

JAZZ

Moutin Reunion Quartet

Brothers in rhythm, François and Louis Moutin are identical twins who play bass and drums respectively. That pure physical connection, something that all jazz musicians strive to attain, comes naturally to the pair.

Louis is a busy drummer who propels the music in several directions at once with frenetic cross-rhythms and unexpected accents. François plays with stately presence and a deep rich tone. Their magnificent interplay is captured on Bird's Medley, from last year's Moutin Reunion Quartet LP, in which François simulates Charlie Parker's fire and attack on string bass, and Louis accompanies on hand drums.

Elsewhere on the album, the brothers divide composer credits between



them. The terrain is post-bop, with an awareness of the advanced rhythms and intriguing textures of fusion, although it's the classic chamber-jazz line-up. Something Like Now, the title track, even recalls Birdland by Weather Report, albeit without the techno sheen.

The Quartet's frontline soloist is tenor saxophonist Rick Margitza. His playing is spare and effective, and shows how well he absorbed Miles Davis's influence (Margitza played on Davis's 1989 album, *Amandla*). Margitza's brooding air nicely offsets the joyful exuberance of the Moutins. The fourth member, Pierre De Bethmann, is a meticulous and unfussy pianist.

Mike Butler

Tonight, Matt & Phreds Jazz Club, 64 Tib Street, Central Manchester, 9.30pm, £5. Tel: 831 7002. www.moutin.com