



Featured Artist: The Moutin Reunion Quartet

CD Title: Something Like Now

Year: 2005

Record Label: Nocturne / Lightyear

Style: Straight-Ahead / Classic



Musicians: Louis Moutin (drums); Francois Moutin (acoustic bass); Rick Margitza (tenor sax); Pierre de Bethmann (piano, Fender Rhodes).

Review: *Something Like Now* begins with the full rich tones of Francois Moutin's string bass almost commanding the listener to wait for what's coming. Moutin is an imposing bassist and when joined his identical twin brother Louis at the drums, the pair becomes a stirring partnership. The Parisian jazzmen both earned degrees in other fields. Drummer Louis Moutin is an engineer while Francois holds a doctorate in physics.

The twins formed the Moutin Reunion Quartet in 1999 looking for a vehicle from which they could offer their original compositions to a wide audience. With Francois Moutin living in New York City and Louis in Paris, the brothers have toured the world for more than three years.

Pianist, Pierre de Bethmann is a native of Boulogne, France. He discovered music as a child and furthered his jazz base at Berklee College of Music in the USA. Like the Moutin twins, de Bethmann left a professional career in business to become a full-time musician.

Rick Margitza is one of the busiest young saxophonists on the European and world scenes. He contributes considerably to the success of the quartet and this album. While he came to this writer's attention on *Alegresse* with the Maria Schneider orchestra five years ago, the tenor player had already established a solid reputation with his albums on Blue Note and Palmetto. He has recorded nine sessions as a leader and many more as a sideman with Miles Davis, Maynard Ferguson and Flora Purim.

With the single exception of "Bird's Medley," all compositions are by the twins, four by Louis and four by Francois. The title tune and "Bottom Line" are two-part compositions. One of the most impressive pieces is the ballad "Surrendering" and it features some beautiful passages by Margitza and Francois Moutin. Another highlight is the up-tempo "M.R.C." where everyone gets a chance to shine. Francois Moutin's fiery and precise execution turns "Bottom Line" into a showcase number. Pierre de Bethmann adds some innovative but flowery ideas.

The Moutin Reunion Quartet is an up-to-the-minute outfit bordering on a fusion sound. They are presently touring Europe and will return for an American tour in late September 2005 playing Ann Arbor, Lansing, Cincinnati, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Philly, Washington and New York. The tour schedule can be found on the quartet's web page.

Tracks: Something Like New Pt 1; Something Like New Pt 2; Bird's Medley; Take It Easy; Surrendering; M.R.C.; Tomcat; Echoing; Bottom Line Pt 1; Bottom Line Pt 2; Touch And Go.

Record Label Website: <http://www.lightyear.com>

Artist's Website: <http://www.moutin.com>

Reviewed by: Richard Bourcier