



CRITIQUE

Blicher/Hemmer/Gadd *Blicher/Hemmer/Gadd*
The soul remains the same—and so do the sparks.
Steve Gadd keeps up the heat.

From the first eight bars, **Steve Gadd** defines this set, opening with a “simple” bouncing, N’awlins-infused beat. Sax and Hammond B-3 add to the vamp in a similarly restrained manner, and we’re off into a straight-to-the-point good-time set of soul-jazz sparked with shades of R&B and blues. The live disc culls highlights from a Scandinavian tour featuring Gadd as special guest with saxophonist/flautist Michael Blicher and organist Dan Hemmer, members of the popular Danish band Astro Buddha Agogo (gotta love that name) who solo with a premium on brevity, soul, and good sound. Gadd foremost plays the role of grooving supporter but also gets dazzling spotlight moments. On the appropriately titled “New Orleans,” he lays down a hip half-time feel in three, then launches into his signature greasy street beats in a killer eleventh-hour solo that leaves the crowd whooping for more. (Proper Note) **Jeff Potter**

