an ode to the small beauties and pains that come when we express ourselves intimately.



LAST NIGHT 8PM

A story of yearning and waiting, of missed chances and half triumphs, of the fruit almost picked, the risk nearly taken. These brief moments glimmer through the spill of evening into a waking light of hope, of calm and resolute understanding— after all, there are other nights ahead.



SNIPPET

Changing skies and bright winds unfurling play a brash dance with the air, then drop lightly through the delicate, cool melodies of a small sip, a snippet of charged loveliness.



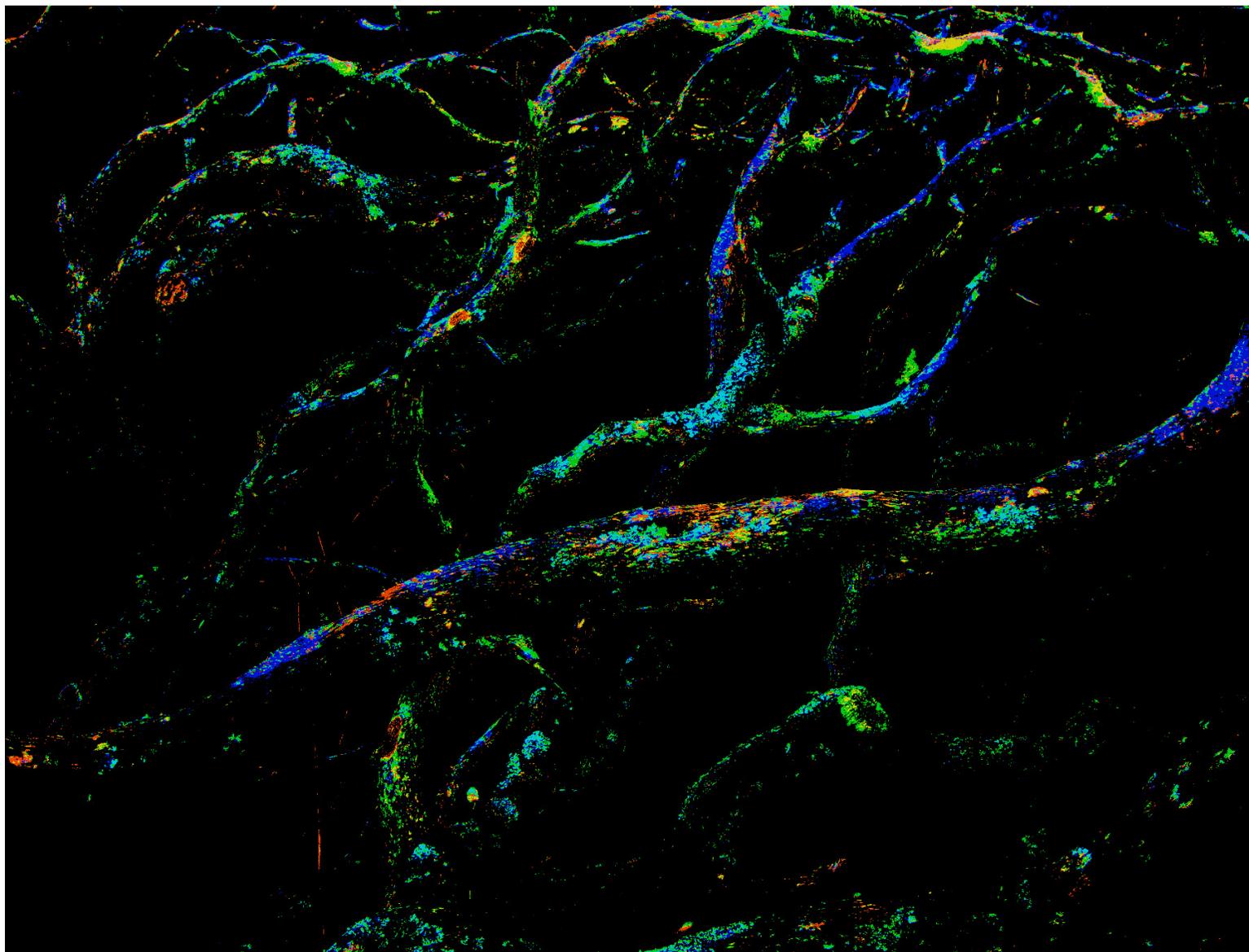
RETROSPECT

Sometimes in the muted fires of dusky sunset, we can see more clearly what has been kept or given away, what is precious or piercing, what cherished songs have already played to their conclusion. If we have the strength to look back, we may find the coming dawn. Here is a steadily held glance at the sweet and the inglorious, the harsh and the hushed, the wounds and the healing; an unflinching reverie.



