



**PAUL DUNMALL/PAUL ROGERS/  
TONY BIANCO:  
COSMIC CRAFTSMEN  
(FMRC185-11105)**

Paul Dunmall (saxophones),  
Paul Rogers (6-string bass),  
Tony Bianco (drums)

A superbly recorded slice of free improvisation from three of the leading exponents of creative music. Recorded at the Jackson Lane venue in Highgate, London during a wonderful free improv event organised by the music specialist record shop Sound 323.

Separated into three sections, the performance begins with the usual exhibition of quality drumming with a solo from Tony Bianco, followed by Paul Rogers and Paul Dunmall's exquisite dynamic exchanges on 6-string bass and saxophone respectively. The recording is rounded off by a glorious trio performance, which cements the players' reputations as the 'cosmic craftsmen' we already know them to be.

**REVIEW: Paul Dunmall, Paul Rogers, Tony Bianco - Londons Jackson Lane**

With saxophonist Paul Dunmall convalescing from the effects of a frozen shoulder and Paul Rogers's trusty seven-string bass also recovering from a bashing, only drummer Tony Bianco made it to this gig without some evidence of physical trauma. Jackson's Lane has been housing improvised music gigs since the start of 2005. If I mention that the venue sits only a few minutes' walk from Highgate tube on the Archway Road in North London, you'd be right to suspect that Sound 323's Mark Wastell is the promoter - and good on Wastell for presenting a trio big on creativity, but short on opportunities to display it.

Because there are three musicians, a categorisation as a trio is inevitable, although some of the most revealing moments in the set overturned standard three-way interplay. An epic drum solo elbowed its way to the front; Rogers and Dunmall answered Bianco's final cymbal crash as a single unit with linear invention that demonstrated an elevated level of shared purpose and direction. Bianco is a splashy drummer, big on rhetorical gesture and the sort of looped grooves that are so flattened they transform themselves into all-pervasive underlay. With equilibrium perched on a wire, it felt like Dunmall and Rogers sometimes needed escape from Bianco's full-on insistence. Certainly it made for an intriguing imbalance within the group, honestly played out.

1. TONY BIANCO SOLO 1 (16.40)
2. THE TWO PAULS (16.28)
3. THE TRIO (35.13)

Recorded at Jacksons Lane,  
Archway Road, London on Saturday  
1st October 2005

Recording Engineer: Trevor Taylor  
Graphics by Trevor Taylor for FMR

Live concert organised by Mark  
Wastell for SOUND 323

