

Jazz Columnist Louisville Music News, review concert par Martin Z. Kasdan Jr

Twin brothers Francois Moutin (upright bass) and Louis Moutin (drums) anchor the Moutin Reunion Quartet, featuring Rick Margitza (saxophones) and Pierre de Bethmann (piano). The group appeared at the Ruyard Kipling on Wednesday, September 28, for a small but attentive and most appreciative audience, including several of Louisville's premiere players, such as Jason Tiemann and Mike Tracy. While the instrumentation may have been standard, the setup was not. Francois' bass was at the back, in the center, while Louis' drums were set up on audience right, facing de Bethmann's vintage Fender Rhodes, while Margitza was just to the treble end of the keyboard. The group opened with Francois' "MRC," featuring a strong opening statement by the brothers, who were joined in turn by de Bethmann and then by Margitza. The "piano trio" then began soloing together, before Margitza returned with a fast Shorter-esque solo. This led to a bass solo, gently supported by piano and drums, before the tune ended. Another Francois original, "Echoing," was next, introduced by a long bass solo. The music grew as de Bethmann and Louis (using brushes) joined in, before Margitza began a unison line with the piano, reminiscent of some of the work on "In a Silent Way." A French standard, "La Vie en Rose," was a showcase for the brothers, demonstrating how bass and drums could become a full band. A piano introduction led into the first Louis composition of the evening, "Take It Easy." As the song developed, the brothers added bass and drums before Margitza entered with a statement of the theme. After a brief trio segment, Margitza and Louis engaged in a duet reminiscent of some of the John Coltrane//Rashied Ali performances. The spirit seemed to overcome Francois, as he danced ecstatically with his bass. "Surrendering," by Francois, was next and the set ended all too soon with the title track of their new CD, "Something Like Now." This composition, by Louis, began with a bass and drums segment which also seemed to invoke the "Silent Way" vibe without being merely imitative. When the brothers were joined by de Bethmann, the pace turned to fast swing and Margitza's solo took the group even higher. They had to bring their set to a close after a little more than an hour, due to the previously scheduled weekly jam, dubbed the Open Air Transmissions, which got off to a good start after a brief interlude. Although the audience was small, the group played its collective heart out, reminding me of a performance some 30 years ago by the Sam Rivers Trio (with Dave Holland and Barry Altschul), in a long-defunct Main Street club, during which the audience was hardly larger than the trio itself. I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Francois with the song titles.

The Moutin Reunion Quartet was touring in support of its third album: ***Something Like Now*** (Lightyear/WEA). Jazz fans seeking music which is progressive yet not so "outside" as to seem chaotic should check this out. For additional information, see www.moutin.com.