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PAUL PLIMLEY / LISLE ELLIS DUO
Both Sides Of The Same Mirror
9 Winds NW CD 0135
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Once again the influence of Cecil Taylor is in evidence, as both Paul Plimley and Lisle Ellis are serious students of his, and have benefited from the concept of Unit Structures. Plimley even appears on the orchestra CD that is part of the magnificent FMP boxed set of Cecil Live In Berlin. But, once again, as in the case of Marilyn Crispell, it is the history and guidance of Taylor that has been useful, and not an attempt to emulate his music. In fact the musical association that the two share goes back to the 1970s when they were both part of the invention of the New Orchestra Workshop in Vancouver, a movement that was central to the development of the burgeoning west coast scene. So it is not too surprising that their music has an intimate closeness. It must be flattering, especially for a Canadian musician for whom fame is elusive on an international level, to be compared to someone as fantastic as Cecil Taylor, and although Plimley would acknowledge this influence, his music is less physical, more lyrical and blues inflected than the man who taught him so much.

The hour of music on this CD, with the exception of the Jimi Hendrix composition *Third Stone From The Sun*, and one by each of them, is collaborated composing, giving the overall illusion of a suite in nine parts. Perhaps the intention. Close together is the thought that keeps entering my mind, so close that on several tracks it is impossible to discern the bass from the piano's rumbling lower clef. Rhythmic, sprightly, intense, beautiful and sad, much like the character of the two amazing players that play this music. This is the first time out for them together as a recorded duo, but I am sure that once this music is heard they will be in much demand. In 1982 Lisle Ellis moved to Montreal and his energy is once again in evidence in the form of a weekly series of which he is the musical director. Etats Soniques has in recent times presented William Parker, Karen Borca, Joe McPhee, Glenn Spearman, Raphael Malik, and a great number of Canadian players.

Canada's reputation as a "jazz country" has never succeeded in going past the idea of *Swinging Shepard Blues*, but like a great deal of our country's reputation, no longer exists. This duo could be a perfect way for you to be introduced to the new order.