

## Detroit International Jazz Festival: Part One

Venue/ Various Venues

Location: Detroit, MI USA

Date(s): September 1, 2006 - September 4, 2006

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So often I have heard the complaint from fellow critics and assorted curmudgeons: "Why can't an American city put on a festival as efficiently run, impressive and FREE as the Montreal International Jazz Festival?"

Note to colleagues: It's already happening in Detroit.

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Tenor saxophonist Rick Margitza, another Detroit native currently living in Paris, played to an enthusiastic hometown crowd at the Ampitheatre Stage on Saturday evening with the Moutin Reunion Band, co-led by twin brothers Francois on bass and Louis on drums and featuring Pierre de Bethmann on piano. An underrated tenor man since his days at Blue Note in the late '80s-early '90s, Margitza seems to have taken his game up a notch or two, as evidenced by his incendiary breakdown with drummer Moutin on the ironically titled "Take It Easy," on which they both unleashed with ferocious abandon in the spirit of Trane and Elvin Jones. Margitza, who played his first Detroit Jazzfest 25 years ago, also revealed the depth of his ballad playing on his own melancholy composition "Dark Blue." The twin brothers then united on a freewheeling drum 'n' bass duet that gradually evolved into an extrapolation on Charlie Parker's "Donna Lee," with Louis playing the kit with his hands and Francois demonstrating astounding facility on his deep-toned upright. Bass players and aficionados who haven't yet caught Francois in concert with either the Moutin Reunion Band or with pianist Jean-Michel Pilc's trio would be well-advised to check him out. He is indeed a real bona fide bass monster.