

JAZZ MASTERPIECE

John Clare reviews the Ten Part Invention album *Unidentified Spaces*

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Ten Part Invention is a Sydney band formed more than 20 years ago to perform Australian jazz music. It still has a solid, often ecstatic, following. This album has a wealth of writing from two band members who are among our greatest composers: Sandy Evans and Miroslav Bukovsky. Evans is represented by the title work, a suite whose four sections range across a wide spectrum, from bursting rhythmic permutations to static limpidity. Bukovsky's *Folk Song* is a vast expansion of the possibilities of a Romanian melody. It billows out in high, transparent and eerily oscillating harmonies, and coalesces in hard, driving sections of great intensity. Here alto saxophonist Bernie McGann and double bassist Steve Elphick produce some of their greatest improvised statements.



L-R, Steve Elphick, Bob Bertles, Bernie McGann, Sandy Evans, Paul McNamara, Ken James, Miroslav Bukovsky, John Pochée, Warwick Alder, James Greening...

Ensembles such as this (ten pieces in this case) have made some of my favourite jazz. Allan Browne, Stu Hunter, Sam Keevers and Paul Grabowsky have also recorded outstanding examples, where the writing creates architecture and atmosphere – a cityscape if you like – which is populated by some of our most distinctive and brilliant solo voices. Evans and Bukovsky are amongst those in Ten Part; likewise trombonist James Greening, trumpeter Warwick Alder, baritone saxophonist Bob Bertles and drummer and founder John Pochée. The towering figure on the day is Bernie McGann, whose fire and melodic beauty are marvellously showcased.

*John Clare has written on diverse topics for most major Australian publications. He has published four books: *Bodgie Dada: Australian Jazz Since 1945*; *Low Rent*; *Why Wangaratta?: Ten Years Of The Wangaratta Festival of Jazz*; and *Take Me Higher*. His website is at <http://johnclare.extempore.com.au/>