

**Air Names.** Daniel Grabois, horn, noreba, bouchero, and midi programming; Nick Moran, bass; John Ferrari, drums. Summit Records, DCD673.

Daniel Grabois: *Love Triangle; Civil War; Moons of Mercury; Raga; Harry Lewis; March; Not Much But Air Names; Cairo Sunset; The Misfits; Cloud 10; Chew Your Soup; Lost and Found; Rio DJ; Oaxaca Cathedral; Dusk, Autumn, Midwest; Love Meant Living Alone.*

Daniel Grabois, horn professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is an excellent horn player, composer, inventor of instruments, midi-programmer, maybe a rock-n-roll star, and certainly a creative genius. His debut solo album for horn and electronics, titled after the track *Air Names*, is a fascinating listening experience.

In the liner notes, Grabois writes that he “wrote these songs using the software Ableton Live, which enabled me to turn horn playing and composing into one unified activity.” The results of this activity are refreshingly interesting, and fun. The first track has a multi-meter beat reminiscent of favorite Zeppelin tunes. Some tunes are more ethereal, such as *Oaxaca Cathedral*, with digital delay effects, evoking a cathedral in Mexico. Other tracks run the gamut from pseudo-Southern India ragas, to Brazilian street bands, to guttural space monster incantations. Good times!

The seemingly blithe tunes on this disc belie the time and skill it no doubt took to create it. The production quality and attention to detail in these tracks is quite spectacular – anyone interested in electro-acoustic musical production should take note.

The CD package is also an enjoyable read, as Grabois writes about the genesis of many of the tracks and offers highly entertaining one-line explanations of titles (e.g., *Moons of Mercury*; Mercury actually has no moons).

This is definitely a CD to add to your collection – it is utterly unique and should be on the play list for your next horn party – it has a good beat and is easy to dance to. *LVD*