

Pink Floyd - Atom Heart Mother (1970)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Atom Heart Mother* (Mason, Gilmour, Waters, Wright, Ron Geesin) - 23:36 including:

- a). *Father's Shout*
- b). *Breast Milky*
- c). *Mother Fore*
- d). *Funky Dung*
- e). *Mind Your Throats, Please*
- f). *Remergence*

02. *If* (Waters) - 4:25

03. *Summer '68* (Wright) - 5:27 [play](#)

04. *Fat Old Sun* (Gilmour) - 5:22

05. *Alan's Psychedelic Breakfast* (Waters, Mason, Gilmour, Wright) - 13:00 including:

- a). *Rise and Shine*
- b). *Sunny Side Up*
- c). *Morning Glory*

Personnel:

- David Gilmour – guitars; bass guitar, drums and vocals on "Fat Old Sun"
- Nick Mason – drums, percussion, tape editing, tape collage, additional engineering on "Alan's Psychedelic Breakfast"
- Roger Waters – bass, acoustic guitar on "If", tape effects, tape collage, vocals on "If"
- Richard Wright – keyboards, piano, orchestration, vocals on "Summer '68"
- +
- Abbey Road Session Pops Orchestra – brass and orchestral sections
- John Alldis Choir – vocals
- Philip Jones Brass Ensemble – brass
- Alan Stiles – voice on "Alan's Psychedelic Breakfast"

Appearing after the sprawling, unfocused double-album set *Ummagumma*, *Atom Heart Mother*

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may boast more focus, even a concept, yet that doesn't mean it's more accessible. If anything, this is the most impenetrable album Pink Floyd released while on Harvest, which also makes it one of the most interesting of the era. Still, it may be an acquired taste even for fans, especially since it kicks off with a side-long, 23-minute extended orchestral piece that may not seem to head anywhere, but is often intriguing, more in what it suggests than what it achieves. Then, on the second side, Roger Waters, David Gilmour, and Rick Wright have a song apiece, winding up with the group composition "Alan's Psychedelic Breakfast" wrapping it up. Of these, Waters begins developing the voice that made him the group's lead songwriter during their classic era with "If," while Wright has an appealingly mannered, very English psychedelic fantasia on "Summer 68," and Gilmour's "Fat Old Sun" meanders quietly before ending with a guitar workout that leaves no impression. "Alan's Psychedelic Breakfast," the 12-minute opus that ends the album, does the same thing, floating for several minutes before ending on a drawn-out jam that finally gets the piece moving. So, there are interesting moments scattered throughout the record, and the work that initially seems so impenetrable winds up being Atom Heart Mother's strongest moment. That it lasts an entire side illustrates that Pink Floyd was getting better with the larger picture instead of the details, since the second side just winds up falling off the tracks, no matter how many good moments there are. This lack of focus means Atom Heart Mother will largely be for cultists, but its unevenness means there's also a lot to cherish here. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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