

WORLD MUSIC

FINLAND

WD-FI1 Finland 2000

SILBABIEDJU: SILVER CAVE

WD – Traditional – Folk – Avant-garde – Electronica – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: (Traditional) Wimme SAARI & Matti WALLENIUS

Arr: Tapani Rinne & Pauli Saastamoinen

Perf: **WIMME**

Wimme Saari (vocal)
Matti Wallenius (synthesizer & guitar)
Tapani Rinne (clarinet)
Pauli Saastamoinen (keyboards)
Jari Kokkonen (bass)
Abdissa "Mamba" Asseffa (African drum)

Prod: Tapani Rinne

Prod. Co: Rockadillo Records; Finland

Rec. Co: Aanittamo & Finnox Studios, Helsinki

Time: 4:19

A. **CD:** CUGU

Rockadillo ZENCD 2067 (Tk 2)

B. German **CD:** CUGU

Westpark 87078 (Tk 2)

C. American **CD:** CUGU

North Side NSD 6048 (Tk 2)

Notes: "Wimme Saari employs the *joik*, as the singing of the Sami (Lapp) people is known. It's essentially wordless and impressionistic, conveying a sense of something...[the] guttural voice recalls Native American singing." (Nickson, n.d.) Another critic writes – "Consider 'Silbabiedju,' whose circling woodwinds, percussion, synthesizer and light-fingered guitar weave a haunting backdrop for Wimme's ancestral incantation." (Stone, n.d.) Yet another music critic points out that this album is a "grafting of traditional *joiking* vocals onto cutting-edge electronica ... But it's a shaky business when his quartet leads him too far from the recognizable chanted vocables of the Arctic Sami people formerly known as the Lapps. The collaboration works best when *joiks* that seem to bubble up from the earth and erupt through Wimme Saari's elastic voice are yolked to moody techno environments, like the dripping stalactites of "Silbabiedju" (The Cave)." (Tarte 2000)

Harri Röpötti, writing for the Finnish Music Information Centre, explained – "Wimme uses traditional vocal and throat techniques and knows whole entities of traditional yoik songs that don't, however, work all that well with instruments. The music he makes with his band is something new and different, sometimes called free yoik by people who are familiar with jazz terminology. Wimme has said that his yoiks are guided by colours and patterns which enter his mind. Although it is difficult for an outsider to tell his yoiks apart from the traditional ones, old yoikers have commended Wimme for creating a brand new style."

The photo by Juho Huttunen shows (l. to r.) J. Kokkonen, W. Saari, and M. Wallenius.

A guttural, mumbled chant backed by an avant-garde blend of clarinet, synthesizer, and African drum. It starts with electronic buzzing and an easy walking African drumbeat behind an intense chanting voice. Then some clarinet notes and more chanting, which gradually rises to higher levels. Following a short



keyboard-clarinet bridge, the original voice returns groaning and rumbling, joined by another voice, then the chant climbs higher and higher with emotion until the final buzzing fade out.

Ref: Nickson, Cris n.d., Review, Wimme, Cugu, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Römpötti, Harri 2004, Wimme, [Finnish Music Information Centre](#)

Stone, Michael n.d., Wimme, Cugu, [Popmatters](#)

Tarte, Bab 2000, Sundanese Sunrise, *The Beat Magazine*, v. 19, n. 6, [Technobeat](#)

Wimme, Cugu, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

caveinspiredmusic.com