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The Guide to Los Angeles Improvised Music

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Simple...Isn't It?? Earth People (Undivided Vision) by Rex Butters

Characterizing themselves as "the psychedelic free music experience," Earth People formed in 2001. With a core of André Martinez, Doug Principato, and Jason Candler, the band includes a who's who of New York musicians including Karen Borca, Daniel Carter, Sabir Mateen, Mark Hennen, and Francóis Grillot. Vocalist M brings a flexible 6 octave range that finds its way through thorny passages like smoke. Reed rioteers Carter, Mateen, and Candler keep the pot stirred, while Martinez and Grillot give the musicians something to come home to.

Principato's acoustic guitar glissando launches "Birthright," Martinez follows him in. The voice of M rides the top of her sixth octave, and Carter and Mateen float flutes into the humid groove. Hennen peppers piano shards, while Borca flies on bassoon. M sings poetry mid-range soulful, as Carter and Mateen switch to trumpet and alto clarinet, respectively. Mateen sneezes through his tenor to start the title track. M begins a recitation of opposites, an image of low key restraint while all around her the band works out. With Principato on electric guitar and everybody blowing, Earth People create energy music. Grillot and Martinez drop into a runaway rhythm, Borca running with them. M maintains her sultry long tones, making way for the three saxes to square off.Hennen plays his piano's strings like a tinny harp and the band goes out light and lovely.

Earth People create a unique and lively collaboration on "Simple ... Isn't It??", a free flowing kinetic kaleidoscope of sound.

Earth People on the web: www.earthpeople.tv