

'Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth – Volume 1'

Reviewed by Carl Filby



In my opinion it's always best to own up to not having come across a particular artist before and I must admit that Will Pound and Jenn Butterworth come into that category for me despite their award-winning background. Clearly, I have missed something and need to get out more often!

The album is intriguingly entitled 'Volume 1' which suggests that there is more to come from this duo whose debut recorded collaboration this is, although Jenn guested on Will's album 'A Day Will Come' in 2020. It is nicely presented with a double fold cover with the CD in the middle and notes on all the tunes on one side.

Will has got a background involving the Morris and released an album 'Through the Seasons: A Year in Morris and Folk Dance' back in 2018 and has 3 other albums to his credit including the aforementioned. Jenn is a Scottish-based guitarist who has played on a string of collaborative albums with various ensembles over the last twenty years or so. Both are award-winning musicians and it is easy to see why.

I must admit that when I first received this album my heart sank a bit as I have never been a huge fan of the harmonica and struggled to see it as a lead instrument in its own right, though it has made some very effective contributions to various musical genres. However, having listened to the album a few times now I have come to appreciate that it has a quality of its own, though I'm still not entirely sure why one would wish to hear a fiddle tune played on a harmonica instead. But, of course, it doesn't have to be 'instead' and could be 'as well' and there will be many out there who take the view that these are interesting interpretations of some traditional tunes on top of the newly-penned ones.

One thing is not in doubt. This is an album full of energy and virtuoso playing of the highest quality and the fact that I am not 100% enthusiastic about it is down to my musical tastes more than anything else. I'm sure that many others will think it quite brilliant and I suggest that you give it a listen and decide for yourself. You can also catch the duo on tour during March and gig details are on Will's website <https://willpound.com/live/> or Jenn's where you can find a few of her other gigs <https://www.jennbutterworth.co.uk/#nav-gigs>