

Get the Blessing

Bugs in Amber

★★★★★

(Cake/Candid) £12.72



This punchy young quartet (formed from Portishead's rhythm section of drummer Clive Deamer and bass guitarist Jim Barr, plus trumpeter Pete Judge and tenor saxophonist Jake McMurchie) sounded viscerally exciting on its early gigs, although the improvised content was sparse. But this follow-up to the BBC award-winning *All Is Yes* cuts the excellent Judge and McMurchie a lot more solo slack, while sustaining the strength of the composing, the deafening dancefloor drive and the ensemble inventiveness. Judge and McMurchie are Ornette Coleman devotees, and the sound of the late Coleman trumpeter Don Cherry is often recalled by Judge's bubbling runs and warped notes. Stating its disruptive intent by opening with a police siren sound, the band bookends the set with the frantically pumping *Music Style Product*, explores Polar Bear's slow-curling horn harmonies on *The Word for Moonlight Is Moonlight*, and gets sinister on the Celtic-tinged melody of *The Unnameable*. This is a really varied and inventive genre-crossing set, but one that is also jazzy enough for any diehard. **JF**