

Jan Garbarek – Luminessence (feat Keith Jarrett) [1975]

Written by bluesever

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1. *Numinor* 2. *Windsong* 3. *Luminessence* Keith Jarrett: composer Jan Garbarek: tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone Südfunk-Sinfonieorchester conductor Mladen Gutesha

Keith Jarrett does not actually play on this CD; rather, he composed three angst-ridden pieces of varying lengths for string orchestra, over which Jan Garbarek improvises on tenor and soprano saxes. The concept is not unlike that of Stan Getz's *Focus*, but this music is far more static, downcast, and free of the pulse of jazz. As was characteristic of his writing then, Jarrett's string parts are mostly turgid and thick-set, indulging in weird, sliding microtones on "Windsong," weighted down by some kind of emotional burden. Particularly when delivering piercing sustained notes on soprano, Garbarek often sounds like a native of the Middle East. The strings are from the Stuttgart Radio Symphony, led by Mladen Gutesha, who faithfully executes Jarrett's dolorous wishes. ---Richard S. Ginell, Rovi

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