



Moutin Reunion Quartet

Something Like Now

NOCTURNE/LIGHTYEAR 375

★★★½

If you think Harvard grad Joshua Redman arrived in jazz with a great back story, check out the Moutin twins. Both received scientific Doctoral degrees in their mid 20s, then left academia for music. Physicist François left France for New York in 1997 and found work with everyone from Harry Belafonte to Vijay Iyer. Drummer Louis—an engineer—stayed behind and flourished on the European music scene. The brothers' third recording using the Reunion moniker, and the second with saxophonist Rick Margitza onboard, *Something Like Now* burns

with big chops. If it seems like something you've heard before, perhaps the Moutins can be excused because they are clearly having a ball.

Indeed, François has such lithe technique and tremendous range that he can belie his 43 years by sounding like a kid in love with his newly mastered toy. On Louis' hard-grooving "Take It Easy," François holds the center ground with his dominant tone while his brother powers through a slightly off-kilter rhythm. The bustling pace of François' "M.R.C." provides him with an opportunity to illustrate his fluidity across the entire register of his instrument, and "Bird's Medley" shows off the brothers' bop roots as they toss Parkerisms around in a duo format.

As their three-minute tribute to Charlie Parker shows, the Moutins could carry a CD on their own, but Margitza is a strong presence, too, scorching through the slalom gates of the second half of Louis' title tune and smoldering on François' "Surrendering," the only composition approaching a ballad. Pianist Pierre de Bethmann plays a much more restrained role, providing color where needed, but adding little to the ensemble work. —James Hale

Something Like Now: Something Like Now—Part One; Something Like Now—Part Two; Bird's Medley; Take It Easy; Surrendering; M.R.C.; Tomcat; Echoing; Bottom Line—Part One; Bottom Line—Part Two; Touch And Go. (59:10)

Personnel: Rick Margitza, tenor saxophone; Pierre de Bethmann, piano; Fender Rhodes; François Moutin, bass; Louis Moutin, drums.

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