

Anja Garbarek - Briefly Shaking (2005)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 21 April 2010 12:11 - Last Updated Friday, 18 July 2014 13:32

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1. *Born That Way*
2. *Dizzy With Wonder*
3. *The Last Trick*
4. *Sleep*
5. *Shock Activities*
6. *Yes*
7. *My Fellow Riders*
8. *Can I Keep Him?*
9. *This Momentous Day*
10. *Still Guarding Space*
11. *Word Is Out*

- Anja Garbarek / sax, vocals - Gisli Kristjansson / organ, synthesizer, bass, guitar, percussion, drums, keyboards, programming, Theremin, xylophone, melodica, Handclapping, noise, wurlitzer, effects - John Mallison / banjo, guitar, piano, programming - Øyvind Brække / trombone - Richard Cottle / Hammond - Erland Dahlen / drums - Miguel Diaz de Lopez / sampling - Frode Haltli / accordion - Kjetil Steensnæs / guitar - Terry Thomas / guitar - Godfrey Wang / piano - Steven Watts / bass - Bruce White / strings - Gavyn Wright / strings - Patrick Kiernan / strings - Boguslaw Kosteki / strings - Peter Lale / strings - Cathy Thompson / strings - Chris Tombling / strings - Julian Leaper / strings - Martin Loveday / strings - Rita Manning / strings - Perry Mason / strings - Everton Nelson / strings - Rachel Bolt / strings - Caroline Dale / strings - David Daniels / strings - London Session Orchestra / strings

Daughter of the Norwegian avant-jazz saxophonist Jan Garbarek and, like her dad, something of a fusionista, with her fifth album (including the recent soundtrack to Luc Besson's *Angel-A*) Anja is unlikely to reap the commercial whirlwind of, say, Ravi Shankar's offspring Norah Jones. Yet buried within this 40-minute mismatch of breathy, slow-burn folk-chanson and dated electronica - the worn-vinyl beats beloved of yesteryear's samplers; the squelches, rumbles and other digestive noises Björk raised to an artistic apogee on the wonderful *Homogenic* - is one terrific song and a few near misses.

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The chorus of The Last Trick rises on a thermal of triumphant wistfulness of which Madeleine Peyroux would be proud; the woodwind-driven This Momentous Day struggles inside a cacophonous metal arrangement; and such fragments as the micro-song Yes and the fade-out to Sleep all frustratingly suggest an engagingly dreamy songstress who should be freed from an ill-fitting cage of her own misguided construction. ---Mat Snow, theguardian.com

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