



Radio Londra is a new jazz quartet – but its four members are all seasoned veterans. The combo was the brainchild of Italian drummer Enzo Zirilli who runs a UK/Italian musicians exchange scheme. For Radio Londra he's paired guitarists Jim Mullen and Luca Boscagin and added keyboardist Ross Stanley.

Mullen, of course, is a seasoned veteran with a CV that goes back to the 70s; Boscagin began his career in rock but is now regarded as one of Italy's top jazz men with three solo albums under his belt; Stanley is an in-demand UK jazz session player; while instigator Zirilli has worked in both Italy and the UK and though a quartet, the music which Radio Londra craft has all the feel of the great soul-jazz organ trios of the 60s with that second guitar adding a special, extra dimension.

As was often the way with many albums of the classic soul-jazz era, Radio Londra's repertoire is based around their takes on others' material – and they mix jazz standards and well-known pop and soul hits on the album. Perhaps the most striking cover is a languid treatment of the Rolling Stones' 'Satisfaction' which is a million miles away from the cock-sure strutting of the original. Jagger, though, would, I'm sure approve; ditto, co-author Keith Richards who'd marvel at the two distinct guitar styles – Boscagin's precision and Mullen's thumb-driven soulfulness. A swinging take on Earth Wind And Fire's 'After The Love has Gone' is another album highlight –evoking all the atmosphere of those smoky, 60s cellar clubs. Other featured tunes include

## **RADIO LONDRA: Radio Londra (Trio Records)**

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Dave Brubeck's 'The Duke'. Michel Legrand's 'You Must Believe In Spring' and Hoagy Carmichael's 'Stardust'.

The big original number is 'Us 4'. Written by Boscagin, it has a hint of 'My Cherie Amour' about it but it does allow all four band members to shine.

'Radio Londra' is released on Trio records on January 26th.

(BB) 3/5