

will find something here, as will world music aficionados and so will devotees of electronic down-tempo music. At times Islandman are reminiscent of Baba Zula, particularly in the use of far-out distortion effects. In fact one can see Islandman as Istanbul's next generation of Baba Zula spin-offs, having grown up with the famous psych band, as well as with Barış Manço, Selda Bağcan, Erkin Koray, Cem Karaca and Moğollar. Sometimes the sound here is filmic, which is not surprising as Büyükc also does quite a bit of work for Turkish film and television on the side. In sum *Kaybola* is feel-good music, meditative, ambient and soothing while at the same time complex and richly textured.

ROBERT RIGNEY

TRACK TO TRY Dimitro

Matthews
Southern Comfort
The New Mine

MIG Music (55 mins)

★★★★★

Refreshing dose of US-Anglo folk from ex-Fairport singer



Soon after he'd formed Matthews Southern Comfort, ex-Fairport Convention singer songwriter Iain

Matthews enjoyed a million-selling No 1 hit in the UK with his version of Joni Mitchell's 'Woodstock'. Throughout the five decades since, Matthews has consistently produced some fine and tasteful, albeit too often overlooked, music in a variety of solo and collective guises, including the much-loved Plainsong, before deciding ten years ago that the Matthews Southern Comfort name fitted a new group of musicians from his new home in the Netherlands.

Coincidentally enough, this fourth album with Bart-Jan Baartmans (guitars, bass, and banjo), Bart de Win (pianos, accordion and backing vocals) and Eric de Vries (acoustic guitar and vocals) opens with a Joni Mitchell song, the poignant 'Ethiopia' from 1985, but aside from a chugging version of country music luminary Ed Snodderly's 'Working in the New Mine', the other ten tracks here are penned by Matthews with various combinations of MSC members, all harking from that sweet spot between British folk-rock and Americana that has long been his classy comfort zone. Even at 73 years of age, Matthews possesses a voice that sounds as sweet as ever, with his ear for



Melingo
Oasis

Buda Musique (37 mins)

★★★★★

Tango takes a trip to Greece



Daniel Melingo has travelled far from the pared-down dub beats of his 1998 debut *Tangos Bajos*. Over two decades, folksy turns, theatricality and wider world music ideas have been tossed into the mix. With *Oasis*, he shifts even further away from the rhythms and rubric of traditional tango. Explicitly Greek, vaguely Asian and rock-leaning compositions dominate the track list, with *bandoneón* riffs on 'La Búsqueda' adrift amid programming, and the snatches of tango surfacing in 'Caminito Rebetiko' having to jostle for space with *baglamas* and *bouzouki*. Melingo's vocals are mere voice overs on most songs, and when he does sing he sounds

hoarse, even non-committal. We have to wait till the 11th track, '¡Esta Vivo!' for a tango song proper, with dancing accordion, lilting strings and staccato piano.

As ever, Melingo's schtick is in major part posing and posturing, but he can still deliver a lyrical experience. Across the album, you get the feeling he's a bit bored of tango. Yet for all that, the music is never boring and, after a few plays, the eclecticism and collective spirit – among the 29 backing musicians are family members and old friends – grow on the listener. A cool, contemporary collage of 21st-century Buenos Aires, *Oasis* has the globe-trotting spirit of tango, if not the tempo.

CHRIS MOSS

TRACK TO TRY ¡Está Vivo!

angelic harmonies well served by his current comrades.

KEVIN BOURKE

TRACK TO TRY Feed It

Aditya Prakash
Ensemble
Diaspora Kid

Ropeadope Records (39 mins)

★★★★★

Straight outta Chennai



The Los Angeles music scene, famed for its slick studio bands and hit factories, has a reputation for

perfection rather than experimentation. *Diaspora Kid* subverts the expectations of its origin with a genuinely fresh fusion of jazz and Karnatic (South Indian classical) traditions. Aditya Prakash is an LA native with deep roots in Chennai. As a teenager with the vocalist joined the legendary Ravi Shankar's touring band. Since Ravi popularised the pathway of East-West cultural exchange it has become well trodden and frequently passé. Aditya Prakash's ensemble of LA jazz musicians and Chennai classical masters revitalise the familiar formula. Opener 'Greenwood' builds a polyrhythmic *bol* (rhythmic

vocalisation) into a galloping jazz groove. The lush string arrangements on 'Irish Song' conjure pastoral scenes worthy of Aaron Copland, which are lent a Celtic lilt by the lithe flute playing of Hitomi Oba. LA has recently hosted a jazz renaissance led by Kamasi Washington, a saxophonist known for collaborating with hip-hop superstar and Compton native Kendrick Lamar. Aditya builds on this energy, delivering a record not quite straight outta Chennai but all the richer for having absorbed the diaspora experience.

LIAM IZOD

TRACK TO TRY Irish Song ▶

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