

FOLK

Fredo Viola

The Turn

(Because, £10.76)



WITH a name like Fredo Viola, becoming a folk musician who cites his inspirations as Bartók, Stravinsky and Shostakovich was inevitable. But that's the only predictable thing about the Woodstock-based Viola, who makes a sort of modern classical music without using a single real instrument. Opening track The Turn (A Pagan Lament) layers vocal harmonies to create an effect that's half folk round, half Gregorian chant. Things get more surreal from there, as bewitching electronic twinkles are added to sounds that conjure thoughts of maypoles and magic. Viola describes his music as "Beach Boys meets Sigur Rós", suggesting he's afraid of being relegated to the more obscure corners of record shops. The truth is, though, he's an unpigeonholeable one-off.

AMBER COWAN

