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The Relatives & Phil Miller “Virtually”

If there was any common thread through the “Canterbury Scene” bands...it was surely a strange mix of improvised whimsy and “progressive seriousness”. This is an odd one, with those two components in pretty even proportion... the naivety somehow works and anything that features Phil Miller’s guitar is worth hearing. His solos fit in neatly and they cut through with that strange day-glo intensity he brought to Delivery, Hatfield & the North and Matching Mole. His Delivery cohort Richard Sinclair, who started the whole Canterbury thing in Wilde Flowers and gave it its most perfect expression in Caravan, is just here for *On My Mind* but brings it all flooding back. Hadley is a bit of a revelation. The music soars whenever he’s foregrounded and he makes a perfect foil to Monck’s attractively plain and almost naïve delivery. The flute part on *Spaghetti* is plain gorgeous... there is a slightly stitched together feel, like a pair of paisley-patched jeans. Lovely.

Brian Morton

(The Wire, Jazz Review, co-author of ‘The Penguin guide to Jazz’.)