

Wishbone Ash - Elegant Stealth (2011)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 18 December 2011 19:58 - Last Updated Friday, 31 July 2020 09:02

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01. Reason To Believe (04:23) [play](#) 02. Warm Tears (05:02) 03. Man with No Name (04:18) 04. Can't Go It Alone (05:39) 05. Give It Up (05:07) 06. Searching For Satellites (06:02) 07. Heavy Weather (06:40) 08. Mud-slick (04:14)

[play](#)

09. Big Issues (07:42) 10. Migrant Worker (05:13) 11. Invisible Thread (05:09) 12. Reason To Believe (Remix) (05:29)

Personnel: Andy Powell (vocals, guitar, background vocals); Muddy Manninen (guitar, background vocals); Joe Crabtree (drums, percussion); Bob Skeat (background vocals).

This new CD from twin-guitar legends, Wishbone Ash, showcases not only the mighty guitar talents of founding-member Andy Powell and Muddy Manninen but the driving rhythm section of bassist Bob Skeat and drummer Joe Crabtree. This lineup has been performing together for about three years now and the constant touring has sharpened not only their substantial musicianship but has produced a powerful sound and songwriting result. Don Airey of Deep Purple guests on several tracks with his searing Hammond organ, along with fiddle player Pat McManus.

Andy Powell takes on the bulk of the vocal duties, as in previous albums but his voice is in fine form here and the songs fit his range very well. The arrangements too support not just the generous guitar-laden themes but Powell's voice. All combine to serve the songs first, resulting in a varied collection of moods and grooves.

Fans of great guitar playing will not be disappointed, there are extended solos by both guitarists, something in abundance in live shows but have been more subdued in prior releases until now. Wishbone Ash have never left the musical peak they first conquered forty years ago with the twin-guitar harmony concept. No surprise why so many like Judas Priest, Thin Lizzy and Iron

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Maiden cite them as major influences to their own sounds. This is the real-deal original!

There is a bonus remix of the EP single "Reason to Believe" not listed on package, it follows the final track "Invisible Thread". --- FReazy "fudd55" (NH, USA)

Wishbone Ash are a British rock band who achieved success in the early and mid-1970s. Their popular records included *Wishbone Ash* (1970), *Argus* (1972), *There's the Rub* (1974), and *New England* (1976). They were one of the first of many bands to come who used twin lead guitars.

Wishbone Ash are considered to be one of the major innovators of the harmony twin lead guitar format. Their contributions helped in Powell and Turner being voted "Two Of The Ten Most Important Guitarists In Rock History" (*Traffic* magazine 1989), and part of the "Top 20 Guitarists Of All Time" (*Rolling Stone*). *Melody Maker* (1972) described Ted Turner and Andy Powell as "the most interesting two guitar team since the days when Beck and Page graced The Yardbirds".

Formed in Torquay, Devon, in 1969, out of the ashes of trio The Empty Vessels (originally known as The Torinoes, later briefly renamed Tanglewood in 1969), which had been formed by Wishbone Ash's founding member Martin Turner (bass/vocals) in 1963 and complemented by Steve Upton (drums and percussion) in 1966. The original Wishbone Ash line-up was completed by guitarists/vocalists Andy Powell and Ted Turner. In 1974, Ted Turner left the band, and was replaced by Laurie Wisefield. The band continued on with strong critical and commercial success until 1980.

After revolving line-ups featuring former members from King Crimson, Trapeze, and Uriah Heep, Wisefield left in 1985. In 1987, however, the original line-up reunited for several albums - *Nouveau Calls*, *Here to Hear*, and *Strange Affair* - until 1990, when Upton quit the band. After Martin Turner was replaced in 1991, the band recorded *The Ash Live in Chicago*, before Ted Turner left in 1993. Since 1995, the band have continued with mixed critical and commercial success, changing members on several albums. In 2004, Martin Turner formed his own version of Wishbone Ash, and tours frequently.

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