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MUSIC

GoodSound! Monthly Music Reviews (2/2010)

Iver Kleive: *Organ Music from Troubled Water*

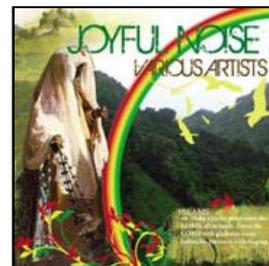
2L 66
Format: Hybrid Multichannel SACD

Musical Performance ■■■■□
Sound Quality ■■■■
Overall Enjoyment ■■■■



This amazing album is like no other I've heard. Rather than categorizing it as movie music, let's call it music from a movie. The film, released in 2008 and directed by the noted Norwegian filmmaker Erik Poppe, is called *Troubled Water*. It's the story of Jan Thomas, a man who has spent eight years in prison for killing a young boy. On his release, he secures a position as a church organist and falls in love with Anna, the church's pastor. The script becomes a double narrative when the murdered child's mother shows up at church and recognizes Jan. Since Jan is an organist, much of the soundtrack is organ music. It was entrusted to organist and composer Iver Kleive, who, in addition to composing his own music and selecting a few other pieces, arranged everything from baroque music to Paul Simon's "Bridge over Troubled Water." It may sound hokey on paper, but the way Kleive plays it, the tune becomes an intense spiritual experience, creating almost unbearable tension and a cathartic release into stillness. The rest of the album runs the gamut from classical to jazz and blues, with music that's conciliatory, majestic, and reverential. You'll also find surprises like Liv-Benedicte Bjørneboe's "Allegro," which bumps merrily along with more than a passing resemblance to Danny Elfman's music for *The Nightmare Before Christmas*! The performances were all recorded at Bergen Cathedral, and the sound, which is rich, spacious, and detailed, is some of the best of an organ you'll ever hear. Try Kleive's own "Toccata," which starts with the bright, reedy pipes bustling away in the mid and upper range for a few minutes and leads to a striding bass theme on the pedals that will give your subwoofer a run for its money. In fact, it's a good piece for testing how focused the bass in your system really is -- every note should have a clean and clear attack. It's not just about a lot of bass but about *quality* bass. . . . *Rad Bennett*

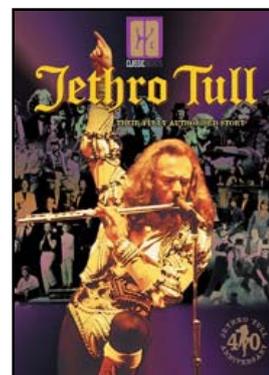
Musical Performance
 Sound Quality
 Overall Enjoyment



Jethro Tull: *Their Fully Authorised Story*

Image Entertainment ID48511SDVD
 Format: DVD

Musical Performance
 Sound Quality
 Picture Quality
 Overall Enjoyment



The cover of Jethro Tull's first album, *This Was*, shows the band in makeup that made them look like old men. The musicians interviewed in *Jethro Tull*, part of the series of Classic Artists DVDs released by Image Entertainment, have caught up with that photo, although only Glen Cornick, the bassist on the British band's first three records, has kept his hair and general hippie appearance. Guitarist Mick Abrahams has a full head of hair, but it's short and he now looks like a burly union official. Abrahams left Tull after *This Was*, and the band's next album, *Stand Up*, was jazzier, less blues influenced, and heavier. Martin Barre has been the guitarist since then, and he's been a constant in a band with many musical and personnel changes. *Their Fully Authorised Story* documents the life of an unpredictable band that has changed musical direction with almost every album. Among the interviewees are Chris Wright and Terry Ellis, who started Chrysalis Records and indulged Jethro Tull's musical and album-cover whims. Ian Anderson, the band's leader, takes full responsibility for Tull's musical curiosity. The DVD is honest about the lukewarm critical reception of some of the group's LPs and the sometimes difficult decisions about lineup changes. It also captures a time when bands developed their chops and musical ambitions during grueling tours, and when record companies let them freely develop their ideas. Some of the older footage, and even some of the recent interviews, look odd, as if they were unnaturally enhanced in an attempt to increase their clarity. Regardless, it's a fascinating and solid documentary about a good band's history. . . . *Joseph Taylor*