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Best of the West + Many Places

Anne Mette Iversen

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Review

by Alex Henderson

This two-CD set houses two projects by Danish acoustic bassist Anne Mette Iversen under the same roof. The first, *Best of the West*, was recorded in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2006 and unites Iversen's quartet (which also includes tenor and soprano saxophonist John Ellis, pianist Danny Grissett and drummer Otis Brown III) with 4Corners, a string quartet consisting of Tine Rudloff and Sarah McClelland Jacobsen on violin, Anne Lindeskov on viola and Mats Larsson on cello. And the second CD, *Many Places*, was recorded in New York City (Iversen's adopted home) in 2007 and finds her group playing by itself. Stylistically, *Best of the West* and *Many Places* (both of which were produced by Iversen and offer her compositions exclusively) are fairly different; both are relevant to post-bop, but while *Best of the West* combines post-bop with a strong Euro-classical/chamber music influence, *Many Places'* post-bop is decidedly straight-ahead. And the presence of 4Corners on *Best of the West* does a lot to give that disc its classical-influenced appeal. 4Corners are not simply relegated to the background on *Best of the West*; that string quartet enjoys a genuine dialogue with Iversen's quartet, and the two groups form a cohesive octet that has no problem finding some of the things that post-bop and chamber music have in common. Nonetheless, *Best of the West* is not for classical purists; the performances on *Best of the West* still swing even though they don't swing in the totally straight-ahead way that *Many Places* swings. Both discs are a creative success, and both are enjoyable demonstrations of what Iversen has to offer as an acoustic bassist, composer, producer and arranger.

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Artist

[Anne Mette Iversen](#)

Album

Best of the West + Many Places

Rating

★★★★☆

Label

BJU Records

Genre

Jazz

AMG Album ID

R 1367543

[Corrections to this Entry?](#)

Tracks

	Title	Composer	Time
1	Best of the West/1. North (Allegro)	Iversen	10:10
2	Best of the West/2. South (Adagio)	Iversen	7:03
3	Best of the West/3. West (Menuet)	Iversen	11:24
4	Best of the West/4. North (Presto)	Iversen	8:27
5	Best of the West/5. North West	Iversen	9:36
6	Best of the West/6. North East	Iversen	9:08
7	Cataldo One	Iversen	5:39
8	Cataldo Ballad	Iversen	8:03
9	Out the Atlantic	Iversen	4:34
10	Many Places	Iversen	8:36
11	Sambavian	Iversen	8:58
12	Milo Man	Iversen	5:49
13	2004	Iversen	6:49
14	The Square in Ravello	Iversen	6:08
15	Pjerrot's Smile	Iversen	6:27

Releases

Year	Type	Label	Catalog #
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