

Going Out What's On Around Town

Friday, March 13, 2009 **metrolife**

Jazz Tim Garland's Lighthouse Trio

On *Libra*, Tim Garland's recent album as part of The Lighthouse Trio, there is no great shift of gravity from the trio's own performances to them playing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The classical pieces simply affirm Garland's skills as a composer and arranger. First and foremost, though, Garland is a superb saxophonist. He possesses a pure-toned style that never loses clarity.

Gwilym Simcock is now a seemingly omnipotent pianist. His solos run through dozens of subtle shifts in the time signature too subliminal to be easily counted.

And if music of such a degree ever runs the risk of sterile perfection, then Israeli percussionist Asaf Sirkis keeps it earthy. His kit is a mixture of custom-built objects and exotic instruments, including the bass udu and hang drum. Sirkis plays at half the volume and twice the impact of a regular drummer, and hears and responds to every nuance of what others are doing.

Latin-flavoured track *Bajo Del Sol* is an example of the excitement generated by three impeccable musicians cutting up rough. With the occasional cover of Miles Davis or Charles Mingus proving their determination to build on the achievements of the jazz masters, The Lighthouse Trio occupy the highest musical stratosphere. *Mike Butler*

Tomorrow, RNCM, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester, 7pm, £14, £12 concs. Tel: 0161 907 5555. www.rncm.ac.uk