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HEINZ GEISSER / ENSEMBLE 5 THE COLLECTIVE MIND VOL. 2

LEO RECORDS 864

PEACOCK DANCE / TRUMPE- L'OEIL / WHAT IF? / NO BONES ABOUT IT / 4+1 / COCO / BLUE-SHIFTED. 39:34.

Heinz Geisser – perc; Robert Morgenthaler – tbn; Reto Staub – p; Fridolin Blumer – b.
recorded: 3/18/2018, Maur, Switzerland.



Swiss quartet Ensemble 5 releases The Collective Mind, Vol. 2 (I missed volume 1, released earlier in 2019) and it fits in within the purview of free improvisation. But of the three [albums] considered here, this one is the closest to jazz.

It's straight ahead, non-thematic improvisation played on unaltered instruments. To be sure, there are extended range techniques and no overt rhythmic "jams". For sure there is a rhythmic pulse, the leader, Geisser is a drummer, after all. "4+1" is a rhythmically charged piece with each player adding rhythmic stabs and embellishments. While no one player is featured on a track, trombonist Robert Morgenthaler's fragmented phrases are the feature of "No Bones About It" and justifiably so. Since I missed Vol. 1 I can't say whether this is better or not. But The Collective Mind, Vol. 2 is well worth hearing.

Robert Iannapollo