

Forgotten Hits by Kent Kotal

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Living In The Moment with Carl Giammarese



For the past several weeks I've been listening to the new Carl Giammarese solo album, "Living In The Moment". (In fact, I've probably listened at least a dozen times by now!)

I find it to be an extremely enjoyable experience as Carl takes on ten brand new, self-penned tracks encompassing any variety of different styles yet flowing them seamlessly throughout the new LP.

I had the chance to sit down with Carl and talk the day before Thanksgiving and we went through the album track by track, as well as covering a few other topics along the way.

Today and tomorrow I will share those conversations with you ... along with some prime Giammarese tracks.

Living In The Moment

Whisper And A Sigh:

This was the first song I wrote for the album.

It's all about having intense love for

someone.

With A Whisper and A sigh, that's how I,
think of you.

It's so hard to reason why, when love runs
high, what can I do.

I can't help but fantasize, the way I do
over you

There ain't no way I can disguise, the
feelings I, I know are true

is a VERY strong opening track - and it
perfectly sets the tone for the
album. Without question, one of my
favorites on the new LP. (kk)

We All Need Someone To Love

The title says it all ... "we all need
someone to love"

Every night I think about you since you've
been gone.

You were the one that got away.

Try to live without you it's hard to go on,

can we go back to yesterday.

This one (and track four, “What A Time We Had”) fall into that very successful, middle-of-the-road, bluesy groove that Eric Clapton has adopted over the past several years ... if because of today’s strict and stringent airplay policies Carl Giammarese can’t get airplay, getting Clapton to cover one of these songs just might put him back on the radio. (Probably this one more so than the other, since the other track is so personal) kk

You Make Me A Better Me

To all those who have a significant other supporting you through life’s challenges. I have been very fortunate to have that person.

There ain’t a place I’d rather be, there’s not a face I’d rather see

You are the one that I need, the one for
me

You always seem to understand, always
seem to have a plan

You always show me that I can when I
don't believe

And when the stars come out at night, you
are there to hold me tight. And like the
leaves upon a tree, you make me a better
me.

What A Time We Had

To my brother Buckingham in those late
great 60's.

Oh what a time we had together, we were
brothers in every way.

We knew it wouldn't last forever, it
doesn't matter, it's okay.

Oh what a time we had together, those
years gone by, went by so fast

It was our time to be together, somehow

the future became the past

One of two tracks on the CD written for founding Buckingham member (and drummer) Jon Jon Poulos, who passed away in 1980, this one is kind of Carl's "open letter" to ALL of his Buckingham bandmates from back in the day. Without question, they were in a whirlwind as things were happening so fast around them. They were, after all, just a bunch of kids from Chicago who were suddenly thrown in front of the whole world - whatever they experienced back then, they experienced together ... a "band of brothers" who share some very special memories that the rest of the outside world never truly got a chance to see. Sure, we know the story ... and we've heard the hits ... but unless you experienced it first hand, you really have NO idea just what these guys went through

on their way to the top. (kk)

One More Time

It's all about lost love, I had a few friends in mind as I wrote this, and they will know who they are.

She was that woman to you, that comes but once in your life, wrong or right, what you would give to have her, one more time.

Hold On To Your Dreams

I wrote this at a low point in my life but these words helped me get through it.

It's all about having faith and fulfilling your dreams. With all the ups and downs in life, just believe, and in the end it will work out and be alright.

Hold on to your dreams and never let go, God only knows, what the future brings, so never let go of your dreams

As time goes by, you know there will be

tears that cloud your eyes
But everything will be alright, yes I know
its gonna be alright
Deep into the night, when you're feeling
low down, they'll come a light
Shining down on you, have faith and it will
carry you through

Another very bluesy track, as is the next
one, "I Thought I Knew You" ... these
tracks show another side of Carl that
doesn't have the opportunity to come out
during the typical Buckingham's
show. (kk)

I Thought I Knew You

What can I say ... anyone who's had
someone walk out or cheat on them can
relate to this.

It's an old topic written about more than
any other subject in song.

Now you say you're leaving, and never
gave a reason,
Girl you turned my life upside down -
There ain't no way of healing this broken
hearted feeling,
Just tell me how to turn it around
I thought I knew you, but love can be so
blind
Oh its so true, it happens all the time.

Oh Lord (Make Me More Like You)

I wrote this song right after my father
passed away in 2002. I sat late one night
still feeling his presence which inspired me
to write it. I am honored that a few
Christian Music artists have record "Oh
Lord" and made it their own.

You are the answer, you are the light
The only reason I get through the night
You're my redeemer, please help me to
see

Show me the way, and let me believe

Help me to see you

Save me cause I'm a fool

Could I ever be what you want me to.

Oh Lord make me more like you

And now, with this cut, a very successful shift to gospel - again, not at all what we typically expect from him - but very well done. Another extremely strong track from the new album. (kk)

I'll Remember You

Jon Poulos was like a brother to me. He was the original drummer and a founding member and leader of The Buckingham.

When he passed away in 1980 it hit me hard. These lyrics reflect my feelings and how I remember him. I'll remember you, will you remember me

I guess it's just the way it had to be

When the days turned to years, you should

never fear

That you'll become a distant memory

I can't believe you'll never have tomorrow

You'll always be a part of yesterday

And when I get this feeling of sorrow

I wonder what you would have been today

Another moving tribute to Jon Jon - I guess

the older we get, the more we tend to

reflect back on all the things that got us

here - to where we are today - Carl seems

to be particularly appreciative of the long,

successful ride The Buckingham has

provided for him. Another moving

track. (kk)

Living In The Moment

I find myself reflecting on the past quite a

bit, I guess it can't be helped to some

extent when you reach a certain age.

(See, didn't I tell ya?!?!? - kk)

I am also guilty of thinking about the

future too much and my own mortality.
I realize that it's all about "Living In The Moment" ... and that's all I'm trying to say in these lyrics. Hopefully I can live by them.

Our time is here right now, I've got to get
past yesterday somehow
The future is brighter, everything becomes
lighter if you
Start living in the moment
The days will turn to years, and only add
to all of our fears
I'll live in the hour, smell all the flowers,
it's clear
Start living in the moment.

This is the title track and another
extremely strong track on the album - I
think it's kinda cool how it turns into a
country hoedown ... reminiscent of what
Jim Peterik did on his last album, "The

Songs”, where he re-imagined some of his best known work. I cannot help but wonder if this was an influence of sorts.

Those are my first reactions to the new CD - again, a very enjoyable listen - and available now at www.carlgiammarese.com (just in time for Christmas gift-giving!!!)

Tomorrow in Forgotten Hits ...

My EXCLUSIVE interview with Carl Giammarese in conjunction with the new LP ... and just some “life in general” stuff, too. Enjoy!

Posted by [Kent Kotal](#) at [5:30 AM](#)

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