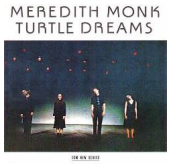
Meredith Monk - Turtle Dream (1983)



1."Turtle Dreams (Waltz)" - 17:52 2."View 1" - 10:13 3."Engine Steps" - 2:03 4."Ester's Song" - 1:14 5."View 2" - 6:02 Meredith Monk — voice, piano, synthesizer, organ Collin Walcott — didgeridoo (tracks 2-5), organ (track 1) Julius Eastman — organ (track 1) Steve Lockwood — organ (track 1) Andrea Goodman — voice (track 1) Paul Langland — voice (track 1)

A daring display of vocal gymnastics and a journey back to childhood when all sounds were wondrous, Turtle Dreams includes the title track composition for four voices (two men, two women) and four organs as well as shorter pieces featuring various combinations of voice, Casio, piano, miniMoog, and didgeridoo. Monk's work raises smiles as well as the hair on the back of the neck. Here she seems tapped into some primordial force -- humming, babbling, chattering, all set to looping, funereal organ works of chromatic simplicity. Mesmerizing yet never mechanical, the side-long "Turtle Dreams" and "View 1" derive their pleasures from the infinite sounds of the human voice. The entire album accompanied a multimedia work where Monk and three other singer/dancers were intercut with shots of a turtle walking over various terrains (including miniature cities, looking like a monster movie). Comforting thoughts during any listen. ---Ted Mills, Rovi

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