

Cadence

THE REVIEW OF JAZZ & BLUES: CREATIVE IMPROVISED MUSIC

1) FRANCOIS MOUTIN, SOMETHING LIKE NOW, NOCTURNE 375.

Something Like Now - Part 1 / Something Like Now - Part 2 / Bird's Medley / Take It Easy / Surrendering / M.R.C. / Tomcat / Echoing / Bottom Line - Part 1 / Bottom Line - Part 2 / Touch And Go. 59:10.

Moutin, comp. ac b; Louis Moutin, comp, d; Pierre de Bethmann, p, el p; Rick Margitza, ts. February 5-8, 2005, no recording location listed.

The fourth album by twin brothers Francois and Louis Moutin (1) is a strong, contemporary mainstream Jazz album. With an impressive discography behind them and an even more impressive list of sideman credits, the brothers Moutin have toured and gigged with a who's who of international talent. Their own quartet, founded in the mid-1990s, concentrates on semi-acoustic mainstream swing with more than a bit of inspiration taken from the classic second quintet of

Miles Davis. This influence is most apparent on the tracks where pianist Pierre de Bethmann switches to Fender Rhodes and the rhythm section delves into snappy, hi-hat driven, early fusion rhythms. Making the Miles Davis connection even more implicit, tenor saxophonist Rick Margitza, with a slew of Blue Note releases to his credit, was also part of Davis' final ensemble, playing on three albums with him.

With an in-the-pocket groove and a rich tone on acoustic upright bass, Francois and his brother Louis, an imposing presence on trap set, have the sort of empathetic rhythm section interaction that siblings from a musical family engender. Their fellow quartet members fit in nicely to their familial structure, de Bethmann is a linear player in the Post-Bop tradition and Margitza an energetic saxophonist with an equitable blend of post-Coltrane and Wayne Shorter influences. Although there are a few contemplative ballads, the quartet really shines when engaged in pieces that shift ever so subtly in their rhythmic and harmonic structure. Modulating rhythms while maintaining an invigorating energy level, the quartet displays considerable talent.

With vitality and robust playing all around, *Something Like Now* is a mainstream Jazz album that never lacks in improvising acumen. Aside from a few missteps, most notably the Lite Jazz vamp of "Tomcat," the album is a strong document of main-

stream Jazz improvisation.