

Art Block - Brother (live) Reviewed by Michael Lind of The Blindfold Experience

Brother is an amazing song. The beautiful sound of the upright piano lays a natural acoustic foundation that the whole song evolves around. The sound of the kind of piano I grew up playing, such a welcome change to all the grand pianos that everyone has in their back pockets nowadays.

The violin, beautifully played by Maria Kroon adds a vulnerable eeriness to the scaled down arrangement, the counter melody adding movement, while the piano plays an almost drone like chord pattern, beautifully repeating without ever feeling repetitive.

The live recording is also masterfully handled, capturing every nuance of the performance. The vocals soaring above the instruments, delivering heartfelt lyrics, I can feel the strength of the emotions that went into this song. I can almost touch it.

The video is also a piece of art, beautifully lit and filmed in St John's Hackney, the piano exposed to show the hammers and strings as they reverberate.

I had to compare it to the studio recording, which is equally beautiful with a more elaborate arrangement. The full instrumentation is also great, I can picture this being played on the big radio stations, but the nakedness of the live recording is hauntingly beautiful. A beautiful song either way!

Brecon Team Reviewer