



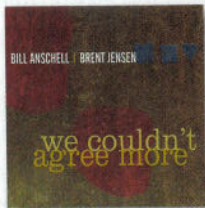
While he may be best known for his work with prog-rock groups Yes, King Crimson and Genesis, British drummer Bill Bruford has also carved out a niche as an imaginative jazz and fusion musician. On *Skin and Wire* (Summerfold), by **Pianocircus featuring Bill Bruford**, the drummer teams up with bassist Julian Crampton and a quartet of keyboardists to play the compositions of Colin Riley. A former associate composer for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Riley also contributes electronic programming to the mix. The evocative "Stalling Between Two Fools," included here, bubbles and bristles with electronic and organic sounds as well as Bruford's odd-metered beats, truly calling up the twin substances alluded to in the album's title.



Contemporary jazzers **Kilimanjaro** topped the jazz-radio charts in the early '80s before the group took a left turn and became bluesman Big Joe Burrell's backing band. After Burrell died in 2005, the members of Kilimanjaro received a grant from the Burlington, Vermont-based Flynn Centre to come up with new compositions for a "reunion" show the following year. The excitement they generated convinced them that a follow-up recording was in order. So, 25 years after their last album, Kilimanjaro released *Homecoming* (Kilimanjaro Jazz), showing they hadn't lost a step. Guitarist Paul Asbell penned the laid-back funkier "Maceo's New Suit," included here, which spotlights Chas Eller's greasy, late-night Hammond organ licks, a sinuous horn section and Asbell's heated blues riffs throughout.



What happens when you stick two world-class improvisers in a studio, place a couple of mikes about the room and then leave them to their own devices? One happy result is pianist **Bill Anshell** and saxophonist **Brent Jensen's** *We Couldn't Agree More* (Origin). Just because they didn't have any arrangements, and only barebones outlines of where they wanted to go, don't imagine that it's all free-jazz anarchy. On the contrary, the session is quite tuneful, as the pair thoughtfully interpret standards by everyone from Jerome Kern and Cole Porter to Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk, playing with harmonies and tempos as they see fit. On "The People Versus Miss Jones," our selection, ►►



JAZZIZ on Disc WINTER 2009



Side A — Critics' Choices

- 01 **Arve Henriksen** "The Unremarkable Child"
Cartography (ECM)
- 02 **Kilimanjaro** "Maceo's New Suit"
Homecoming (Self-released)
- 03 **Christian McBride & Inside Straight** "Brother Mister"
Kind of Brown (Mack Avenue)
- 04 **Sylvain Luc and Biréli Lagrène** "So What"
Summertime (Dreyfus Jazz)
- 05 **Tom Lellis and the Metropole Orchestra** "Mountain Flight"
Skylark (Adventure)
- 06 **Kyle Eastwood** "Bold Changes"
Metropolitain (Rendezvous)
- 07 **Pianocircus featuring Bill Bruford** "Stalling Between Two Fools"
Skin and Wire (Summerfold)
- 08 **Mark Colby** "Caroline's Romp"
Reflections (Origin)
- 09 **Enrico Rava** "Blancasnow"
New York Days (ECM)
- 10 **Brian Bromberg** "Sanford and Son"
It Is What It Is (Artistry)
- 11 **John Wojciechowski** "Lexicon"
Lexicon (Self-released)
- 12 **Branford Marsalis Quartet** "Jabberwocky"
Metamorphosen (Marsalis)
- 13 **Bill Anshell/Brent Jensen** "The People Versus Miss Jones"
We Couldn't Agree More (Origin)
- 14 **Chick Corea/John McLaughlin** "The Disguise"
Five Peace Band Live (Concord)

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