

# Jazzwise (GB)

## April 2018

ACT

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### **Janne Mark with Arve Henriksen**

Pilgrim

ACT 9735-2 ★★★

**Janne Mark (v), Arve Henriksen (t),  
Henrik Gunde Pedersen (p, celeste),  
Esbjörn Eyermand (b), Jesper Uno Kofoed  
(d) and Gustaf Ljunggren (lap steel).  
Rec. May 2017**

The Jutland-born vocalist Janne Mark's musical background is in religious song and since 2000 she's been a regular singer at Brorson's church in the centre of Copenhagen, the city in which she resides. This is what has shaped *Pilgrim*, a set of mostly original hymns written and rearranged by Mark for a quintet that draws from the gently ambient areas of Scandinavian folk, jazz, country and rock. The band is joined by the trumpeter Arve Henriksen, one of the Nordic area's most unique artists, whose fragile, deliciously ethereal flute-like sound has graced some of the most striking ambient-electronica and world-jazz improv experiments from Scandinavia over previous decades. Mark utilises the unique Henriksen voice in such a way that he's close to being her singing partner; it has a lingering presence that's very much felt throughout the recording. The yearning trumpet improvisations and supporting melodies resonate persuasively with Mark's warm, contemporary folky delivery. The band could do with more kinds of tempo other than slow-to-medium, but the gentle trance-like harmonious quality to the recording is nevertheless very well sustained throughout. **Selwyn Harris**