

John Zorn - Masada – Live In Middelheim (1999)

Written by bluesever

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1. Nevuah (9:50) 2. Sippur (3:22) 3. Hath-Arob (5:22) 4. Kedushah (6:55) 5. Ne'eman (13:07) 6. Karet (2:05) 7. Kochot (4:59) 8. Piram (12:10) 9. Paran (6:02) 10. Ashnah (7:21) 11. Tahah (7:27) Total Time: 78:31 Joey Baron - Drums Greg Cohen - Bass, Double Bass Dave Douglas - Trumpet John Zorn - Composer, Producer, Sax (Alto), Saxophone

Every album by John Zorn's Masada seems better than the last, and this one is no exception. By the time of this recording the group was a tightly cohesive unit, performing at an extremely high and satisfying level, with Zorn and Dave Douglas playing comfortably at a blistering pace. The songs are tinged with hints of Eastern European harmony, but the heat generated, while perhaps related to the raucous dancing at a Jewish wedding, is firmly rooted in the ways of avant-garde jazz. Zorn takes some of his best solos on disc, sounding like silly putty on speed, while the more proper Douglas lags only slightly behind. With a recording time nearing 80 minutes, and substantial contributions from the entire quartet, the recording marks not so much a milestone in the life of the group as a symbol of its ability to constantly expand upon itself and draw on its not inconsequential roots, proving again that you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Jewish-tinged culture. ---Steve Loewy, Rovi

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