

HODGEPODGE & SHORTIES



Russ Gershon by Gerard Futrick

Pear / Ek Balaam / Sakalahacki. 64:29) that mixes all sorts of Indian, Arabic, and Japanese flavors into a deep base of Funk, Rock, and hip hop. Fiuczynski's formidable guitar skills are up front but always snaking through all sorts of tricky vamps and grooves and coming up with something delightfully fresh. (Fiuczynski, g, additional beat and sound; Steve Jenkins, Mike Rivard*, b; Skoota Warner, Betram Lehmann*, d; Daniel Sadownick, p; Jim Funnell, kybd; Nikolay Moiseenko, as; Geni Skendo, shakuhachi.)

VINTAGE (Cowbell 36) is a compilation of two 1980's albums by a Danish group called **BAZAAR** (Peter Bastian, bsn, cl, pennywhistle, perc, bottle, b vcl; Flemming Quist Moller, bongos, cga, darbourka, surdu, flt, bottle; Anders Koppel, org, p, synth, el p, bells, kalimba, b vcl; Finn Gustafsson, g; Papi Arosemena, bongos, guiro, timbales, cowbell. 1980, 1983). Their music here (Byggeren / Trapeza / Kovachevo / Ak, du lieber Linda / Jitterbox / Zyran / Maria Galante - Mambo Lake / Landlig Idyl / Mors fodselsdag / Gamie jaz / Duina / Parat Start - ! / Smertensbarn / Graesgange / Odeon / Sigojnerkradt / Bella / Freetown / Baby Encore / Villa Verdi / Madame Fairuz / Fremad. 76:45) is a combination of progressive Rock and Third World exotica that veers in approach between relaxed lounge music and full-on straight Rock but is never as openly parodistic as other European musicians who have dabbled in this field.

THE OSCILLATORS do a much simpler sort of progressive fusion on **BEAT TECTONICS** (Oscillators no #), basically angular Jazz-Rock with Funk overtones (Analog Cabin / TeleFunken / Entropy / Quirks / Singko / A Good Macrobrew / Caspian / Theme Song for the Oscillators. 50:57). The band (Charles Ostle, d, vcl, kybd; John Lee, g; Glen Oliff, b, vcl; Matt Rippetoe, ts. 10/23-24/07) is good at what it does but their sound is more technically admirable than genuinely exciting.

This is not the case with the Norwegian quartet **CHROME HILL**. Their CD, **EARTHLINGS** (Bolage 7) is a collection of blood-stirring, punked up Jazz that is great fun. This band (Asbjorn Lerheim, g; Jorgen Munkeby, ts; Torsten Lofthus, d; Roger Arnzten, b. 2/5-7/08, Oslo, Norway) features heavy guitar and squalling sax having at it over lead-footed drumming, a gloriously rude and sweaty noise. (Zanshin! Zanshin! / Wide Stripes/ Where Can I Go To Sleep Under The Stars? / Swedish Snake / Maelstrom / Blue Dog / A Fistful Of Dollars / Blue Dog Return / Earth. 48:10)

There is also some punky thrashing going on in drummer **DAVID WINOGROND's IN THE ETHER** (Wondercap 7004). Overall, his set (Jupiter Jump / Blue In Green / Andalusian Day