

THE SANTA BARBARA  
**Independent**  
The County's News and Entertainment Paper

issue: Jan. 19, 2006

**TWIN ENGINEERING:** One sure sign that Santa Barbara is becoming a solid jazz town, beyond its higher profile concert life, is the buzz on the periphery, the chance to hear world class jazz on an 'off' night. Take the respected band Moutin Reunion Quartet, who stopped by to light SOhO on fire, on a recent Wednesday night. The group, with two impressive records out, is led by the stellar rhythm section of twin French brothers, drummer Louis and bassist Francois Moutin. The siblings supply a hot, tight rhythmic molten core over which pianist Pierre de Bethmann and the underrated tenor saxist Rick Margitza stretch out, mostly on Moutin originals taking a cue from cerebral post-hard bop and touches of Weather Report.

At SOhO, the band gave the crowd plenty to rave about. Margitza, in particular, is ideally suited for the job. A Miles Davis alumnus who can blow up an elegant storm, he brought his talent, range, and ferocity to bear on tunes like 'M.R.C.', 'Echoing' (from the band's latest CD, *Something Like Now*), and a feisty tête à tête with drums. The quartet closed a power-packed evening with the charming yet brainy 'Something Like Now', with its Zawinul-esque melody snaking beneath a counter bass line and an all-over musical massage effect. Word has it the band may return in September: Don't miss 'em. —*Josef Woodard*