

## **Moutin Brothers**

**Pizza Express Jazz Club, London**

**John Fordham**

**The Guardian**

**The Moutin twins - bassist Francois and drummer Louis - are a rhythm section that can operate self-sufficiently. On the first of their two nights in London, they made that plain with a flatout duet medley on a string of Charlie Parker tunes, in which Francois's speed and penetrating double-bass reinvented a sequence of uptempo bebop classics with only his brother's deft hand drumming for company.**

**The Moutins call this a reunion band, since in recent years Francois has migrated to the New York scene. And, if the Parker episode suggested they were elated to be making music together, the whole set, in which they aired their new album, Red Moon, confirmed how deeprooted their understanding of each other's playing is.**

**Laudably, though, they paid attention to the audience too. The crouching, bustling Louis and Francois's walking patterns and ringing chord work were often dazzling, and former Miles Davis tenorist Rick Margitza combined long-lined figures and Coltrane-esque ascents.**

**Louis's fondness for climactic reversed-cymbal splashes, Francois's thick chording, and the percussive sound of pianist Pierre DeBethmann sometimes made the group sound like a big band quartet. An effervescent Latin swinger was kick-started by a delectable bass intro of silky phrasing and balletic runs, while DeBethmann played a devious unaccompanied passage hinting at the blues without quite locating it. Francois in particular is a virtuoso with precious few equals in the world right now.**