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Artist RAPHAEL MANN
Title THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS
Format Album
Label Frizz Records
Date 30th May 2025

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(See track list below for individual track downloads)

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[Bandcamp Private Streaming page](#) (Listen / Full album & individual song videos / lyrics)

[YouTube - full album video](#)

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After his career as a touring bass guitarist and bandleader was cut short by injury, Raphael Mann has carved a niche for himself instead as a producer and studio musician, with an impressive list of production credits including recent albums from [Art Terry](#), [Marianne Dissard](#), [Lunatraktors](#), [Tom Rodwell](#) & [Sugarcane](#).

His lead vocals featured on a 2021 duet with Marianne Dissard on Townes Van Zandt's '[If I Needed You](#)', as well as 2022's [Freak Scene](#) album by [The Silver Panda](#) & 2024's [Souvenir Of England](#), another Dissard collaboration which included his solo version of '[Shipbuilding](#)' as it's lead single.

Nevertheless, The Changing Of The Seasons is the first time that Raphael has employed his production skills in the service of his own singing and songwriting for a full album. A concept album of sorts, the songs chart his experience of leaving his childhood home in London, after the birth of his daughter in the midst of worsening economic conditions, exacerbated by Brexit and Covid and the personal tragedy of the injury which took him out of action as a live performer.

Far from being a depressing experience however, his solo debut is full of colourful imagery inspired by the English countryside, and finds Raphael taking solace in the natural world, and the simple pleasures of watching his daughter grow up away from the worldly distractions of the metropolis.

The sound-world he conjures is reminiscent of the British singer-songwriters of the '60s & '70s who walked the line between folk music and the gentler side of psychedelia, with influences from classical music, jazz and Asian, African & Latin American traditions, to create an orchestrated 'hippy folk' sound - Nick Drake, Vashti Bunyan, Sandy Denny, Donovan, Kevin Ayers & the Incredible String Band - and it suits the subject matter perfectly, transporting the listener to a pastoral idyll away from the hustle of modern life.

At the core of the sound are Raphael's finger-picked acoustic guitar and his warm, expressive, English-accented, baritone voice, reminiscent of Drake & Ayers, and he augments these with wonderfully evocative arrangements, with all instruments besides the woodwinds played by the artist himself, his only musical collaborator here being his Silver Panda bandmate Maree Choie, adding clarinet, flute & vocal harmony. Maree's woodwinds add a distinctive flavour, equal parts chamber classical and jazz; and his work with Anglo-Brazilian collective Sugarcane is echoed in places with gentle touches of Latin percussion and samba-inflected rhythm.

The result is a rare combination. A quiet, contemplative album, soft as a late summer evening, but which keeps the listener consistently engaged through the inventiveness of the arrangements and the quality of the songwriting.

TRACK LISTING

1. OUT OF LOVE WITH THE CITY (4:18)	wav	mp3
2. RABBIT RUNS (3:02)	wav	mp3
3. GREY HERON (2:31)	wav	mp3
4. PINK & GREEN EMPEROR (3:18)	wav	mp3
5. WAITING FOR SPRING (4:06)	wav	mp3
6. MY IMAGINATION OF A SWAN (4:01)	wav	mp3
7. THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS (3:03)	wav	mp3
8. DARKNESS & LIGHT (5:52)	wav	mp3
9. - - Time Piece - - (0:31)	wav	mp3
10. WHEN WE HAVE THE TIME (4:30)	wav	mp3
11. LATE BLOOMS (4:49)	wav	mp3

(click the 'mp3' or 'wav' links to download individual tracks)

CREDITS

Raphael Mann - vocals, acoustic & electric guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, Rhodes piano, Clavinet, Realistic MG-1 synth, melodica, kalimba, glockenspiel, drums & percussion
Maree Choie - vocals, clarinet & flute

Written, Arranged & Produced by Raphael Mann

Drawings by Maree Choie - Paintings & design by Raphael Mann

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Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/gb/artist/raphael-mann/1181621813>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mrraphaelmann/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/raphaelmann/>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@mrraphaelmann>

Frizz Records

Label website: <http://www.frizzrecords.com>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@fRiZzReCoRdS>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/frizz_records/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frizzrecords>

Public links to stream and buy (active from May 30th)...

Bandcamp: <https://theraphaelmann.bandcamp.com/album/the-changing-of-the-seasons>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/57nzfcTMvmp12hhDIvkUFj>

Apple Music:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/id1798482991>

iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/id1798482991?app=itunes>