

# Improvijazzation Nation

Music and Opinion for the 21st Century

Zzaj Happenings!!!

Issue # 167 reviews

Issue 158, Interview with Leonardo "MoonJune" Pavkovic

Zzaj Review Queue

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Issue # 167 reviews

*Our latest and greatest reviews for your reading & listening pleasure*

(Click [HOME](#) to see the index of all issues)

**NOTE:** I normally only do 30 reviews per issue... due to the high volume of submissions, I will be reviewing several more (20 additional, for a total of 50) for this issue (and future issues, until our backlog is honed down)... "normal" review cycles will resume when I've got the QUEUE down to under 100!

If you are an artist/promoter who needs a review more quickly, be sure & check out our [new EXPEDITED/EXPANDED review services!](#)

**Announcement! Announcement! In the time-honored tradition of "Ghost of Christmas (and other scary holidays) Past", we are**

FIND your review with our SEARCH Form



Recent Posts

Zzaj-Rant – The Culture of "we MUST make this BETTER – even if it's fine as it is" November 17, 2017

**proud to announce the return of our long-time authoring pal Robin B. James to the most MajickLand of Olywa... he will be lending his ears (& heart & soul) to our review efforts, at least for a while... many of you know him from his [Cassette Mythos](#) adventures... Robin will be writing an “updated resume”, which we will feature in a future Zzaj-Rant... in the meantime, enjoy his reviews!**



**Nick Maclean Quartet – RITES OF ASCENSION:** Nick’s mighty mellow keyboards lead this dynamic quartet, made up of Brownman Ali on trumpet, Jesse

Dietschi doing acoustic bass and Tyler Goertzen on drums, through a series of high-energy originals and re-imagined Hancock tunes in an album that just *demands* to be in your long-term collection... if you’re like me, though, you’ll be pushing this out to your player & listening to it every time you take a cruise... songs like Nick’s “[Goldberg Machine](#)” establish a groove (in the first two bars) and carry you into jazz oblivion for the rest of the 4:57 tune... just superb! They do a wonderful job on Herbie’s “[One Finger Snap](#)“... folks, if you ain’t snappin’ all five of those digits along with the heavy rhythm on this one, you are NOT the “jazz fan” you claim to be – Ali’s trumpet just SHINES on this tune. It was an easy pick for personal favorite of the eleven songs offered up... Brownman’s original, “[Madness Of Nero](#)“, is the longest cut on the album, & so, it gives each player a chance to show their significant chops... it’s certainly the best trumpet-led piece I’ve heard in 2017. I give Nick & the rest of the quartet a **MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**, with an “EQ” (energy quotient) rating of 4.98 for this thrilling jazz adventure. Get more information [at Nick’s website](#). *Rotcod Zzaj*

**SONIC HENDERSON**

December 28, 2016

[ZzajRant – Days of conflict!](#) December 2, 2016

[Hennie Bekker – Beyond Dreams Pathways to Deep Relaxation](#) (special review by Zzaj) October 21, 2016

[White Sun – White Sun II](#) (special review by Zzaj) August 10, 2016


B-I-G kudos to Jerry’s [Automotive & Towing](#) (Olympia, WA) July 30, 2016

[Bill Wren – Road To Chiang Mai](#) (special review by Zzaj) July 18, 2016

[Arun Shenoy “A Stagey Bank Affair”](#) (special review by Zzaj) July 8, 2016

[Ann Licater – Beyond The Waves](#) (special review by Zzaj) May 9, 2016

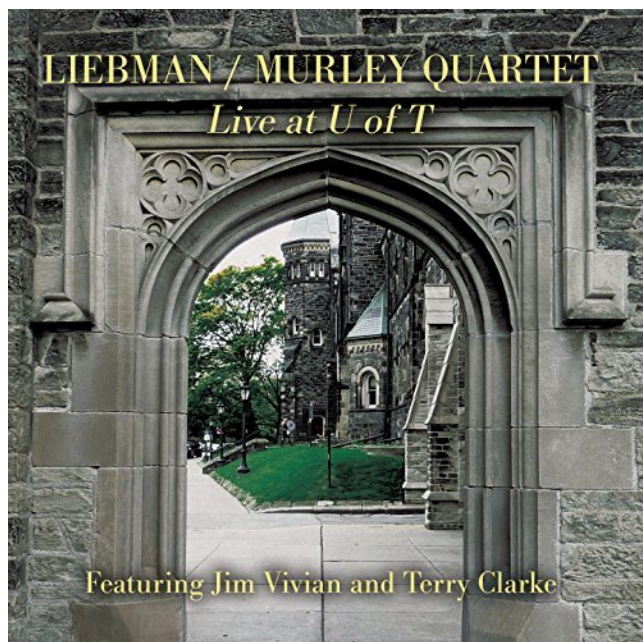
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(yet) in  
2017... Dave  
does

Soprano/Tenor Saxophone and Flute, with Mike Murley – Soprano/Tenor Saxophone; Jim Vivian – Bass and Terry Clarke – Drums on this stellar nine-song set, and tunes like the ultimately cool “**Ybsn**” will have you tappin’ toes & snappin’ digits (I’m somehow reminded of the Peter Gunn theme on this one – not sure exactly what the connection is). If it’s “mellow” you’re thirsting for, you’ll find the 6:02 “**Small One**” (original from Dave) very much to your liking – very intricate and spontaneous playing. It is Mike’s superb composition, “**Open Spaces**”, that got my vote for personal favorite, though... it’s