

Bleu StrongRelation JnA 4710 ****

Miles' "Aura" was one of the few interesting records he made after "Bitches Brew".

If he'd made "Aura" in the mid 70s, he might have ended up sounding like this serious

& often beautiful music from a highly refined Austrian trio.

Categorisation can be difficult in an era of musical cross fertilisation, & iTunes classify this group as "indie rock".

I see it as contemporary European Jazz, with a hint of the melodic improvisations of Rainer Patack, who broadcast on Radio Three's "Jazz Today", as well as recording with ZZTopp.

Labels can be a source of annoyance even to us purists, so let's just say that this is, in the main, fine European jazz

characterised by a brooding sensibility, & using a variety of instruments, including tuba, electric dulcimer,

& assorted percussion as a backdrop for Lorez Raab's thoughtful trumpet playing.

Much of the music is beautiful, but there is one dud track where the musicians seem to be lost, "Uhudler" ,

This is more than compensated for by the such gems as "Muscat Bleu" & "Down the MilkyWay" which seem to exist in frozen time.

Far from the mainstream, but original sounds & fine musicianship.

Martin Bright.