REVIEW · JAZZ

Black Is the Colour | Norma Winstone & Kit Downes

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A traditional melody doesn’t necessarily grow old with the passing years; it can happen that, once everything time has piled up around it is removed, it suddenly becomes fragile, exposed and almost new again.

That is what happens in “Black Is the Colour”.

Voice and piano.

Reduction doesn’t mean poverty.

The more the space opens, the more every choice weighs.

Kit Downes accompanies and comments at the same time. His phrases don’t simply lay a carpet under the voice: they open small detours, suggest possibilities and leave silences.

Norma Winstone doesn’t overload the melody.

She lets it keep its age and fragility.

The result is a **rich nakedness**.

Silence itself seems to have a silver-grey colour, and the duo proceeds like someone restoring an old photograph without erasing its scratches and creases.

Those imperfections are the memory.

> ***“Black Is the Colour” suggests that reinventing an ancient melody doesn’t necessarily mean giving it a new voice. Sometimes it’s enough to remove enough noise to finally hear the one it already had.***

LISTEN

Black Is the Colour — Norma Winstone & Kit Downes — is in our playlist Midnight Piano & Blue Notes.

Norma Winstone & Kit Downes. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.

LISTEN FIRST. SELECT SECOND.