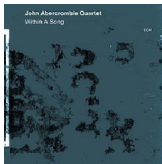


John Abercrombie - Within A Song (2012)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 20 April 2012 15:08 - Last Updated Saturday, 13 December 2014 15:55

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01 – *Where Are You* 02 – *Easy Reader* 03 – *Within A Song Without A Song* 04 – *Flamenco Sketches* 05 – *Nick Of Time* 06 – *Blues Connotation* [play](#) 07 – *Wise One* 08 – *Interplay* 09 – *Sometime Ago*

Musicians:

John Abercrombie (guitar), Joe Lovano (tenor saxophone), Drew Gress (double-bass), Joey Baron (drums). Recorded at New York's Avatar Studios in September 2011

John Abercrombie's tying together of jazz's many threads made him one of the most influential acoustic and electric guitarists of the 1970s and early '80s; his recordings for ECM have helped define that label's progressive chamber jazz reputation. His star has since faded somewhat, due largely to the general conservatism that's come to dominate jazz, though he has remained a vital creative personality. Abercrombie's style draws upon all manner of contemporary improvised music; his style is essentially jazz-based, but he also displays a more-than-passing familiarity with forms that range from folk and rock to Eastern and Western art musics.

Abercrombie attended Boston's Berklee College of Music from 1962 to 1966. While at Berklee, the guitarist toured with bluesman Johnny Hammond. After relocating to New York in 1969, Abercrombie spent time in groups led by drummers Chico Hamilton and Billy Cobham. It was with the latter's Spectrum group that Abercrombie first received widespread attention. Abercrombie's first album as leader was *Timeless*, a trio album with drummer Jack DeJohnette and keyboardist Jan Hammer. That was followed by *Gateway*, another trio with DeJohnette and bassist Dave Holland replacing Hammer. Abercrombie's subtle and lyrical style is heard to best effect in small, intimate settings, with the recurring *Gateway* trio or as captured in duos with fellow guitarist Ralph Towner.

Abercrombie continued to be active as the 21st century opened, releasing *Cat 'n' Mouse* in 2002, *Class Trip* in 2004, *A Nice Idea* (with pianist Andy LaVerne) in 2005, *Structures* (recorded

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with a single microphone) in 2006, and Third Quartet in 2007. Wait Till You See Her appeared in 2009. ---Chris Kelly, allmusic.com

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