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More Beautiful Than Death

Artist [Either/Orchestra](#)

Album Title More Beautiful Than Death

Date of Release Mar 21, 2000

AMG Rating ★★★★★

Genre [Jazz](#)

Styles [Avant-Garde Jazz](#), [Experimental Big Band](#)

Time 73:56

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AMG REVIEW



For their first album in four years, a renewed and re-personnelled Either/Orchestra dips into their own archives and also into the far reaches of ethnomusicology. Along with a half-dozen compositions by founder/leader/sax man [Russ Gershon](#), the E/O have arranged a trio of popular tunes from Ethiopia into a disjointed suite which runs throughout the album. In the [Brubeck](#)-ian first installment, "Amiak Abet Abet," [Gershon](#) and longtime E/O trumpeter [Tom Halter](#) take vocal roles amid elephantine brass blasts. "Musicawi Silt" is a Hammond-tinged noir-y polyrhythm created by the band through a year of live performance. [Gershon](#) takes the lyrical line again for "Feker

Aydelmwey," but the rhythm line is much more dramatic and responsive than in the other parts. The album's epic title track is more than true to its name, sweeping in with [Gil Evans](#) horns and tumbling drums then cooling to a slow swing. The second song, "Number Three," is a funky doubled-bass number, while "Breaktime for Dougo" has a distinctive calypso flair. A high low point of the album is "All Those SOBs," a sluggishly bluesy tribute to the wonderful people who make the music industry what it is. And it all ends up with the appropriately titled ninth track, "Eighth Wonder," a slowly twirling combo of "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" with a touch of [Little Stevie Wonder](#). — **Matthew Robinson**

SONGS/TRACKS

1. [Amiak Abet Abet](#) (Sissay) - 10:01
2. [Number Three](#) (Gershon) - 10:22
3. [More Beautiful Than Death](#) (Gershon) - 10:44
4. [Musicawi Silt](#) (Beyene) - 6:21
5. [Breaktime for Dougo](#) (Gershon) - 8:37
6. [All Those Sobs](#) (Gershon) - 8:56

ARTISTS:

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- [Tony Campise](#)

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7. [Slow Mambo for J.J.](#) (Gershon) - 4:53
8. [Feker Aydelmwey](#) (Mesfin) - 7:08
9. [The Eighth Wonder](#) (Gershon) - 6:54

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CREDITS

- [Charlie Kohlase](#) - Sax (Baritone)
- [Russ Gershon](#) - Sax (Soprano), Sax (Tenor), Producer, Mixing, Cover Design
- [Tom Halter](#) - Trumpet, Flugelhorn
- [Mike Peters](#) - Engineer
- [Jonathan Wyner](#) - Mastering
- [Matthew Ellard](#) - Engineer, Mixing
- [Eric Pfeiffer](#) - Photography, Visual Consultant
- [Harvey Wirht](#) - Drums
- [Atemu Aton](#) - Bass
- [Miguel Zenón](#) - Sax (Alto)
- [Rick McLaughlin](#) - Bass
- [Scott Eisenberg](#) - Engineer
- [Peter Halter](#) - Photography
- [Joel Yennior](#) - Trombone
- [Colin Fisher](#) - Trumpet, Flugelhorn
- [Vicente Lebron](#) - Percussion, Bongos, Conga

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Some of Both

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
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| Dense, Thick | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Light, Free, Transparent | <input type="radio"/> | N/A |
| Harsh, Aggressive | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Gentle, Peaceful | <input type="radio"/> | N/A |
| Cold, Firm | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Warm, Soft | <input type="radio"/> | N/A |
| Bright, Dynamic, Ornate | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Low Key, Calm, Melancholic | <input type="radio"/> | N/A |

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- Iain Ballamy: [Bal Man](#)

STYLES:



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