



Blicher Hemmer Gadd *Blicher Hemmer Gadd* C-Nut Records *1/2**

A feelgood surprise and a must for Gadd fans of whom there are more than one or two, the drum titan doing what he does best: effortlessly groove until the cows come home, here playing with two likely lads Danes saxist/flautist Michael Blicher, and Hammond organist Dan Hemmer who more than cut the mustard.

It's mostly Blicher's music, with 1920s tune 'In a Little Spanish Town' and Yusef Lateef's 'Like It Is' closing the album. Opening gently with 'Well I'm Not Really Much of a Dancer,' Blicher bluesy and nicely shrill, Gadd holding back. Recorded live during touring in Scandinavia earlier this year sound quality is excellent, bits and pieces of audience appreciation introduced as the album goes on adding to the effect. Blicher opens 'She Curves, She Curves' on breathy flute, Hemmer coming in with a blues organ line as much Brian Auger as Jimmy Smith. The gospelly 'Treme' has organ testifying at the beginning, and then Blicher with a slow hymn-like melody piles on the emotions Gadd coming in to trot the tune out. Accompanying the ballad 'By the Sound of Her Voice' he is even better, the time-keeping incredible here. A Latinate almost cha-cha-cha rhythm sits behind the chirpy melody of 'In a Little Spanish Town' again Gadd a high performance engine purring along. 'Babylon' ups the excitement factor, Gadd's offbeats and use of cowbell just great. 'New Orleans' has plenty of sheer joy Gadd's shuffle a marvel, 'Like It Is' at the end makes super-subtle use of a bass tom giving a funereal 'Wade in the Water' feel. A very listenable lively runaround of a record most of which you'd want to put on in the kitchen at a party. SG

UK/Ireland release: 27 October

Dan Hemmer, above left, Michael Blicher, and Steve Gadd. Photo: Bente Jaeger