



Nils Petter Molvær
Sidsel Endresen
Arve Henriksen

HOME | MP3 STORE | REVIEWS | ARTICLES | MUSICIANS | PHOTOS | FORUMS

Login | MY AAJ Signup

Intro | News | Free Daily MP3s | Videos | Podcasts | Upcoming Releases | Guides

AAJ pro

AAJ Search Advanced

Contact Us | Advertise | For Contributors

JAZZ NEAR YOU

Calendar - Venues
Teachers - Musicians

Rock Goes to College

[Bruford](#) | [Winterfold Records](#) (2007)

SHOWCASE TITLES



Return To You
Sara Gazarek



Next To You
Teraesa Vinson



Spy Music
Kayle Brecher



Don't Move
Natasha Miller



The Sky Is Blue and Sometimes Cries
Lisa Markley



Scenarios
Andy Milne and Gregoire Maret

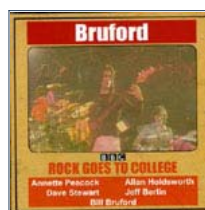


Never Open With A Ballad
Jim Pearce

-- All Artists --

By [John Kelman](#) [comments](#) [print](#) [email](#) [license](#)

The DVD release of *Rock Goes to College* (Winterfold, 2006), by drummer Bill Bruford's late-1970s band Bruford, was greeted with considerable excitement. Featuring Hatfield and the North/National Health keyboardist Dave Stewart and über-bassist Jeff Berlin, the group only played a couple of live dates with original guitarist Allan Holdsworth, who left shortly afterwards and was replaced by "The Unknown" John Clarke. One of those performances was recorded by the BBC for television broadcast and, while it's a scant 42-minutes long, it represents a high water mark for the British progressive/fusion scene of that time—or, for that matter, any other.



In response to demand for an audio-only version, *Rock Goes to College* makes its appearance on CD and, naturally, possesses the same strengths and weaknesses of the DVD. The sound is good, not great, but certainly on a par with (or slightly better than) *The Bruford Tapes* (Winterfold, 1979), culled from a U.S. radio show performance with Clarke on guitar.

Singer Annette Peacock, who appeared on Bruford's debut, *Feels Good to Me* (Winterfold, 1978), is the weak link in a very strong chain. While her sultry, up-front-in-the-mix vocals on *Feels Good to Me* provided a distinctive complexion and vibe, here her hit-and-miss pitch detracts from the near-perfection of the rest of the group. The advantage of the audio CD is that one needn't watch her unsuccessful attempts at on-stage theatrics.

Peacock aside, what both versions of *Rock Goes to College* demonstrate is that, while the music is tightly structured, this was still a band with serious improvisational chops. It was also a group with a collective identity that, while capitalizing on the remarkable strengths of each member, became something more than the sum of its parts when coming together.

Holdsworth's remarkable speed and visceral legato lines had already gained considerable attention by the time of this recording. As years passed, his perfectionist tendencies would sometimes get in the way, but here he's less deliberative and far more exciting—characteristics that have thankfully returned to his playing on the recent *Allan Holdsworth and Alan Pasqua Featuring Chad Wackerman and Jimmy Haslip* (Altitude, 2007) DVD.

Stewart, whose unique harmonic approach was no small influence on Holdsworth, would soon leave the progressive community, and his innovative work here suggests his early departure was all the more a shame. Berlin, who continues to record infrequently (most recently *Aneurhythms*, M.A.J., 2007), remains an equally innovative, albeit largely overlooked, player.

But here, on a set culled from *Feels Good to Me* and its follow-up, *One of a Kind* (Winterfold, 1979), Bruford—the group and the drummer—is in top form. At a time when boundaries existed to be broken, Bruford was blending complex writing with muscular soloing and art rock intentions. The audio release of *Rock Goes to College* is an important document of that time permitting enjoyment of the music away from one's television set or PC.

Visit [Bruford](#) on the web.
[Bruford](#) at All About Jazz.



SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT



Loose Wig Jazz Quartet
New CD: Velvet Coup


FREE MP3 DOWNLOADS

1
PROMOTE YOUR CD

2
DRIVE WEB TRAFFIC

3
SELL YOUR MUSIC

ALL ABOUT JAZZ
PROMOTIONAL
SERVICES



Track listing: Sample and Hold; Beelzebub; The Sahara of Snow (Part One); The Sahara of Snow (Part Two); Forever Until Sunday; Back to the Beginning; Adios a la Pasada (Goodbye to the Past); 5G.

Personnel: Allan Holdsworth: guitar; Dave Stewart: keyboards; Jeff Berlin: bass; Bill Bruford: drums, percussion; Annette Peacock: vocals (6, 7).

Style: [Fusion/Progressive Rock](#) | Published: May 07, 2007

 [reader comments](#)

 [FEED](#)

With the realization that there will always be more music coming at him than he can keep up with, AAJ Senior Editor John Kelman wonders why anyone would think that jazz is dead or dying... [More about John...](#)

More Articles by John Kelman

- [The Spaces in Between](#)
- [Solo in Mondsee](#)
- [Starflowers](#)
- [String Unit](#)
- [For](#)
- [Floratone](#)
- [Kalimba](#)

More Recent Reviews



Tellef Ogrim
[Wagon 8](#)



Amanda Monaco 4
[Intention](#)



The Ed Palermo Big Band
[Take Your Clothes Off When You Dance](#)



Chris Laurence Quartet
[New View](#)



Andrew Hill
[Compulsion!!!!](#)



The Allman Brothers Band
[Boston Common 8/17/71](#)

CURRENT SPONSORS

- AAJ CD Showcase
- AAJ MP3 Download Store
- Anzic Records
- Down to the Bone
- Hat Hut Records
- Jaggo Records
- Louis Prima
- Mack Avenue
- Punkt Festival 2007
- Terje Lie: Traveler
- Tuscany Jazz/Wine Travel
- Tuscany Jazz/Wine Travel

DATA FEEDS

Place AAJ content on your website!

[AAJ Live](#) | [RSS](#)

ART GALLERY



Featured Visual Artist
Scott Friedlander

GLOBAL COVERAGE

Related Articles

- [Bruford: Rock Goes to College](#)
- [Bill Bruford: The Bruford Tapes & Gradually Going Tornado](#)
- [Bill Bruford: Feels Good to Me and One of a Kind](#)
- [Bill Bruford: No Random Act](#)

powered by [FreshNotes](#)

CD Review Search

Artist Name

Album Title

Record Label

Author

Most Read CD Reviews

[Last 30 Days](#) | [All Time](#)

Most Read Articles

[Last 30 Days](#) | [All Time](#)



Jasmin
Brooklyn Jam Street

[More](#) | [Recent](#) | [Top](#)

SHOP @ AAJ



Jazz Poster Art

[MP3 Downloads](#) | [Poster Art](#)

[Ads by Google](#)

Tanglewood Jazz Festival

Aug. 31-Sept. 2.
All-star Jazz acts
resonate the
Berkshires!

tanglewoodjazzfestival.org

[Advertise on this site](#)



[Ads by Google](#)

Try Rhapsody Music Free

Listen to Millions of
Full Songs No Per
Song Download Fees

www.Rhapsody.com

[Advertise on this site](#)

Featured Stories



[Rick Parker: Finding His Own Space](#)

Avishai Cohen featuring **Lionel Loueke**
@ **JOE'S PUB** THURSDAY **AUG 16** 7:30pm 425 Lafayette Street, NYC



Privacy Policy | Dedicated Servers All material copyright © 2007 All About Jazz and/or contributing writers/visual artists. All rights reserved.

