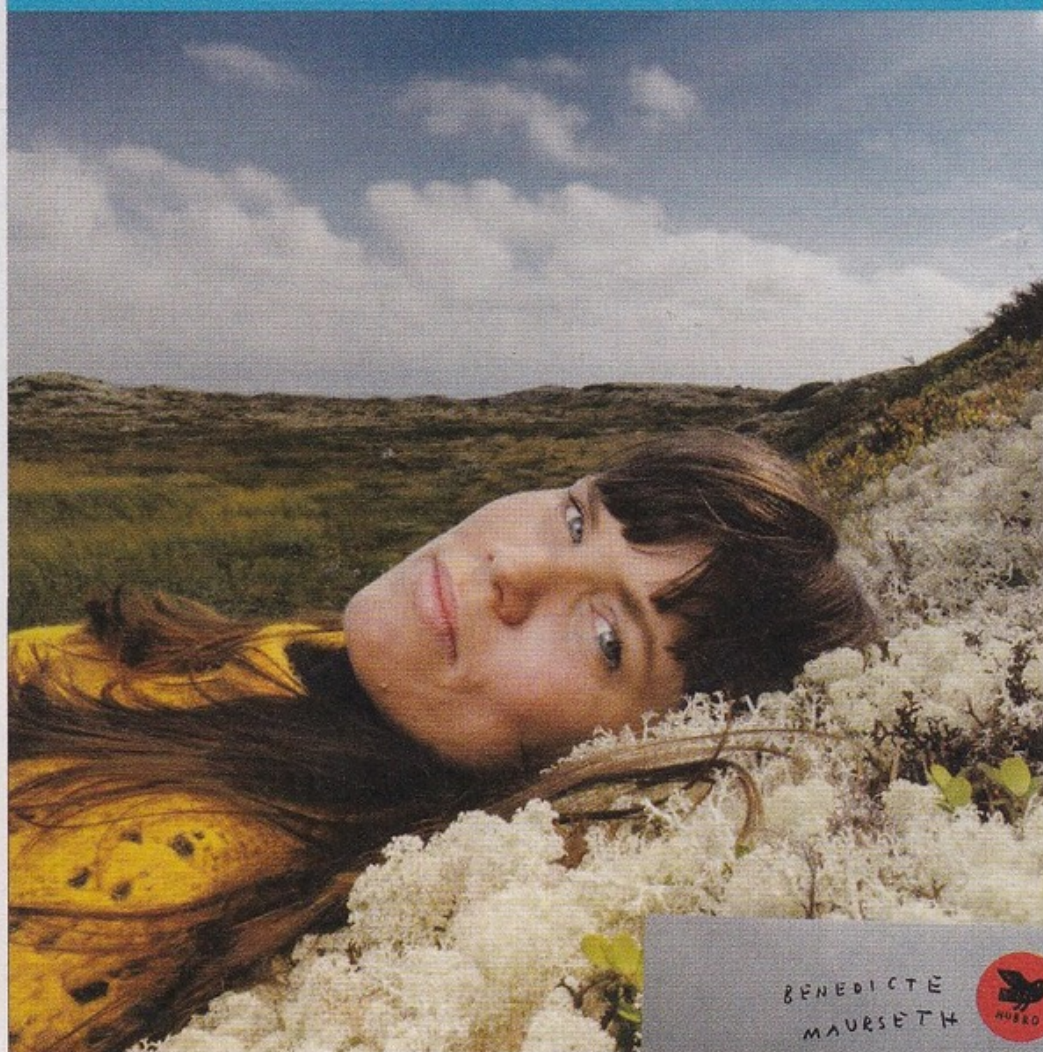


FOLK

BY JIM WIRTH



Benedicte Maurseth

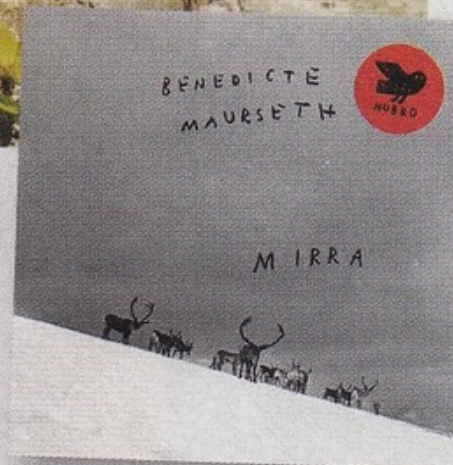


Mirra

HUBRO. CD/DL/LP

Deer diary: Hardanger ace runs with the caribou.

Stalking that sexy hinterland between trad folk, *musique concrète* and ECM aromatherapy jazz, Norwegian fiddler Benedicte Maurseth won a Nordic Music Prize for 2022's *Hárr* – a magical nature walk through her native Hardangervidda plateau. A sequel of sorts, *Mirra* is a wordless musical exploration of that landscape from the viewpoint of the native reindeer. Those who know The Residents' hokey concept album *Eskimo* may raise a weary eyebrow, but *Mirra* (a local dialect word describing how reindeer circle for warmth and to ward off predators) feels chillingly soulful, clacking antlers and reindeer grunts giving way to head shop mood music (*Sommarbeite*), elegiac sawing noises (*Nysnø over reinlav*) and snowy reverie (*Simleflokk under månen*). Fans of Robert Wyatt's *Rock Bottom*, mid-'70s Bert Jansch and Popol Vuh's *Aguirre* soundtrack will get the idea. A thing of wild beauty.



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