

Straight no

SPRING 2003 £3.50

INTERPLANETARY SOUNDS: ANCIENT TO FUTURE

Chaser



Circ: 34k

POLAR BEAR HELD ON THE TIPS OF FINGERS (PPR)

A few years on from the rejuvenating rise of these British starlets from the nostalgic, ashen UK jazz scene, Polar Bear follow the universally acclaimed 'Dim Lit', with another session of firey experimentation and expression. Indeed, Babel's recent sampler reveals a label of multiplicitous character in great health. The ubiquitous Herbert and Wareham (Acoustic Ladyland's conceptualist) in particular, have managed to set aside time to lend mystic bow and blow to the maned Roachford's dynamic drum kit. Several moods circulate in the mind just as you linger in between the notes and spaces: the pomp and meander of 'Beartown'; 'Fluffy', with a curious movement of double bass tension, piquant sax slides and Roachford's tip-toeing rhythm; 'To Touch the Red Brick', dropping a marching break and repetitive sax line that mutates into bop abstractionism. An open book, unreferenced but essential reading. (AP)

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