

## ALBUM REVIEW: McJAD GOES ORGANIC

by John Clare

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**T**rumpeter Keith Hounslow is one of the few Australian musicians who have made important contributions to traditional, modern and even avant-garde jazz. Pianist Tony Gould has a profile in Melbourne in both jazz and classical music. He's also a professor. Keith is self-taught.



*The odd couple, McJad, Keith Hounslow (left) & Tony Gould...*

The odd couple began playing mostly short, melodic, improvised duets in the 1970s, calling themselves McJad [Melbourne Contemporary Jazz Art Duo]. There are two discs here. One gives a fine sampling of their earlier work. On the second, Gould plays the organ in the chapel of Ormond College (in 2000).

Gould is not an organist, but he brings such a wealth of harmonic knowledge and such a creative grasp of the machine's sonic possibilities, that I think I might even prefer the later work.

On track 10, he makes the organ sound like a steam calliope. Against this, Hounslow, whose tone is clear and ringing so late in his career (he is now retired), plays a recurring pattern of steps and slow tumbles - shifting slightly each time - that can truly be called a spontaneous invention.

Throughout, Hounslow's ability to create thematic fragments and developmental lines, and even to make perfectly turned, beautiful melodies on the spot, is absolutely remarkable.

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