

*The Best of Funk: Dazz Band, The Best of Funk: Brothers Johnson* (Voiceprint) Ouch. Everyone in the 2003 lineup of the Dazz Band was certainly a talented artist and deserves respect, but this concert DVD failed to even get me as worked up as the sedentary festival crowd watching them. Of the six songs, two are (I presume) new, one is not by them (Brick's "Dazz," which confused people probably ask them to play so often they just relented), and they skip "Let it All Blow." Sure, "Let It Whip" is a jam, but the camera is mostly on the singer during the whole thing, and he's not an

original member, and I can't really see why you would buy this. The Brothers Johnson DVD is a different story. Sure it's recorded around the same time, but it's to a bigger crowd who demonstrate a palpable sense of being funkified by the reunited siblings. A more ambitious project, it cuts away from some of the extended lite jazz funk instrumentals for interviews, and the performances shot pretty well. They run through a lot of their compositions, and some Sly Stone cuts, and of course their best cut, a cover of Shuggie Otis' "Strawberry Letter 23." They have aged well, are great musicians (licks of lightning and thumbs of thunder intact) and fine showmen, and while I'm reluctant to say you need to see this DVD, I am saying if they do another tour together, go see them.