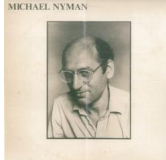


Michael Nyman – Michael Nyman (1981)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 22 November 2012 17:27 - Last Updated Tuesday, 04 March 2014 13:46

Michael Nyman – Michael Nyman (1981)



1. *Bird Anthem (from Act of God)* 2:37 2. *Initial Treat (from Tree)* 2:50 3. *Secondary Treat (from Tree)* 1:27 4. *In Re Don Giovanni* 2:48 5. *Waltz in F* 5:55 6. *Bird List Song (from The Falls)* 4:19 7. *M-Work* 21:09 Michael Nyman Band: Rory Allam - clarinet Alexander Balanescu - violin Anne Barnard - french horn Ben Grove - guitar, bass guitar John Harle - saxophone Nick Hayley - rebec, violin Ian Mitchell - clarinet Michael Nyman - piano Elisabeth Perry - violin Steve Saunders - trombone Roderick Skeaping - rebec, violin Keith Thompson - flute, piccolo, recorder, saxophone Doug Wootton – banjo + Peter Brötzmann - bass clarinet, tenor saxophone Evan Parker - soprano saxophone Lucie Skeaping – soprano

This reissue of Michael Nyman's second album from 1981 – effectively his first with a Michael Nyman Band that included Alexander Balanescu and Roderick Skeaping – has aged well.

Its industriously cycling Anglo-minimalism, couched in strings and reeds, is redolent of early Peter Greenaway films: "Bird List Song" is lovely, silly and serious the same time, like the film for which it was written, *The Falls*. The serio-comic tone helps sustain the music's appeal, compared to the joylessness of much American minimalism: this is music full of affirmative bustle, aware of its lurking pomposity, and not afraid to embrace the free-jazz squawks of Evan Parker and Peter Brötzmann on "Waltz". ---Andy Gill, independent.co.uk

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