



### **Michelson Morley**

#### *Strange Courage*

Babel BDV1514J ★★★★★

**Jake McMurchie (s), Mark Whitlam (perc),  
Dan Messore (g) and Will Harris (b).**  
**Rec. date not stated**

Best known as the sax man in *Get the Blessing*, the Bristol-based musician Jake McMurchie has been attracting some attention of late with his own band Michelson Morley since the fine 2014 debut *Aether Drift*. Although the instrumental line-up appears to be a jazz quartet, Michelson Morley achieve a happy medium between the intensely pulsating grooves of electronica, Steve Reich-like minimalism and folky Nordic jazz on their intriguing second CD *Strange Courage* this time for London's maverick Babel Label. The new member is the versatile singer-songwriter-influenced guitarist Dan Messore whose band Indigo Kid features Iain Ballamy, and there's similarities with the saxophonist's Anglo-Norwegian ECM duo Food in Michelson Morley's spacious, menacing avant jazztronica on *Strange Courage*. But the more accessible aspect of McMurchie's playing, of the kind we hear from *Get the Blessing*, lightens the mood with the quartet frequently crossing over into warmer, more melodically engaging territory, not too dissimilar to Seb Rochford-led Polar Bear's more recent electronica-led recordings. With Michelson Morley, jazz in the age of the electroacoustic loop is in safe hands. **Selwyn Harris**

## Michelson Morley brave road for *Strange Courage*

Progressively-minded Babel Label-signed Michelson Morley make for the nation's motorways in support of their sophomore set *Strange Courage* (check our review p40), the follow-up to 2014's critically-acclaimed debut *Aether Drift*. Scoping out a host of influences as wide-ranging as Miles Davis, Steve Reich, Arvo Pärt, Kraftwerk and Brian Eno, this Bristol-based ensemble, comprised of Get the Blessing's Jake McMurchie (saxophones), Will Harris (bass), Dan Messore (guitar) and Mark Whitlam (drums) showcase their probing hybrids of jazz-fused

minimalism on the following dates: Loop The Loop, Saltash Library, Plymouth (27 June); St Ives Jazz Club (28 June); Restormel Arts, St Austell (29 June); SoundCellar, Poole (30 June), Wardrobe Theatre, Bristol (17 July), The Vortex, London (18 July) and Manchester Jazz Festival (24 July).

**For more details visit [www.michelsonmorley.com](http://www.michelsonmorley.com)**

