



TIM GARLAND: LIBRA ****

GLOBAL MIX, £12.72

A MULTIFACETED and hugely impressive two-CD release that underlines just how mature and creative a musician the English saxophonist has become. The first disc features studio recordings, and is built around Frontier, a four-piece suite written for his Lighthouse Trio with pianist Gwilym Simcock and percussionist Asaf Sirkis, plus the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and an additional wind section of jazz players.

Three more Garland compositions for the trio complete the disc, augmented by New York-based guitarist Paul Bollenback on two of them. He is heard again on disc two in Mingus's Nostalgia in Times Square (the other two non-Garland compositions are Miles Davis's Blue In Green and Kenny Wheeler's Sly Eyes). The rest of the second disc offers a series of live performances by the trio, augmented by the Sacconi Strings on Darkhouse. Both Garland's finely wrought compositions and his playing on saxophones and bass clarinet is constantly inventive and original, and that level of invention is matched by Simcock's compelling pianism and Sirkis's rhythmic acumen and unconventional percussive colours.