

## JAZZ

**CHICK COREA** and **JOHN MCLAUGHLIN** reconvene with arresting alertness; **LED BIB** embrace the moment; plus **PORTISHEAD** players spread their wings in new releases from **GET THE BLESSING** and **STONEPHACE**

## One bug to catch

NEIL MCKIM enjoys *Get the Blessing's* bug's-eye view



**IN THE BAG:** Get the Blessing get stuck into a groove

**GET THE BLESSING****Bugs in Amber**

Pete Judge (trumpet), Jake McMurchie (saxophone), Clive Deamer (drums), Jim Barr (bass)

Cake CCD78558 42:37 mins

**BBC Music Direct** £12.72

When The Blessing scooped a BBC Jazz Award for debut disc *All is Yes*, they cannily added a 'Get' to their band name. And with the same wry humour, new disc *Bugs in Amber* alludes to an alien's view of Earthlings from cult

novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*. It's jazz, but not as we know it. Emerging from the dark psyche of trip-hop band Portishead, the rhythm section of Deamer and Barr lock down a glowering groove under surging horns from McMurchie and Judge. The title track's mechanical sax riffs assail the listener, as does the effects-driven mayhem of *The Speed of Dark*.

While Portishead were distinctly influenced by jazz, this outfit will surely recharge the jazz world. With the BBC Jazz Awards on ice this year, Get the Blessing looks set to remain the unchallenged heavyweights of the UK jazz scene.

**PERFORMANCE** ★★★★★  
**RECORDING** ★★★★★