

jazzwise

Tim Garland

Libra

Global Mix GM2CD03 | ★ ★ ★ ★

Tim Garland (ts; ss; b cl), Gwilym Simcock (p), Asaf Sirkis (perc) plus guests John Hollenbeck (g) and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Rec. 2008

This exemplary two-CD set is the one of the finest achievements in British jazz, and thus European jazz, for some considerable time. In both its conception and execution Garland has produced a minor masterpiece. His own playing, with exceptional support from Simcock and Sirkis on the live set especially (which comprises the second CD entitled 'Moon'), is lucid, ingeniously melodic and refreshingly free from pattern running which has become the bane of so much that passes for improvisation today. The centrepiece of the album is the four part 'Frontier' suite (on the first CD entitled 'Sun'), featuring the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Lighthouse Trio, where Garland gives clear evidence – and let's say this clearly – why he is regarded as one of the finest young composers and

arrangers, irrespective of genre, in the country. This alone should be cause for celebration, but the fact that he is also one of our finest jazz musicians simply adds to the lustre of the achievements documented here. The whole project has been funded entirely from Garland's pocket and if there is any justice in the world, every jazz fan in the UK should buy a copy of this album simply to ensure creative artists like Garland should not be left high and dry financially when they have something to say that can enrich the lives of us all.

Stuart Nicholson