

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

CD Review: Man Overboard - All Hands on Deck



Thomas Gould (vln); Ewan Bleach (clt/sax); Dave O'Brien (bs); Jean-Marie Fagon (gtr); Louisa Jones (vcl).
(Review by Lance).

Just imagine, if Grappelli and Goodman had got together, what the end product would have sounded like!

By closing your eyes and allowing a little (well quite a bit) of imagination it's reasonable to assume the outcome could have sounded like this.

Both Gould and Bleach are facile performers with their classical backgrounds occasionally peeking through. *How High the Moon* is almost fugue-like in places but still with a delightful thirties/forties feel to it. The rhythm section are absolutely steeped in the idiom giving the required um-chug so essential to the authenticity of the style. Bleach, apart from his Goodman moments also has Bechet blasts - particularly on *Premier Bal*.

Louisa Jones is deceptively laid back in her approach - if Billie Holiday had been singing these tunes today maybe *Lady Day* (imagination time again) might have sounded a little like this. But whatever, the end result is quite captivating.

The tunes? 16 good ones including *Honeysuckle Rose*, *That Old Feeling*, *All of Me*, *Avalon*, *Lullaby of the Leaves*, *St. James Infirmary*, *Topsy*...

If I describe this as *Music of The Blitz - Harry Parry, Hatchett's etc* it is in no way meant to be a putdown - far from it! - and I can appreciate that these guys are going to be big on the Swing dance scene which is emerging like a reborn old time religion - "May I have the next Jitterbug before the Doodlebug blows us to Buggery!"

Man Overboard - All Hands on Deck is due to be launched at The Vortex Jazz Club, London on June 18, 2013.

Lance

[Bebop spoken here](#)