

## 2 Foot Yard - Nattjazz (Bergen, Norway)

### Strøken bakoversveis

Fiolin, cello og trommer - finnes det noe tyngre?

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"6 out of 6"

It doesn't have to be the most famous band that delivers the best musical experience. This year's best concert performance up until now has been without a doubt the unknown American trio, *2 Foot Yard*. Friday night, the band even got the usual chatty audience members to hush in awe for an hour and a half.

*2 Foot Yard* is the name of the solo project from violinist and vocalist Carla Kihlstedt, a very experienced musician having worked with Tom Waits and Mike Patton, but it is the interplay with cellist Marika Hughes and drummer Shahzad Ismaily that makes this a powerful power package. Three sympathetic musicians on the same artistic and political wave length.

Both Kihlstedt and Hughes have a classical background, but thanks to a childhood with rock and pop they are able to master the art of improvisation. The dynamics are as brilliant as the musicians - the art of not playing becomes as important as the opposite.

The evening transcended any musical genre. A strange mix of catchy pop songs with hit potential, beautiful ballads with gypsy connotations, contemporary classical music, traditional folk music melodies - and everything else. Here were power ballads that a lot of heavy metal bands would kill to get their hands on. Raw and heavy parts where the violin and cello appeared with a roughness that would make any heavy rocker appear as a little kitten. Bjørk-like vocals and bass solos. And an interpretation of a folk song taken from the Carter Family that could make the most thick-skinned cry.

That Nattjazz was the venue must have been coincidental. What *2 Foot Yard* presents could just as well be presented at the Bergen International Festival or the Bergenfest. Hopefully the three sympathetic musicians will return soon. I have a suspicion that what they showed in this one and a half hour was just a fraction of their full potential.

Review by Einar Engelstad

*translated from original text*

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2 Foot Yard

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