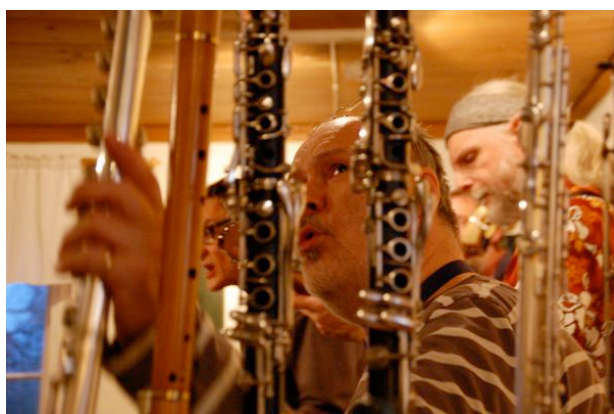


# musicians on the move

# MUSIKCENTRUM ÖST

## Musikgruppen RAA - world music since 1973!

One of Sweden's oldest - still playing - folk bands. After presenting their own mix of world music to a faithful and ever-growing audience on LP:s and CD:s, RAA now recorded an album filled to the brim with music by their inspirators The Incredible String Band - sung in Swedish. This album, and the tour got a huge acclaim from Press and listeners all over Europe



"(---) A bunch of shaggy Swedish musos present an album's worth of Incredible String Band songs translated into their natal tongue. Talk about finding a gap in the market... The ISB suffered a long period of neglect - the '80s and '90s, roughly speaking - during which their extraordinary legacy lay largely forgotten or denied. Not any more. The wyrd/dark/acid/nu-folk generation have done their homework, and the ISB's influence haunts their every crochet. Nor are they afraid to advertise the fact. The ISB are as cool today as they were in the days of love-ins, freak-outs and rave-ups.

Musikgruppen RAA show you twenty good reasons why. ISB songs were slippery, elliptical, often difficult, but dripping with melodies that would break your heart in twain. From Cold Days of February to Maker of Islands, this album leads you lovingly through the treasure house of the ISB songbook. Stellan Sagvik and his pals are well-equipped for the task at hand. Like the ISB, they play between

them a vast inventory of acoustic instruments; unlike the ISB, they play them all with infallible skill. They move effortlessly between styles and idioms, ranging from Robin Hall & Jimmie MacGregor to Berber trance-grooves and beyond.

And in almost every instance they add a new gloss to the songs they cover. Maker of Islands is a smokey, supperclub vibe; Chinese White a petal soft rhapsody; Son of Noah's Brother an oracular tapestry of wave-sounds, wine glasses and a cameo from some ancient diety of the deep. Mad Hatter's Song gets a Balkan make-over, Sleepers Awake is transmuted into Schubertian lieder; How Happy I Am sounds like a cave-full of boisterous trolls bladdered on root-beer and manflesh. Every track brings an unexpected swerve.

RAA range right across the ISB oeuvre, taking in every album - yes, even the notorious clunker No Ruinous Feud. They, naturally enough, tend to favour the classic early albums (the first album through to Wee Tam And The Big Huge) but rather boldly pluck a full four tracks from the ISB's 1974 swansong Hard Rope And Silken Twine. It's a deftly-balanced, carefully-programmed sequence; you won't want to skip a track for fear of missing some witty conceit or flicker of gorgeous melody. How good are the Swedish translations? I haven't a clue, of course. Occasionally there are a few too many syllables in a line, but mostly it sounds as natural as the seasons. The sound of this CD is that of five men who really love their work."

Raymond Greenoaken/Stirrings/UK:

(read more revues on [www.gason.se/raa/rec.html](http://www.gason.se/raa/rec.html) )

### Tracks enclosed on USB:

1. Alice-Suite
2. L'oud
3. Klipper av banden

### Contact and booking through artist:

<http://raa.just.nu>

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