

Fly – Year of the Snake (2012)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *The Western Lands I* [play](#) 02 – *Festival Tune* 03 – *The Western Lands II* 04 – *Brothersister* 05 – *Diorite* 06 – *Kingston* 07 – *Salt and Pepper* 08 – *The Western Lands III* 09 – *Benj* 10 – *Year of the Snake* 11 – *The Western Lands IV* 12 – *The Western Lands V* [play](#)

Musicians: Mark Turner - tenor saxophone Larry Grenadier - double-bass Jeff Ballard – drums

Formed eight years ago by drummer Jeff Ballard with fellow Brad Mehldau partner Larry Grenadier on bass and saxophonist Mark Turner (one of the most resourceful and independent sax newcomers of the last decade), the New York trio Fly is an exchange between equals, not a sax-led charge over a rhythm section. Though it falls into the territory sometimes dubbed "chamber-jazz", *Year of the Snake* is up there with Fly's best work, with its rustling fast grooves and languid horn lines, and pieces that open on almost impossibly pure high-register long tones. The swaying *Salt and Pepper* is as coolly jazzy a piece as any diehard could wish for, and a glide over fizzy drumming on the title track turns into a patiently spun improvisation. Grenadier's lovely tone and Ballard's blend of subtle textural playing and whiplash power complete one of the great contemporary jazz small groups. --- John Fordham, guardian.co.uk

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