

Klaassen & van Dijk - *A Slice Of Dylan*

The voluminous works of Bob Dylan include scores of brilliant compositions that will remain current as long as people have ears. Not just from his master period 1963-68 but scattered amongst his many recordings since *John Wesley Harding*, the classic songs of Bob Dylan demand to be heard one way or another.

This collection of interpretations of some of the finest Dylan songs by two venerable Dutch musicians, singer Michel Van Dijk and musician/producer Marc Klaassen, provides an excellent listening experience rooted deeply in the world of Bob Dylan the composer and singer.

Van Dijk has the perfect voice and approach for this project, which seems to have developed out of Michel and Marc pairing up for some recreational readings of their favorite Dylan numbers and then deciding to make a proper recording of what had become a musically rewarding project.

Michel fully embodies these well-known songs, taking them inside himself and breathing them out in perfect synchronicity with Dylan's original versions but also as splendid little works of musical art themselves.

Klaassen has fashioned equally perfect arrangements to match Van Dijk's vocals and unfolds them with beautiful precision and exquisite musical taste underneath the singing.

The rhythm section deserves special mention: they carry everything with sinew and drive from the opening bars of "Absolutely Sweet Marie" to the closing notes of "Tombstone Blues."

From Dylan's contemporary oeuvre come great readings of "Gotta Serve Somebody," "Not Dark Yet" and "A Sweetheart like You." But everything is worth hearing, and it's well programmed from beginning to end — a nice fat juicy slice of Dylan indeed.

—John Sinclair
New Orleans
February 15, 2015

