



FIVE IN ORBIT

TRIBULUS TERRESTRIS

Tribulus Terrestris; Les Voyages D'Ibn Khaldoun; Miel De Jacaranda; The Night Of Dead Cats; Dancing Dogs; La Fi Del Nus; Tricks; Lluna De Montoliu; Roulotte Russe; Gardies; Lonesome Lover (72.50)

Roman Fossati (tb, shells); Olivier Brandily (as, f, shells); Laurent Bronner (p, semi-prepared p); Nicolas Rageau (b); Luc Isenmann (d).

Fresh Sound New Talent FSNT

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★★★★

Pneumatic breasts used to be commonplace on album covers but this is the first time I've seen hairy canine testicles; even Bowie's Diamond Dogs was censored. The music has balls, too: 10 clever, slippery themes by Fossati, Brandily and Bronner

plus Abbey Lincoln's and Max Roach's *Lonesome Lover*. Fossati's trombone ventriloquises pretty much whatever voice the track in question needs, from trumpet-like eighth notes to sax-ophonic legato to messy slurs, but mostly he's the anchor point for the unison lines. If the title and opening track are meant to hint at the blues, and what else are they but the poetry of "earthly woe", then it's entirely successful. I also loved Brandily's *Les Voyages D'Ibn Khaldoun*, without entirely understanding why the Muslim historian and founder of sociology is being name-checked; a personal passion, doubtless.

The group's tremendous. Brandily's alto has weight and heft, which means he's often most comfortable down in tenor range, expanding the ensemble resources in another direction. Given that, the fiddle-faddle of shells and "semi-prepared piano" doesn't add up to much extra and their prominence in the details above shouldn't suggest any over-busy non-idiomatic stuff going. It's all admirably articulate, even if the directions are unexpected and the rhythm section is as inventive and varied as any I've heard in a while. For some odd reason I kept thinking of Mostly Other People Do The Killing while listening to this. Not because there's that much similarity, but because Five In Orbit do raw pastiche, edgy modal, semi-free and straight-ahead all so much better.

Brian Morton