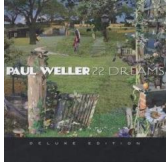


Paul Weller – 22 Dreams [2008]

Written by bluesever

Monday, 12 October 2009 15:17 - Last Updated Wednesday, 24 October 2018 20:40

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Disc1: 1. "Light Nights" - 3:45 2. "22 Dreams" - 2:48 (Weller, Simon Dine) 3. "All I Wanna Do (Is Be With You)" - 4:36 4. "Have You Made Up Your Mind" - 3:15 5. "Empty Ring" - 3:03 (Weller, Simon Dine) 6. "Invisible" - 4:07 7. "Song For Alice" - 3:38 (Weller, Simon Dine, Steve Cradock) 8. "Cold Moments" - 5:00 9. "The Dark Pages of September Lead to the New Leaves of Spring" - 0:45 (Simon Dine, Weller) 10. "Black River" - 3:48 11. "Why Walk When You Can Run" - 4:14 12. "Push It Along" - 2:53 (Weller, Simon Dine) 13. "A Dream Reprise" - 1:09 (Simon Dine, Weller) 14. "Echoes Round the Sun" - 3:09 (Weller, Noel Gallagher) 15. "One Bright Star" - 2:58 (Weller, Simon Dine) 16. "Lullaby Für Kinder" - 2:23 17. "Where'er Ye Go" - 2:47 18. "God" - 2:03 19. "111" - 2:24 (Weller, Simon Dine, Steve Cradock) 20. "Sea Spray" * - 3:55 (Weller, Hannah Andrews) 21. "Night Lights" - 6:07 (Weller, Steve Cradock, Charles Rees, Hannah Andrews)

Personnel: Paul Weller - Composer, Primary Artist Gem Archer - Guitar, Mellotron Barrie Cadogan - Guitar Graham Coxon - Drums Steve Cradock - Bazouki, Bouzouki, Celeste, Composer, Drums, Guitar, Guitar (12 String), Guitar (Acoustic), Guitar (Electric), Mandolin, Mellotron, Percussion, Piano, Producer, Vocals Simon Dine - Composer, Cowbell, Guitar, Horn, Mandolin, Marimba, Moog Bass, Moog Synthesizer, Orchestra, Orchestration, Percussion, Producer, Siren Noel Gallagher - Bass, Composer, Mellotron, Piano, Wurlitzer Andy Lewis - Bass, Cello John McCusker - Violin Charles Rees - Composer, Drums, Engineer, Harmonium, Mixing, Moog Bass, Moog Synthesizer, Piano, Producer Arlia de Ruiter – Violin Lorre Lynn Trytten - Viola, Violin Robert Wyatt - Piano, Trumpet Lewis Wharton - Bass, Drums Steve White – Drums

Of all the many things Paul Weller has done in his career, he has somehow managed to survive three decades without a double album to his credit. 22 Dreams rectifies that wrong, offering a luxurious sprawl that's proudly, staunchly classicist, just like Weller's solo career itself. Weller's embrace of rock & roll tradition might suggest that he has taken his double album as an opportunity to offer a summation of his career, to summarize where he's been and perhaps where he's going. Tempting though this may be, especially given the record's elastic, elegant eclecticism, this isn't quite a self-conscious summation, nor is it quite a risk-taking tour de force in the vein of the White Album, even though this encompasses everything from fragile folk to the resurrection of the sophisticated collegiate jazz of the Style Council. Instead, 22 Dreams has a

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floating romantic quality that justifies the dreams of the title, drifting from sound to sound, sometimes taking elaborate detours, sometimes stopping for a brief picturesque sideshow. In some ways, it's the flip of the piledriving *As Is Now*, where Weller indulged in harder inclinations, as this finds Weller exploring his softer side, often in ways he hasn't quite done before. There's still a crustiness to Weller -- he'll get sensitive, but he won't get sappy -- but there's an openness to *22 Dreams*, in how he eases into a Curtis Mayfield homage as comfortably as he pays tribute to Alice Coltrane with Robert Wyatt in tow. Wyatt isn't the only guest here, either, as Weller expands his core band -- without leaving right-hand man guitarist Steve Craddock -- with cameos by Graham Coxon and Noel Gallagher (only he could unite these Brit-pop foes), the latter collaborating on a thick, hazy psychedelic "Echoes Round the Sun." This is about as dense as *22 Dreams* gets, as it has a lighter touch, so graceful that it can disguise the number of styles Weller touches upon here, as he skips from electronica and pastoral jams lingering from *Wild Wood* to jazz and soul. Initially, this doesn't sound radical -- it is recognizably of a piece with his solo work, fitting neatly alongside either *Stanley Road* or *Illumination* -- but more listens reveal just how finely textured and woven this tapestry is. And although it shares superficial sonic similarities with his other records, *22 Dreams* is really unlike any of Weller's other albums, as it's rich in sound and feeling, possessing a shimmering dreamy quality. It's an album to get lost in. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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