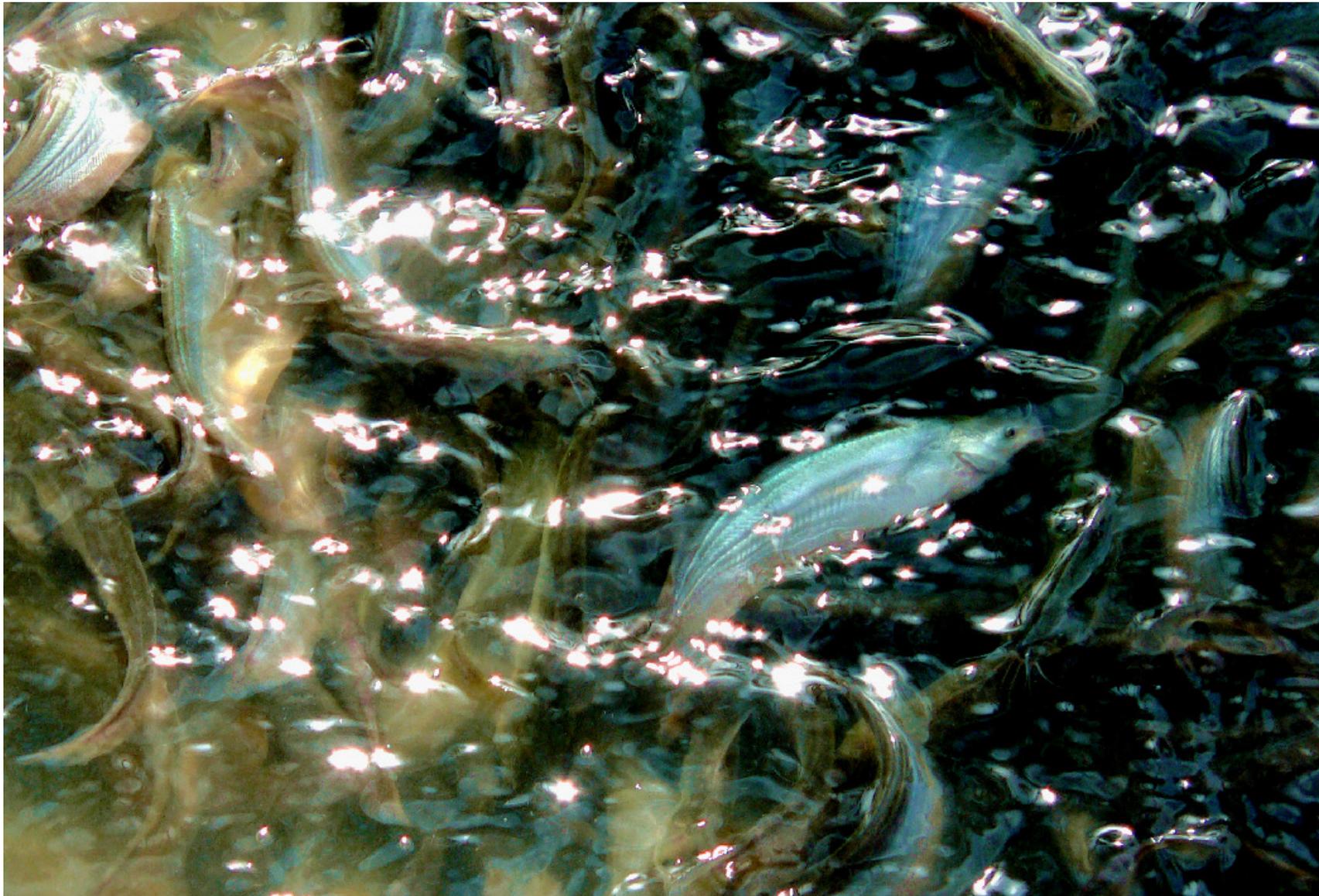
NIGHTRUNNER

A race, a rush, the urgency of flight under dimming skies, to what end? In the thrill of secret imagining, who is it that chases us? What pitfalls lie ahead on the haunted roads of winnowing time? The passion of Nightrunner is in the ear of the beholder; gasping, intrepid, dashing headlong towards the warmth and light.



