

NEWS: MY AAJ Member Benefits - Sign up Today!

SHOP: CDs/DVDs/Vinyl/Sleeves | Downloads | Posters | Art



HOME | NEWS | REVIEWS | ARTICLES | MUSICIANS | PHOTOS | FORUMS | Login | MY AAJ Signup

Intro | Site Map | Shows | Free Daily MP3s | Videos | Upcoming Releases | Guides | Editorial Calendar | Contests | Help Wanted

Advanced Search AAJ

Contact Us | Advertise | For Contributors | For Musicians

Search Web

JAZZ NEAR YOU

THE GREEK THEATRE
SUNDAY, NOV 16
BUY TICKETS

Locate!

SHOWCASE TITLES

- The Music of Djavan**
Lori Bell
- Overseason**
Ondrej Pivec with Joel Frahm, Jake Langley and Tomas Hobzek
- Jazz Straight Ahead**
Rob Mullins
- The Blues and The Abstract Truth, Take 2**
Bill Cunliffe
- To Jobim With Love**
Toninho Horta
- Jazz In Bel Air**
Alphonse Mouzon

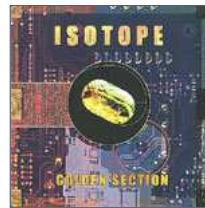
Advertise Here

Golden Section
[Isotope](#) | [Cuneiform Records](#) (2008)

By [John Kelman](#)

[Discuss](#)

While it's generally accepted that Miles Davis fired the first fusion shots with *In a Silent Way* (Columbia, 1969) and *Bitches Brew* (Columbia, 1969), plenty was going on, at the same time, to explore the fusion of jazz and rock. In England, [Ian Carr's Nucleus](#) and [Soft Machine](#) were finding their own nexus points. And as Miles spawned a second wave in North American groups like Mahavishnu Orchestra and Weather Report, England became fertile ground for Hatfield and the North and Gilgamesh, who brought a distinctly British spin to complex writing meshed with rock energy. Isotope was, however, the one that most mirrored what was happening on the other side of the Atlantic, a link in clear evidence on *Golden Section*.



Formed by guitarist Gary Boyle, *Golden Section* documents the group's second line-up, with original drummer Nigel Morris, keyboardist Laurence Scott and, most importantly, ex-Soft Machine bassist Hugh Hopper. Culled from performances in London, New York and Bremen from July, 1974 through May, 1975, this line-up spent considerable time on the road combining early Mahavishnu Orchestra's rawness with Weather Report's funkier disposition, all filtered through an Anglo-centric prism made all the more distinctive by Hopper's dense, often fuzz-toned bass.

Boyle's rough-hewn, overdriven tone and fleet-fingered approach might seem, on the surface, to owe much to John McLaughlin's equally visceral playing of the time. The two were, in fact, contemporaries, with nearly parallel careers beginning as in-demand session players before becoming increasingly involved in the nascent progressive jazz movement of late 1960s. Still, there's no denying the influence of Mahavishnu Orchestra on the Phrygian-based "Spanish Sun" where, following a rubato intro where Boyle's lightning-fast runs avoid direct imitation by eschewing many of the Indo-centric intonations that were already creeping into McLaughlin's overall aesthetic. Isotope possessed its own energy, but was less sonically assaultive and grooved in ways early Mahavishnu Orchestra never would.

As much as Mahavishnu Orchestra informs Boyle's tone and playing, as a writer he was clearly more influenced by the funk and germinal world music of Joe Zawinul. The two

More CD Reviews [SHARE](#)

BOZ SCAGGS
SPEAK LOW

In Stores NOW

Available at **amazon.com**

www.bozscaggs.com

FREE MP3 DOWNLOADS

Tomoko Omura
Enigmatic Vision
From *Visions*
06:55

[More](#) | [Recent](#) | [Top](#)

MOSE ALLISON LIVE AT
ROLLER'S FLYING FISH
WITH JIM DRAGONI & DYLAN TAYLOR
NOV 7 - 8 | PHILADELPHIA | [CLICK FOR TICKETS](#)

SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT

Ondrej Pivec
New CD: Overseason

PROMOTE IT!

- 1
your music
- 2
your website
- 3
yourself

all about JAZZ
@ allaboutjazz.com

versions of his fiery "Illusion," that bookend *Golden Section*, feel very much aligned with *Mysterious Traveler*-era Weather Report, especially the opening version from the 1975 Bremen show, that also features percussionist Aureo de Souza, who played only briefly with Isotope and is documented here for the first time.

Hopper's compositional contributions also pull Isotope away from direct references to its American counterparts. "Lily Kong" moves along at a furious pace, while the characteristically oblique title track still brings out a funk that Hopper would soon desert for the more experimental territory of 1976's *Hopper Tunity Box* (Cuneiform, 2007).

