

amiina

Puzzle Release Notes

Originally a string quartet formed by four girls at the Reykjavík College of Music in the 1990s, amiina went on to cut its teeth as Sigur Rós' string section for the next decade. Now a sextet after a recent masculine infusion, amiina released its second full length album, *Puzzle*, in September 2010.

amiina's debut album, *Kurr* (2007), was performed on a disparate jumble of instruments – musical saws, kalimbas, music boxes and seemingly anything that could be plucked, bowed or beaten on – resulting in a work that ebbed and flowed “in a strange, powerful place between sophistication and innocence,” according to *The Guardian*.

While the above is equally true of the forthcoming *Puzzle*, this time around the group's sonic palette is broadened by the contributions of drummer Magnús Trygvason Eliassen and electronic artist Kippi Kaninus, permanent members of the group since 2009. Accordingly, the songs on *Puzzle* are more rhythmically rugged than amiina's previous work and feature heavier use of electronics. amiina's long-standing fondness for zero-g melodies and open-minded instrumentation, however, continues.

Track listing:

1. Ásinn (5:30)
2. Over and Again (3:40)
3. What are we waiting for? (5:26)
4. Púsl (6:12)
5. In the Sun (4:17)
6. Mambó (4:56)
7. Sicsak (6:51)
8. Thoka (3:55)



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Puzzle Reviews

“Beautiful, delicate stuff” ****

The Independent

“Nordic chamber folk with delightfully unforced brio” ****

Mojo

“wonderfully concise, interconnected whole that alternates between dream state lullabies and undulating crescendos.”

The Irish Times

“Amiina’s soaring vocal harmonies and their ability to play anything that can be “plucked bowed or beaten” makes for a sound that completely asserts their individuality.”

www.redhotvelvet.co.uk

Kurr Reviews

“In the way that the Cowboy Junkies' classic album *The Trinity Session* arrived in the midst of all the pre-grunge noise and clatter at the death of the 1980s, it almost feels as if there's something quietly revolutionary about this gently overwhelming record. Either way, a revelation.”

David Peschek, **The Guardian**

“Utterly original and deceptively relaxing, *Kurr* is the fullest-sounding minimalist electro pop you’ve ever heard.”

Chris Whibbs, **Exclaim!**

“*Kurr* is a gently rippling stream of enigmatic moods and textures.”

Paul Sullivan, **bbc.co.uk**

“Whatever the permutations, Amiina's fragile magic can't fail to beguile.”

David Sheppard, **BBC Collective**

Hilli (at the Top of the World) 7” review

“A wonderful and remarkable piece of work – 10 out of 10 for it.”

Andy Parker, **the Burton Mail**

“... the wonderful amiina wring a heartbreaking spoken word vocal from much missed Hazlewood over barely-there chimes and percussion. Utterly sublime”

Channel 4 Music

Performance Reviews:

“At the end of the short set, there is a sense that the audience feel privileged to have been present. It is a rare and wonderful thing.”

The Guardian

“Their compositions take time to bloom, but, when they invariably do, the result is breathtaking. ... Songs start with a few violin chords or a laptop drone, building seamlessly into a full orchestral snowstorm, with each musician playing at least four instruments per composition.”

PopMatters for CMJ

“It was a perfect marriage of show and atmosphere—Joe’s Pub is built directly above the subway station at Astor Place, and the audible rumble of trains underneath concertgoers felt like just another instrument Amiina had conjured up to ground its ethereal tone. The show felt suspended between Manhattan and Reykjavík; an experimental, minimalist set list made it impossible not to get caught up in the auditory landscape of ice and solitude.”

The Eye Online

“Had they simply vanished after that or been spirited away by a quartet of swans, it wouldn’t have surprised anyone. As it was, they slipped effortlessly from the stage, leaving only pools of emotion where once people stood.”

BBC – Manchester

“the newer material in tonight’s set hints at a dramatic new direction. ... If the endlessly gorgeous ‘Asinn’ is anything to go by, Amiina are moving towards a sturdier, more rhythmic sound tonight’s magic moments should be enough to tide over most of us for quite some time.”

State Magazine - Ireland

“... they conjure up melancholic postcards of home with compositions that beguile. Listening to the album is one thing, but hearing – and seeing – their music executed live is unforgettable.”

Sinead Gleeson, **The Irish Times**