LOSING

A more beautiful loser never existed— thickly haunted but laughing in the face of an often merciless universe, Losing slaps and scrapes and rolls away from defeat, finally smiling in undaunted wonderment. The unknowable unattainable crumbles beneath a slew of wry perceptions and bold attempts to stand free.



PANIC

Flipping, flowing, gushing— barely controlled mania springs up and outward, breaking the surface of calm illusions. A fluid discourse on obsession asks how and where the flood will pour next, and jumps frenetically past all answers in the surge.



FIRELIGHT PIANO

Put your feet up; there's a snug spot waiting, close enough to hear the crackle and hiss of wood's slow surrender. Give in to deep warmth in the folded light of an idyllic fire glow.



BEFORE THE FRONT

Seeking beyond the safe, a wayfaring soul may ride the tip of the tempest, driven by gales exhilarating and perilous; hurrying on before the implacable storm.



EMBERS

In faded corners of the mind or sky, what buried glints might not kindle, given room to breathe? Will these flickers of inspiration leap into full flame, or remain uncalled, dying down to the ash of endless evening?



JULY RAIN

Soft yet insistent, the cooling patter of a morning shower descends to freshen the view, tripping in indelible rhythms through a glimpse of sunlight or meandering its way to an impromptu pool. Splash, laughing, into July Rain.



GOODBYE

Farewells can bring resignation or a chance for renewal. Loss, yes, but understanding, forgiveness, and a memory of joy in the meeting can stand beside the grief of parting. Stricken but not struck down, wise and conscious sympathy rests in a lonely hour of goodbye.



TEN MINUTES

In the right mood, the right moment, time becomes elastic. A second stretching to hold more than we thought possible expands to a far shimmer; or shrinks to a ghostly veil, quickly hides our fondest wishes, steals away... leaves a bare gleam in passing.



THE SECRET LIFE OF SNOW

Trace the rising crystalline castles, drifts born of the fall of a silent multitude. Chill prisms that begin unique and apart are destined to join, to build, to mould and to melt, their fragile existence a momentary beauty that envelopes the world in cold dreams.



THANK YOU AND GOODNIGHT

A quiet walk towards the familiar smells and tender comforts we may take for granted; but always, at the end of day, search for with a full heart. Whatever flaws or idiosyncrasies reside there, still our gratitude and our yearning reach homeward. For where kindness sits with patience, there lives peace. May it rest within you.

The photos were taken at:

- 1. Lost Summers Goolwa Beach, South Australia*
- 2. Dark Sparkles Blanchewater ruins, Strzelecki Track, South Australia*
- 3. Romancing Parachilna Gorge, South Australia*
- 4. The Last Night (8pm) Coopers Creek floodplain, Innamincka, South Australia*
- 5. Snippet Black Swans and cygnets at Goolwa Barrage, Lower Murray River, South Australia*
- 6. Retrospect Thunderstorm, Sturt's Stony Desert, South Australia*
- 7. Nightrunner Strzelecki Desert, South Australia*
- 8. Losing Horizontal coastal scrub, Airey's Inlet, Victoria, Australia*
- 9. Panic Panic Catfish trapped in flood pool, Strzelecki Creek, South Australia*
- 10. Firelight Piano 1880 John Brinsmead & Sons piano*
- 11. Before the Front Lake Alexandrina, South Australia*
- 12. Embers Innamincka, South Australia*
- 13. July Rain Dunn's Mill, Mt Barker, South Australia*
- 14. Goodbye Song Sacred Ibis in Coopers Creek, Innamincka, South Australia*
- 15. Ten Minutes Residenzplatz, Salzburg, Austria*
- 16. The Secret life of Snow On the Masnerkopf, Serfaus-Fiss, Austria*
- 17. Thank You & Goodnight Innamincka, South Australia*

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