

# CD: Jah Wobble & Keith Levene – Yin & Yang

John Lydon's former Public Image Ltd colleagues belatedly reunite to take up where they left off

by [Kieron Tyler](#) | Sunday, 11 November 2012

0 Share |



Jah Wobble & Keith Levene's 'Yin & Yang': sweary

It's been a bumper year for fans of Public Image Ltd. John Lydon took his new version of the band out on the road and issued the *This is PiL* album. His former PiL colleagues Jah Wobble and Keith Levene reworked the landmark 1979 PiL album *Metal Box* live, as *Metal Box in Dub*. Now, the duo have re-cemented their relationship with *Yin & Yang*, their first new work together since co-writing Gary Clail's "Beef (How Low Can You Go?)" in 1990.

The motives for these reunions and restatements of ownership are rendered moot by the forceful, and sometimes perplexing, *Yin & Yang*, an album which will certainly please the initiated and may even convert a few newbies. In the press release, Wobble says "I reunited with Keith a couple of years ago. He was off the smack and keen to play again". The non-playing interregnum has effected some changes to Levene's guitar playing. Rather than the borderline atonal style which skittered through and plugged any sonic gaps in the first two PiL albums, it has broadened out, taking on a more rhythmic role.

Much is familiar on (the often sweary) *Yin & Yang*. Levene's fractured arpeggios on the satirical "Jags & Staffs" are recognisably his, as is the spidery squall on the instrumental "Back on the Block", which also features an archetypal rumbling bass from Wobble. *Yin & Yang* is not solely a revisitation to the pair's pasts, though, and much of what is new is totally unpredictable. "Strut" meshes stabbing, choppy acoustic guitar with a rolling bass pattern and snappy drums that are almost country; Wobble has looked to [Miles Davis](#) by bringing in Sean Corby's trumpet. But what will attract most attention is their ethereal, wobbly, dub- and Bollywood-inflected version of [George Harrison's](#) "Within You Without You". Wobble and Levene may be yin to the other's yang but, based on this, their partnership has a seamlessness which belies the album's title.

## Add Comment

[Post a comment](#)

“The motives for the reunion are rendered moot by the forceful, and sometimes perplexing, 'Yin & Yang'”

## rating

## buy

Find Jah Wobble & Keith Levene's Yin & Yang on Amazon

Download Jah Wobble & Keith Levene's Yin & Yang from iTunes

## related articles

CD: Public Image Ltd - This Is PiL

Public Image Limited, Heaven

Punk Britannia: Post-Punk (1978-1981), BBC Four

Punk on Show: Was England Dreaming?

## explore topics

New music  
indie  
reggae  
CDs/DVDs  
punk

## more new music

Charley Pride, IndigO2/ Lucinda Williams, Royal Festival Hall

Emeli Sandé, Royal Albert Hall

CD: One Direction - Take Me Home

Melody Gardot, Barbican Hall

Reissue CDs Weekly: Bill Withers, Massive Attack, Django Reinhardt, Diablos Del Ritmo

[more...](#)

## more from kieron tyler

CD: Céline Dion – Sans Attendre

Efterklang with the Northern Sinfonia/John Grant, Barbican

Horror Europa with Mark Gatiss, BBC Four

## share this article

Share |

## latest in today



Charley Pride, IndigO2/ Lucinda Williams Royal Festival Hall...

The rough and the smooth of country music sh weekend in London



I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, ITV  
Welcome return of the celebrity-baiting show



Emeli Sandé, Royal Albert Hall  
Double Olympian unleashes her medal-winnin larynx



Elliott Carter Remembered  
American composer who went on writing masterpieces in his eleventh decade



Interview: 10 Questions for 'Margin Call' director...  
Chandor's next project is a dialogue-free action with Robert Redf...



Amour  
Michael Haneke's latest is emotionally woundin and predictably brilliant

## free newsletter

Get a weekly digest of our critical highlights in your int each Thursday - free!

Simply enter your email address in the box below

[Sign up for our newsletter](#)

[View previous newsletters](#)

