

MOJO

OCTOBER 2015

Get The Blessing

★★★★

Astronautilus

NAIM JAZZ. CD/DL/LP

Jazz iconoclasts from the west still having a blast.



Now in their 15th year, this Bristol-based quintet seem to get better with the pass-

ing of time, continuing an intrepid sense of adventure that they displayed from the get-go. The fact that their line-up has remained

unchanged also means that the band's collective interplay is now almost on a telepathic level. Last year's *Lope And Antelope* showed a mellower side to the group's musical psyche but this, their fifth long player – dedicated to their chief muse, the late Ornette Coleman – is a different beast altogether: a schizophrenic affair that juxtaposes rabid, riff-laden mash-ups with serene filmic soundscapes. Chief among the highlights is *Monkfish*, a jaunty slab of noir jazz with insidious horn riffs; while *Cornish Native* – boasting a drum track that sounds like someone building a shed – is raw and rustic. Seriously creative but also wonderfully irreverent.

Charles Waring