



Mara & David Sixteen Secrets



Sixteen Secrets

"Sixteen Secrets" is what this singer/songwriter duo from Dresden call their debut album. But the artistry with which singer Mara von Ferne (from Mannheim) and acoustic guitarist David Sick (from Freiburg) combine voice and guitar to a dynamic unit that guarantees suspense even in the most tender moments, on stage and on studio recordings alike, is no secret at all.

The duo, which has received various awards and honors in international competitions in the past two years, are adept in things rock and pop, folk and Brazil, and raise the art of song and classical guitar to a modern and refreshing sounding level. Baden Powell and Siegfried Schwab, Joni Mitchell and Ani diFranco provide the orientation in Mara & David's emotional and stylistically unlimited playing. Guitarist David Sick plays bass, percussion and harmonies all on just one guitar. His filigree string art needs no stagy chord combinations, no gushing melodramatics to lodge itself irresistibly in your ears. Whether jazz ("Masquerade"), pop ("Complete With Myself"), rock ("Big Bang") or samba ("Just A Game"), David Sick is the well-tempered master of it all.

For Mara von Ferne lyrics and melody form a unique symbiosis. When she declares her independence and self-determination with demure elegance, like in "Complete With Myself", she knows exactly how to play on the finger board of feelings - from very rough to very gentle. In "Big Mama" her playful singsong effuses an irresistible Caribbean flair, and in the ballads "Maybe It's Me" and "Simplicity", to the feathery light sound of the guitar and divinely beautiful singing, Mara sets off on the search for herself.

Love, dancing all night, and intoxicating sunrises as can be heard in the rhythmically pulsating "High" or the fast-moving "Love Is Not A Friend Of Mine", stand opposed to moments of great melancholy and worldly sadness, which in turn unload in the angry "Black" and "Between The Walls".

Mara & David seem to be floating at times, although this duo seems to know exactly where it's heading. 'Sixteen Secrets' reveals enormous strength and maturity which doesn't shy away from showing weakness in the right moment - emotional that is.

Summary

Mara von Ferne and David Sick are "coming out" on their feelings with their debut album 'Sixteen Secrets', that almost exclusively consists of self-penned songs. With excellent vocal artistry and filigree guitar technique this duo effortlessly crosses style borders to sing and play its way into listeners' hearts with irresistible melodies and upbeat folk, pop and funk rhythms.