

Cadence

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EARTH PEOPLE SIMPLE ... ISN'T IT??, UNDIVIDED VISION 002

Birthright / Bojangles / Simple ... Isn't It?? / Breaking the Malaise.
58:30.

M, vcl; Karen Borca, bassoon; Daniel Carter, as, ts, flt, tpt; Sabir Mateen, ts, alto cl, cl, flt; Mark Hennen, p; Francois Grillot, b; Doug Principato, ac g, el g, Fender Rhodes; Andre Martinez, d; Jason Candler, as.
July 28, 2002, Brooklyn NY.

Earth People is (a) drummer-led supergroup, or at least a megagroup, but it is much edgier. **M**'s vocals often serve as an additional instrument: she doesn't always sing actual words, and when she does, they can often be hard to make out. She duels with the other instruments just as the horns do, and sometimes its hard to distinguish her voice from the upper register of one of the saxophones.

This disc straddles the divide between the inside and the outside. For example, "Birthright" builds from a relatively conventional guitar motif, only to depart for the outer edges fairly quickly. On "Bojangles," **Grillot** and **Martinez** maintain a fairly steady drive while the horns carp and squabble until they come to a point of relative harmony toward the end of the piece; at one point (right around the ten minute mark) **M** actually sings the words Mr. Bojangles, but this track has no other resemblance to that classic of schmalztz. "Breaking the Malaise" begins in Late Miles Land and becomes a glorious free-for-all.

The welter seems to be the default mode of this music, as epitomized by the title track, where **M** begins by muttering, paradoxically, "Stuck" (if I hear her right). This music is anything but.

- Robert Spencer