

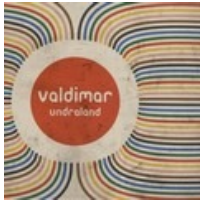
Valdimar is Icelandic comfort food | Three Imaginary Girls

Saturday, November 29 2014, 7:27 PM

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Valdimar is Icelandic comfort food



While everyone else was away at Sasquatch! or SIFFing it up, my festival activity was limited to a couple of sets at the Folklife kindieband stage, interrupted by frequent trips to the bathroom. So I spent some time this weekend online, indulging my love of all things Icelandic. Digging through the Iceland Airwaves festival lineup, I stumbled on a video by the masked hip-hop artist **Gabriel**. Hip hop in Iceland? With masks? There's a story there, but this isn't it. On that hip hop video, there was a guest vocalist named Valdimar

Gudmundarsson, who really caught my ear.

All this wind up has been leading to his band, **Valdimar**. They aren't on the Airwaves lineup (yet) but I think they should be.

Valdimar released their debut album, *Undraland*, which means 'wonderland,' late in 2010 to **rave reviews in Reykjavik, but no one seems to have noticed outside of Iceland** yet. The lyrics are in Icelandic, so I have no idea what the songs are about, but the music is a relaxed, mellow kind of pop that's just perfect for afternoons of chilling out. Sometimes that accessibility strays a little too close to the tepid adjectives of easy listening, but then they bust out the brass to keep it interesting. The whole album **sounds so familiar** without sounding exactly like anyone in particular. There's some Radiohead in there, some vintage Peter Gabriel, a little David Bazan, and maybe... is that some Paul Simon?

My favorite song of theirs is the title track, which has a little more of an edge to it.

If you want to check out the rest of the album, you can stream it for free on [Gogoyoko](#), where you can also buy the download.

Thursday, May 31, 2012

by [Imaginary Gemma](#)

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