

**Tim Garland
Lighthouse Trio**

Libra

★★★★☆



(Global Mix) £12.72

The imagination of Tim Garland, the British reeds player, composer and sometime Chick Corea sideman, ranges across far more territory than most jazz players assume is rightfully theirs. This double album has been three years in gestation; it joins Garland's Lighthouse jazz trio with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (the trio version can be heard at Ronnie Scott's jazz club in London tomorrow). On the first CD, the RPO wraps Garland's accomplished Frontier Suite score (sometimes suggesting a confection of Gil Evans and Holst's Planets music) around a series of coolly graceful improvised solos from the young piano star Gwilym Simcock, underpinned by the painterly percussion of Asaf Sirkis. The second disc has a live feel, which reveals an extra urgency in Garland's solos. His rhapsodic tenor-sax variations on Bill Evans' Blue in Green are a high point. And the flamenco stomper Bajo del Sol (strongly reminiscent of Corea's Spain) uncorks a blinding solo from Simcock that elegantly implies a simpler, songlike melodic shape floating behind the storm of notes he plays. The Charles Mingus classic Nostalgia in Times Square allows a fired-up Garland on soprano, an unbuttoned and gospelly Simcock and a hard-strumming Paul Bollenback on guitar to share a free-rolling treatment powered by Sirkis's surging cymbals.

John Fordham