



The Music Improvisation Company 1969, 1970

## MUSIC IMPROVISATION COMPANY 1969, 1970

Label

**HONEST JON'S RECORDS**

Format

**2LP**

Catalog Number

**HJR 209LP**

UPC

769791975071



List Price

**\$34.98**

Release Date

**11/08/19**

Territory

**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - M - JAZZ**



## DESCRIPTION

"The original concepts of vocal and instrumental music are utterly different. The instrumental impulse is not melody in a 'melodious' sense but an agile movement of the hands which seem to be under the control of a brain center totally different from that which inspires vocal melody. Altogether, instrumental music, with the exception of rudimentary rhythmic percussion, is as a rule a florid, fast and brilliant display of virtuosity... Quick motion is not merely a means to a musical end but almost an end in itself which always connects with the fingers, the wrists and the whole of the body."

The inclusion of the above passage from **Curt Sachs's** *The Wellsprings of Music* with this album, the recording of which predates the **Music Improvisation Company's** only other release, the eponymous ECM outing, indicates a clear intention to stake out territory for European free improvisation markedly different from that of the (American) free jazz it sprang from. The African-American heritage that led to jazz was melodious, vocal, field holler/church-inflected, and the Germans and the Dutch never made any secret of their affection for it, but British free improvisers in the late 1960s were looking elsewhere. Even so, and though the music press made a big deal a while back about the release of a 1965 rehearsal tape by **Derek Bailey's** earlier **Joseph Holbrooke** trio (with **Gavin Bryars** and **Tony Oxley**), their early efforts were mere tentative steps along a cliff edge wearing a line safely attached to **Coltrane**, and there's still a faint but distinct aftertaste of jazz in Bailey and **Parker's** work with the **Spontaneous Music Ensemble** up to and including 1968's *Karyōbin* (1993). But with the addition of **Jamie Muir** – the first great free improvising percussionist who didn't start out as a jazz drummer – and **Hugh Davies** and his electronics from way out leftfield in the avant-garde/experimental world, the MIC leapt right off that cliff. As **Nina Hagen** screamed later, "1968 is over! Future is Now!" These six tracks – tight, electric, pointillistic, brilliant, uncompromising and exhilarating – sound like nothing else that came before. In a word, seminal.

## TRACKLISTING

01. Pointing
02. Untitled 3
03. Untitled 4
04. Bedrest
05. Its Tongue Trapped to the Rock by a Limpet, the Water Rat  
Succumbed to the Incoming Tide
06. In the Victim's Absence

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Honest Jon's Records present an issue of the **Music Improvisation Company's** 1969, 1971, originally released as 1968-1971 by Incus in 1976.
- The recording of which predates the **Music Improvisation Company's** only other release, the eponymous ECM outing (1970).
- The release of a 1965 rehearsal tape by **Derek Bailey's** earlier **Joseph Holbrooke** trio (with **Gavin Bryars** and **Tony Oxley**), their early efforts seemed more tentative, safely attaching improvisations to **Coltrane** and the **Spontaneous Music Ensemble**.
- With the addition of **Jamie Muir** – the first great free improvising percussionist who didn't start out as a jazz drummer – and **Hugh Davies** and his electronics from way out leftfield in the avant-garde/experimental world, the MIC leapt right off that cliff.

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