



# RACHEL LAFOND

## ENCOUNTERS OF THE BEAUTIFUL KIND

Release Date: June 1, 2018

File Under: Solo Piano, New Age, Neo-Classical

"As we worked with Rachel, we found her music and performance beautiful and very moving. Her latest work will bear this out!"

~Kristin Amarie and David Lanz

"Encounters of the Beautiful Kind is one of the most fluent and intelligent albums to be released in the solo piano genre for ages."

~Steve Sheppard, One World Music

Come along on a powerful musical journey inspired by the ups and downs of being a stranger in a new country.

The music explores universal human experiences: feelings of loneliness, worries about not being good enough, and the evolution we undergo as existing friendships change or fade while new connections spring to life.

This journey culminates in the realization that as we bear each other up and connect with one another, we make the world a more beautiful place for all of us.

Rachel's music can be purchased on iTunes, Bandcamp, and Amazon, and can be streamed on Pandora and Spotify.

For more info about Rachel visit [www.rachellafond.com](http://www.rachellafond.com)  
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Radio and Media by RS Promotions US.

### Track Listing

- |                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Luminous                      | 5:30 |
| 2. Your Beauty Calls Me          | 5:00 |
| 3. Heart Full Of Memories        | 4:24 |
| 4. Tears For Catalunya           | 4:31 |
| 5. You Will Conquer This Shadow  | 4:32 |
| 6. Love's Labour's Never Lost    | 5:08 |
| 7. The Questions Your Heart Asks | 4:59 |
| 8. Don't Cry, Calvin             | 2:46 |
| 9. Unrestrained Joy              | 3:40 |
| 10. Shout To The Sun             | 3:27 |
| 11. A Knight's Journey           | 3:22 |

**Total Time - 47:41**



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# Rachel LaFond

Rachel LaFond is an American composer and pianist who has been steeped in musicality her entire life. Her appreciation of the piano began when she was a toddler as her mother (a piano teacher) played with a young Rachel on her lap. She began formal lessons at age five, and by the time Rachel was eleven, she began teaching lessons herself. She lived in Vienna and studied piano performance there as a teenager, then returned home to major in piano at the University of Washington. After university, she continued to teach and perform professionally, but for years Rachel didn't realize she had a talent for writing music hidden inside herself.

One rainy autumn afternoon, everything changed. Gazing out the window of her teaching studio, Rachel couldn't stop thinking about someone named David she had met just weeks ago. Distraction transformed into inspiration, and by the end of that evening she had finished her first original piece, Loving in the Rain. This first piece stood alone for a while as Rachel got swept up in life's adventures: Rachel and David got married, quit their jobs, and embarked on a year of long-term travel around the world.

The joy of travel and discovery opened the musical floodgates. From a bucolic village in South France to the moody moorlands in England, from the misty mountains of Japan to a cabin in the verdant hills of New Zealand, Rachel transmuted the rich experiences of her travels into music. Rachel's stunning debut album *Wandering Soul* released on May 15, 2017, and it became quickly apparent that Rachel had found her calling. She earned silver medals in the emerging artist and best album categories at the Global Music Awards, and several songs from *Wandering Soul* topped the New Age radio charts in multiple countries.

Rachel is now settled into expat life in Auckland, New Zealand, where she's spent the past year working on her second album, *Encounters of the Beautiful Kind*. The music again showcases her passionate approach to the piano and is largely inspired by the ups and downs of being a stranger in a new country. At the same time, this album shows a more purposeful and well-crafted approach to composition.

Rachel's music is inspired by, and engages with, the full depth of human experience. Whether she's capturing the heady wooziness of falling in love or responding to the chest-cracking pain of Barcelonans who suffered in the terror attack of summer 2017, her pieces are unflinching and compel the listener to lean into the feeling of the song for just a moment more. Rachel's drive to bring beauty, light, and kindness to dark places through her music lends a striking sense of purpose to her creative work. And she's just getting started.

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