

JAZZ

TIM GARLAND
Libra (Global Mix)

★★★★☆



CAN jazz improvisation be wedded to formal classical orchestration? Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and Gunther Schuller all thought so, but it takes classically trained European player-composers like multi-reedman Tim Garland and pianist Gwilym Simcock to take this dangerous liaison all the way. They and drummer Asaf Sirkis blend beautifully with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a double album built around Garland's Frontier Suite. Now on UK tour (including Kings Place on 6 March), the music features US guitarist Paul Bollenback on three tracks and a sumptuous version of Bill Evans's Blue in Green.

JACK MASSARIK