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Tim Smolko

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Tim Smolko : Jethro Tull's Thick as a Brick and A Passion Play: Inside Two Long Songs (Profiles in Popular Music) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jethro Tull's Thick as a Brick and A Passion Play: Inside Two Long Songs (Profiles in Popular Music):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A great readBy spudI thoroughly enjoyed this book. Smolko provides a "scholarly" analysis of TAAB and APP - he is, after all, in academia - that is a worthy treatment of these

great pieces of rock music. If, like me, you've listened to each of these albums hundreds of times, and know each measure note for note, you will find Smolko's musical knowledge - and how he applies it to the great music of Ian and the band - very enjoyable. There is less lyrical analysis than I expected, but Smolko mentions up front that it isn't his intent to try to decipher every wordplay Ian makes. I think APP is far and away the greatest rock album ever created; however, Smolko is convincing in his arguments about how TAAB's flow and re-creation of familiar themes make for a more enjoyable listening experience. If nothing else, reading this book will make you want to bring out the old LPs and listen to them soup-to-nuts. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Thesis for The Obsessed - Else you might want to sit this one out By D C Gooddy I started listening to Jethro Tull back in about 1984 and listened to TAAB on tape so able to hear it on an ostensibly endless loop whilst I could sit near motionless playing computer games. During this time I pondered the lyrics and spent hours (without the benefit of the fanfold newspaper lyrics or even the internet) deciphering the words and carefully noting them down, So I guess you could say I was quite obsessed with the whole project - and therefore was delighted with the reprise that was TAAB2 along with the accompanying TAAB12 tour - but I think you would have to be to buy this book. It is very well written and researched and is extensively referenced throughout - although I would in places query the validity of some of these citations. I think Mr Anderson himself (under the guise of Adrian Stone-Mason - so nearly a great anagram but not quite) was rather puzzled by the whole concept and might acknowledge that during the writing process of TAAB he wasn't thinking 'if I put this piece here I need to follow with this here and then repeat in lydian mode at points 5, 7, 9 etc...' or then maybe he was...or maybe it just sounded right. But if you have a modicum of musical savvy, really like the songs TAAB and PP then this is probably a worthy tomb to nimbly pick your way through during the cold and dark winter months... Dr Daren Gooddy Oxfordshire 16/12/2013 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Way Over My Head, But Interesting Analysis/Comparison By Paul Weter Jethro Tull's "Thick As A Brick" in 1972 was my first rock concert. I knew little about the group, but I enjoyed the show. A few days later, at a high school graduation party, somebody played TAAB. Kind of catchy, I thought, hearing it the second time. (Rock concerts had awful sound in those days). Thus, I became a Jethro Tull fanatic for 40+ years. It's great that somebody took the time to look deeply into TAAB and "A Passion Play". The history behind the music and the recording is fascinating. The analysis of the music itself is over my head, but I appreciate the effort. The author is honest about both albums. APP is enjoyable in small doses, but gets dreary after a while. This book explains why. TAAB has always been Tull's masterpiece, and this book gives it the credit it deserves. He even writes about the original tours of the albums. Yes, I remember the band posing as roadies in white jumpsuits. And the phone ringing. And John Evan looking like a deranged ice cream man at the keyboards. And the APP intro film, when Ian Anderson jumped through a cut in the screen to take the stage. The music of Jethro Tull has always been more interesting than most rock/pop music. Now I finally understand why.

Since the 1960s, British progressive rock band Jethro Tull has pushed the technical and compositional boundaries of rock music by infusing its musical output with traditions drawn from classical, folk, jazz, and world music. The release of *Thick as a Brick* (1972) and *A Passion Play* (1973) won the group legions of new followers and topped the Billboard charts in the United States, among the most unusual albums ever to do so. Tim Smolko explores the large-scale form, expansive instrumentation, and complex arrangements that characterize these two albums, each composed of one continuous song. Featuring insights from Ian Anderson and in-depth musical analysis, Smolko discusses the band's influence on popular culture and why many consider *Thick as a Brick* and *A Passion Play* to be two of the greatest concept albums in rock history.

"[D]elves deep into the past in this new work to bring us the story of these two albums as well as a painstaking analysis that allows us to see not only the particular genius of Tull but the important role both records played in shaping '70s rock.... Smolko's passion for the subject matter and ability to wax enthusiastic about the smallest details makes this volume worth reading.... A volume that excites with its intelligence and sense of observation, two of the many qualities that will actually find you giving this book more than one read."

PopMatters "Tim Smolko's book makes a significant contribution to the literature in popular music studies and musicology. Furthermore, it is an important addition to the available literature on Jethro Tull, which despite their commercial success and longevity has not been rewarded as of yet with sustained analytical study." Kevin Holm-Hudson, author of *Genesis and The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway* "Rather than offering yet another biography, Smolko takes a musicological as well as a cultural approach to just two of Tull's albums [hellip;] an endorsement from such a notable authority [as Adrian Stone-Mason] surely makes this worth reading for those of a scholarly bent." *Rock n' Reel* "Tim Smolko has written a book that no fan of Jethro Tull should be without, with his analysis of *Thick as a Brick* and *A Passion Play* representing the most comprehensive yet of the music of this seminal band. His consideration of similarities between the structure of Tull's concept albums and Monty Python skits is especially original, and opens up a valuable avenue of inquiry into the relationship between sixties and seventies rock and contemporary visual media." Edward Macan, author of *Rocking the Classics: English Progressive Rock and the Counterculture* About the Author Tim Smolko holds master's degrees in Musicology and in Library Science and is

monographs original cataloger at the University of Georgia.