

*Live, And Let Love* begins with “An Ode to Life and Love,” an introduction that sets the tone with a clear and purposeful understanding of it being just a teaser to what Céran has to offer: The pad and bass driven song—although only about a minute in length—caught my ear due to the complex melody that was able to be displayed in such a short amount of time. “Break Free” is progressive in that it isn’t the standard fare for R&B. The song is not hollowed out or over-calculated; it is full-bodied, professional and on track the whole way through. I enjoyed how deep Céran is able to go (especially in verse two) and bring the listener with him.

“Noble Fool” features Samara who does a wonderful job of adding a compliment to Céran’s sound. They work in tandem to create an atmospheric groove that is basic yet explorative and ultimately a ying and yang completion. This is easily my favorite song on the album because there is so much to hear and in turn, experience, due to both singers’ ability to elevate both the song and their performances by playing off each other.

If “I’ll Make You Feel Like (A Natural Woman)” works—it isn’t because the song could be considered a cover of Aretha Franklin’s classic—it’s because Céran is able to take the raw materials and make room for himself to express himself the way he wanted to. In my eyes, he’s succeeded in doing just that; the gentle caress of his voice over the airy piano work separates this from anything before and being that he did so gracefully shows much to his promise. Well done, well done indeed.

“Feelin’ Lucky” is a dramatic accomplishment as many artists have trouble managing ballads and up tempo songs. This song breathes a vigorous life back into you after having slowed down from the song before. The aim is so accurate, so true, that you know exactly what he came to do with this song. To me, songs like “Feelin’ Lucky”, “Risk It All” and “Love Is Found” encapsulate Céran at his best; full of emotion and the ability to carry out his intentions to the letter.

“Live, and Let Love” is the final track on *Live, And Let Love* and brings a resounding conclusion to what has been a fine collection of songs. Serving as a proper farewell, the production is broad and allows Céran to give the absolute best performance he can to the listener in an extremely memorable song. Overall, *Live, And Let Love* is adventurous and ranges from dramatic to heartfelt to rejoicing to soothing without ever feeling phoned in. Céran is talented, and by and large this album is a testament to a grand dream, realized.

Artist: Céran

Title: *Live, And Let Love*

Review by: Charles Sweet

Rating: 4 (out of 5 stars)