

MICHELSON MORLEY

Aether Drift

Out 28 April 2014; F-IRE CD 66



Line up:

Jake McMurchie	saxophones / electronics
Mark Whitlam	drums/percussion/electronics
Will Harris	double bass

With their debut release, ***Aether Drift***, Bristol-based trio **Michelson Morley** look set to be one of the most original and exciting new UK jazz bands to hit the scene in 2014. The first album as writer and leader by Get the Blessing saxophonist **Jake McMurchie**, exposes the talents of a brilliant and highly inventive new voice.

With their line-up of saxophone, bass, drums and electronics, *Aether Drift* draws on the group's multilingual approach; tracks like ***Your eyebrows go well with your face*** displaying their exemplary jazz credentials are offset against the blazing electro skronk jazz of the opening ***Rice Rage*** and the minimalist grooves of ***Cross-stream roundtrip time***. This is a trio who happily bring together diverse influences in a unique and original way.

The trio came together in 2012, and features some of the leading players of the Bristol scene. Drummer Mark Whitlam plays with many of the UK's top jazz leaders including Jim Mullen, Alan Barnes, Tina May, Dave Newton as well as US saxophonist Benn Clatworthy. Jake McMurchie tours internationally with Get the Blessing and also plays with other Bristol bands What Four, Mr Dowland's Midnight as well as Portishead and the great Portuguese singer Fernando Tordo.

The opening track, ***Rice Rage*** is a real attention grabber; driving bass, drums and sax lines are based on the same rhythmic motif followed by an insistent and intense rising scale. Repeated over and over, the effect is hugely effective and utterly captivating before they turn the screws once again, building through the track with electronic discords overlaid with swirling saxophone lines. The title track, ***Aether Drift*** changes mood completely after the dark energy of the opening. Tentative and wistful, melancholic saxophone phrases emerge from the mist over short, scurrying, bass patterns. Here - as on ***End of Age*** - McMurchie's yearning saxophone comes to the fore as the music gradually emerges from the mist, becoming stronger and more substantial.

Minimalism is an important part of the approach, both in terms of atmosphere and composition, but also in terms of an approach to collective improvisation. McMurchie brings this into play on several tracks but most noticeably ***Cross-stream roundtrip time*** where there's something of a funky Reich ***Different Trains*** about the unstoppable, bar-crossing repetitions.

Your eyebrows go well with your face and ***End of age*** represent some of the best (more) acoustic music where the interplay between members, occasional solos and beguiling melodies can really be enjoyed. This interlude is followed up by a fantastically sci-fi sounding ***Wish I knew***. Echoing electronic calls float past over mournful, whale-like drones and wisps of plaintive saxophone melodies until gradually the acoustic trio emerge. The closing track ***Fringe shift*** ups the energy again with a loose and funky piece of strong acoustic trio work, proving these guys really have it all.

Following the release at the end of April, **Michelson Morley** will be touring, offering audiences across the UK a chance to check out these striking not so new kids on the block. Several dates will feature one or other of their special guests; **Dan Messore** on guitar or multi-instrumentalist **Corey Mwamba**.

Album Tour

29 April 8pm	NEWCASTLE, The Jazz Café, NE1 5DW www.newcastle-arts-centre.co.uk	£8.00 / £6.00 conc
1 May 9pm	BRISTOL, The Cube, BS2 8JD www.cubecinema.com	£10 / £9 adv /£8 members
2 May 8pm	DERBY CUBE/ DEDA Theatre, DE1 3GU£10 www.deda.uk.com	
6 May 8.45pm	LIVERPOOL, Parrjazz at Frederiks, L1 9AX www.parrjazz.co.uk	£3/free NUS
7 May 9pm	SHEFFIELD, The Lescar, S11 8ZF www.jazzatthelescar.com	£5
4 June 8.30pm	LONDON, The Vortex Jazz Club, N16 8AZ www.vortexjazz.co.uk	£9
5 June	STROUD, Stroud Valley Arts www.sva.org.uk	
6 June	READING, Reading Jazz, RG1 5HL www.jazzinreading.com	£12 / £10.00 conc
10 June	ST IVES Jazz Club www.stivesjazzclub.com	
20 June	FISHGUARD Pepper's AberJazz Club www.aberjazz.com	

Tour funded by Jazz Services



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