

ESP

Invisible Din

(SUNN CREATIVE)

Big Country's bagpipe-guitar dominated music is one of the first achievements by much sought after super drummer Mark Brzezicki. His most recent contribution to the history of progressive rock is the impressive Invisible Din. Keyboard-player, guitarist and producer Tony Lowe, the architect of this album, worked with artists like Roger Daltrey, Toyah, John Foxx and the duo David Cross & Robert Fripp. David Cross is one of the guest musicians who colour this story about a childhood event from which the impact is felt long afterwards. From these musicians, probably the best known are John Young, Phil Spalding and Steve Gee, but it's David Jackson who influences the overall sound the most with his flute- and saxophone playing. The traditionally constructed symphonic rock has a melancholic atmosphere, comparable to, 'A Curious Feeling' (1979) by Tony Banks, but due to the prominent, often compelling guitar playing and the melodic as well as furious saxophone-parts there's a clearly sharper edge to ESP. Yet the statelier works dominate, especially because solemn Mellotron-like sounds, vital Moog-riffs and robust Hammond organ passages are frequently embedded in the medium length, multi-part compositions. Obviously, the references to "good old" Genesis are therefore inevitable, but there are also moments that cause dark associations with Änglagård. The somewhat supernatural tale is being sung by Brzezicki, John Beagley and Lowe, and in a way, is comparable with Alan Parson Project, but because their voices fit together very well, this doesn't create that typical rock musical style. Alison Fleming is responsible for the spooky effects; she's not only the co-writer of the lyrics, but she also provides the ever-emerging voice of the ghost. It may be clear that Invisible Din will appeal especially to lovers of old-fashioned thorough concept albums, without sounding dated for a single moment.

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