

REVIEWS

ANNA CALVI

**One Breath**

[Domino]

Anna Calvi likes drama. The English singer-songwriter and guitarist's debut album rang out with swampy, sultry epics that waxed and waned like a gibbous moon: big, bold and filled with anticipation and wonder. For the follow-up, produced by John Congleton, Calvi went in a different direction. On "Sing to Me," the pace and pulse recall "Desire," a pivotal song from Calvi's debut, but here, she adds more space. Calvi doesn't run riot with her melodious moans, and centerpiece "Carry Me Over" features complex instrumentation and broad menace. Overall, Calvi edits her retro melodrama and florid style and arrives at a more concise, contemporary sound. "Tristan" is almost a pop song, albeit one with a gothy Siouxsie Sioux swing, and the fun, dark "Love of My Life" has an angular post-punk bounce. Instead of revisiting the moody tension of her debut, she expands its feeling of constantly standing on a precipice of change, echoing the turmoil of life itself. —Linda Laban

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