

SVER

*Reverie*

Folkhall Records FHR002CD

Understated brilliance from this Swedish/Norwegian group, their second album puts them on the folk side of the folk-rock spectrum, but with firm backing from Adam Johansson on guitar and Jens Linell on drums, plus a guest spot or two by bassist Erik Ronström, there's enough rock here to sink a battleship - perhaps the Tirpitz, sunk in Norway 75 years ago. On the subject of anniversaries, *Reverie* marks 10 years since the formation of Sver, fronted by formidable fiddlers Anders Hall and Olav Luksengård Mjelva together with button-box boss Leif Invar Ranøien.

Most of this album was written by the band, and their music ranges from the relatively gentle *Annas Vals* to the pounding hangover anthem *Batch 15* commemorating a painful lesson. *Boot'n Rally* has an old-timey feel, a real front-porch toe-tapper, and *Lille Grisen* by Norwegian musician Sjur Viken is similarly backwoods. After a pair of traditional-sounding polskas by Hall and Myelva, things get funkier on Johansson's *E14*. The great Norwegian fiddler Andreas Bjorkås wrote *Lassi*, a very modern piece with an insistent rhythm and more than a hint of troll music in the melody. The title track is more relaxed, with harmonic fiddle effects and a delicate accompaniment, switching to accordion for that extra push. *Reverie* ends with another gentle piece, inspired by TV's *Love Boat* - a blend of American and Scandinavian influences, tender yet poignant, underlining the versatility of this talented group and providing a stylish ending to a very fine CD.

[www.sverfolk.com](http://www.sverfolk.com)

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