Morris is a solid rhythm anchor and Scott a more than capable player, but it's Hopper and Boyle who gave this second line-up of Isotope its personality. *Golden Section* provides an opportunity to hear experience the more visceral energy of the group in performance, making it a valuable addition to the group's diminutive but worthy discography.

[Isotope at All About Jazz](#).
Visit [Isotope](#) on the web.

Track listing: Illusion; Rangoon Creeper; Attila; Spanish Sun; Crunch Cake; Mr. M's Picture; Frog; Attila; Spanish Sun; Lily Kong; Edorian; Golden Section; Illusion.

Personnel: Gary Boyle: guitar; Hugh Hopper: bass; Nigel Morris: drums; Laurence Scott: keyboards; Aureo de Souza: percussion (1-6).

Style: [Fusion/Progressive Rock](#)
Published: October 11, 2008



More Articles by John Kelman


[Genesis: 1970-1975 Box Set](#)
[Upojenie](#)
[Question and Answer](#)
[One-Way Ticket to Candyland](#)
[Mind Meets Matter](#)
[Retrograde](#)
[Randy in Brasil](#)

With the realization that there will always be more music coming at him than he can keep up with, AAJ Senior Editor John Kelman wonders why anyone would think that jazz is dead or dying... [More about John...](#)

More Recent Reviews

 **Gil Fuller with Dizzy Gillespie & James Moody**
[Gil Fuller & The Monterey Jazz Festival Orchestra featuring Dizzy Gillespie/Night Flight](#)

 **Michael Bates**
[Clockwise](#)

 **Eri Yamamoto**
[Redwoods](#)

Ads by Google

John McLaughlin/ShaktiDVD
The Way of Beauty/Zakir Hussain 2006 Release on DVD
www.abstractlogix.com

Jazz Music
Featuring Freddie Stevens Smooth Jazz For Any Occasion
YourBestJazz.com

isotope
Largest selections of carbon tritium, P-32, I-125, S-35
www.mpbio.com

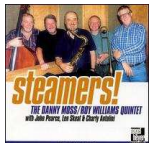
John McLoughlin
Managing Director - UK Media Contacts
www.MediaContacts.com

Pimp Your Profile
Free Layouts, Backgrounds & Profile Generators. 100% Free!
Download Now
www.myspace-fun-layouts.com



NOW PLAYING

Jazz Excursion Radio



"It's All Right With Me"
Danny Moss / Roy Williams
Steamers!

[Listen Now](#)

AAJ @ JAZZLOFT



Amplifier
Peachtree Audio
Decco Tube Amp
For iPods

ART GALLERY



GLOBAL COVERAGE

Locate by Region

DATA FEEDS

Push AAJ Content
AAJ Live | RSS | Widgets



Denman Maroney/Ned Rothenberg/ Reuben Radding/Michael Sarin

Gaga



Ben Webster

Dig Ben!



Lester Young

The Lester Young/Count Basie Sessions 1936-1940

Related Articles *recommendations by FreshNotes*

- ▶ [Uriel and Egg: The Road to Hatfield and Beyond](#)
- ▶ [Miles Davis: The Complete On The Corner Sessions](#)
- ▶ [Bill Evans: How My Heart Sings](#)
- ▶ [Return to Forever: The Anthology](#)
- ▶ [Jane Bunnett: The Spirit's Dancing in the Flesh!](#)
- ▶ [Genesis: 1970-1975 Box Set](#)

CD Review Search

Artist Name

Album Title

Record Label

Author

Most Read: CD Reviews
[Last 30 Days](#) | [All Time](#)

Most Read: Articles
[Last 30 Days](#) | [All Time](#)

Ads by Google

"Beck meets Steely Dan"

Tales Out of Night School
New Jazz/Rock
/Funk/Lo-Fi Music
www.talesoutofnightschool.com

2009 Ford Fusion Sale

Amazing deals for women buying cars save \$1000's on new cars.
WomenCarBuying.com

Singer Songwriter

New CD called Monarch
Early Rock, Blues, and Ballads
mikearant.net

Don't Pay for School

Get a scholarship for free! Millions go unused every year.
www.ProgramAdvisor.com

50% Off Jazz Posters

Only \$5.95 and ships same day! Over 5,000 posters to choose from
www.PosterGods.com

JAZZ POSTERS



Jazz Poster Art

Art.com | All Posters

SUPPORT AAJ!



Make a donation and support All About Jazz
Contribute to the continued operation of jazz's most important online resource.

KIMMEL CENTER PRESENTS SPONSORED BY Citi

"An unalloyed triumph..."
--The New Yorker on "Lovely"