

# jazzwise

By Robert Stone

John Beasley, Darryl Jones, Ndugu Chancler, 3 Brave Souls - 3\*

John Beasley, Darryl Jones, Ndugu Chancler are seasoned music pros (Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson: you name them, at least one of the trio has played with them), who all passed through the ranks of Miles Davis' various bands at one time or another. Not that this **deeply groovy, R&B-centred** project – which takes its overarching sonic character from **Beasley's inventive use of an arsenal of different keyboards** – has much to do with Davis and his musical legacy.

Beasley's Afrobeat-buoyed 'Yabis' adds **Francisco Torres's groovy trombone** and Leon Mobley's djembe work, while **Gregoire Maret's tender blowing** on harmonica broadens the sound palette again on the closing ballad, 'N2U'. **Sy Smith adds soulful vocals** on three cuts, including the **funked-up 'Wanna Get Away'**, while **Jones brings his gravelly vocal charms** to his own composition, the Sly Stone-esque 'Stay', which has **lovely keys work from Beasley**. Inessential perhaps, but it's **beautifully played and produced**, and it makes for a very satisfying low-lit accompaniment to an evening's grooving.