Wolf Krakowski – Goyrl: Destiny (2002)



01. My Father And Mother 02. Dona, Dona 03. I'll Never Steal Again 04. With Eyes Closed 05. A Waste Of Your Tears 06. You Will Be Mine <u>play</u> 07. Spin, Dreydl 08. Deep Pits, Red Clay 09. One Hundred <u>play</u>

10. Let's Just Think About Today 11. Buddy, Have A Smoke With Me 12. Zingarella Personnel: Wolf Krakowski - vocals, acoustic rhythm guitar THE LONESOME BROTHERS: Jim Armenti - guitars, mandolin, violin, balalaika, batar Ray Mason - bass guitar, guitar Tom Shea - drums, guitar Seth Austen - National steel guitar, 12-string guitar, mandola, mandolin Doug Beaumier - pedal steel guitar, dobro Bejegyzés közzététele Fraidy Katz - back-up vocals Daniel Lombardo - percussion Frank London - trumpet Corner Mentos - steel drum Brian Mitchell - accordion, organ Charles Neville - saxophones Jaye Simms, Pamela Smith Salavka - back-up vocals Beverly Woods – tsimbl

After Wolf Krakowski's last outing, the stunning Transmigrations: Gilgul, he and his band, the Lonesome Brothers, took country music to the extreme margins of integration, where it met blues and traditional Yiddish music in a swirl of loss, longing, and celebrations of holiday foods. This time out, Krakowski branches out even further to mine the deep vein of musical cultures from all over the world -- reggae, tango -- without losing his beautifully mystifying meld of traditional Yiddish folk melodies or American country and folk-blues. Had he written his own material this way, we could have called him an original, but Krakowski's upside-down cake of musical mementos is actually the accompanying soundtrack for a bunch of radically rearranged Yiddish songs from the theater, pop, and folk musics.

Composers from the last century, such as Abraham Levin, Itzak Manger, Shmuel Halkin, and others, are represented here in clashing forms where pedal-steel guitars meet steel drums from Trinidad on "Mit Farmakhte Oygin" (With Eyes Closed), or Kurt Weill's German cabaret meets the Italian tarantella and a crunchy electric guitar on "Dona Dona." In fact, the depths are so profound and rich here they defy categorization, other than "great Jewish music." This is the

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accumulated music of the diaspora of a people who have settled in almost every corner of the earth and who cling to their identity despite many attempts to wipe it -- and them -- out. Krakowski's recording, which was produced by Frank London of the Klezmatics, is, consciously or not, a signpost for the way to the future. He uses the past as a way of being inclusive rather than as a tool for revision. This is gorgeous music any way you slice it, moving, deep, sensual, and full of a warm humor to boot. --- Thom Jurek, All Music Guide

I saw Wolf Krakowski, the Lonesome Brothers and his backup singers in concert in Gainesville FL. It was like entering a strange and spooky world - the voices of a language almost never heard anymore, set to bluesy rhythms that rock gently. Now I own this album and the translation in the liner notes are testament to the pain, sadness and regret that are heard so plainly in Krakowski's voice. Songs of regrets over the loss of family, of parents treated badly, a calf on its way to slaughter, a thief who longs to change. Folk songs of enforced poverty and conscription. I love this album, and every time I listen to it, Krakowski's voice seems more expressive. This album is a labor of love, made in defiance against a world that may soon forget the circumstances that produced it, but the spiritual longings are still relevant and beautifully expressed. ---Linda Rice Carlton Abraham "Sandhill Garden", amazon.com

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