

## ***Moutin Reunion Quartet***

### Something Like Now

Nocturne/ Lightyear NTCD 375 | ★★★

**François Moutin (b), Louis Moutin (d), Rick Margitza (ts) and Pierre de Bethmann (p, Fender Rhodes). Rec. 2005**

The brothers Moutin are French – and twins. They're obviously highly intelligent, excelling at college in physics, maths, engineering and technology. But both loved jazz so much, they decided to become full-time professional musicians. François, the bassist, moved to New York where he's worked with people like David Binney, David Gilmore and Mike Stern. His brother decided to stay in Paris and played with Martial Solal among many others. Seven years ago, they formed the Moutin Reunion Quartet. This is their third album, but the first through a major (Warner's). De Bethmann is also French and for years has led a band called Prysm, with four CDs on Blue Note. Margitza was the third white tenor player (following Bill Evans and Bob Berg) in Miles Davis' group in the 80s. Both brothers are composers, each contributing four originals to this CD. Their tunes are clean, clever and very contemporary and the record is an interesting combination of European technical ability, tempered by their US experiences and (represented by Margitza's post-Coltrane conception) American emotion. Though François' agile bass playing is very much front and centre, while his brother remains relatively in the background, you can't help being drawn to Margitza and the excellent Pierre de Bethmann (like the Moutins, an outstanding student), whose solos in a general Jarrett-Hancock direction have the warmth of Italy's Bologna rather than the cold of France's Boulogne! An interesting record by a group that's reputed to be first-rate 'live'.

Tony Hall