

Reviews and Picks

Moutin Reunion Quartet

Something Like Now (Lightyear)

LIKE MOST OF you, I'd guess, I'm pretty much immersed in jazz, between listening to new releases and to the radio, and catching as much live music as possible. Rarely, though, have I heard and seen a group whose performance was so absolutely exhilarating as the latest incarnation of the Moutin Reunion Quartet. Anchored by the telepathically taut playing of twins François (bass) and Louis Moutin (drums), the



quartet adds a new pianist this time, Pierre de Bethmann, to create one the most explosive rhythm sections around. Saxophonist Rick Margitza glides above the fray as the group's melodic voice, but equals the others' intensity with some fiery improvisational passages. All but one track – “Bird's Medley,” a François Moutin arrangement of Charlie Parker tunes performed as a duo by the Moutins – are François or Louis compositions, and there's not one that I wouldn't recommend for airplay. Lithe, lean and muscular, *Something Like Now* is a lock on my list of the year's ten best. – Ed Trefzger

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