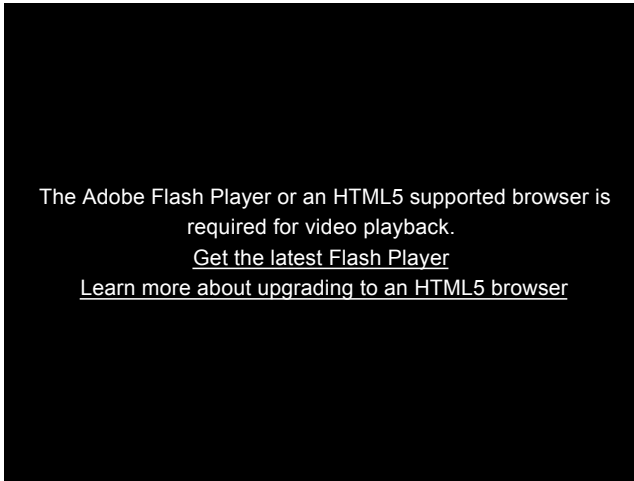




Fusion Jazz, Jazz — November 14, 2013 at 10:32 am

## Brian Settles Trio – Folk (2013)

by S. Victor Aaron



Just a couple of years ago, D.C.-area tenor sax maestro Brian Settles put forth his first album as a leader, *Secret Handshake*, a quietly probing record that ignored boundaries between mainstream jazz and avant garde. *Folk* continues in that way, but with the Central Union quintet reduced to the Brian Settles Trio, retaining his rhythm section of Corcoran Holt (acoustic bass) and Jeremy Carlstedt (drums).

With only a two-man rhythm section behind him, Settles' saxophone becomes more pronounced, and it's easier to take notice of his no-nonsense tone and delivery, a Rollins-like character that's neither too meek nor too brash. Settles will always tend toward playing the right notes and away from playing too many notes. His full tone and allegiance to the melody is how his economic style works in such a stripped down setting.

Settles' measured approach serves him well time and again, especially on numbers like "Sipho" which commences as a ballad, then transits into a bebop cadence. Settles responds by playing his notes economically, referring to stretch them out and make each one mean more. His straight up style adds grace to the uneasy waltz "Rivers" and flows beautifully on the wandering "Understanding."

Even on a swift-tempo'd number such as "Soldierly," Settles is choosy as to when to reel off tightly clustered notes; there are lots of instances where he draws out notes and leaves spaces as Holt and Carlstedt ramble along freely. Settles is the anchor on the abstract "Passing Landscape," enabling Carlstedt to do all the improvising.

The help he gets from his companions is of the complementary kind. Carlstedt solos while keeping time on "Rivers." "Efflorescence" is an Eastern European folk melody, but powered by explosive drums and Holt's actively walking bass. "Orbit" is the groove track of this bunch but it's an organic one, with Holt and Carlstedt driving it all the way while Settles largely stays on the sidelines.

The second, stripped down effort by Brian Settles confirms his leadership abilities and the exceptional rapport among these three. Here's a cat who without much fanfare is making jazz the way it used to be made all the time: with real emotion and synergy.

Search



### Trending Right Now



'What Christmas really meant to me': Greg Lake on his often-misunderstood Yuletide classic



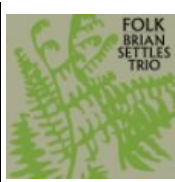
'We're very much more than our hits': The case for Hall and Oates as album artists



'Didn't know you could do that': David Crosby never got over early preview of the Beatles' 'Day in the Life'



Readers' Top 10 for 2013: The



[Folk](#)  
 Brian Settles Trio...  
 Best Price \$12.35  
 or Buy New \$15.84



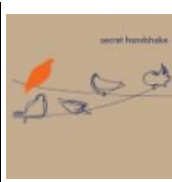
[Privacy Information](#)



[Secret Handshake](#)  
 Brian Settles & Ce...  
 Best Price \$7.92  
 or Buy New \$7.92



[Privacy Information](#)



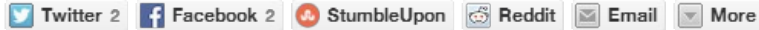
[Secret Handshake](#)  
 Brian Settles, Cen...  
 Best Price \$11.78  
 or Buy New \$16.58



[Privacy Information](#)

Folk went on sale November 12, by Engine Studios. s

Share this:



YOU MIGHT ALSO ENJOY:

1. [Brian Settles/Central Union – Secret Handshake \(2011\)](#) There's something odd I noticed about this record from the opening moments: there's a piano on it. Why is that so bizarre you ask? I don't think there's ever been...
2. [Jeremy Udden – Folk Art \(2012\)](#) As one of jazz's more restless saxophonists of his generation, Jeremy Udden has moved from the "melodic jazz-rock" of his Torchsongs ensemble to the country/folk-inflected jazz of Plainville. And now,...
3. [Brian Landrus Kaleidoscope – Mirage \(2013\)](#) "Landrus shows he has the goods to take his muse down whatever path he chooses and produce a winner every time." This ending to my review on Brian Landrus' last...

Tags [2010s](#) [Brian Settles](#) [Fusion Jazz](#) [Jazz](#) [new release](#)



Author: **S. Victor Aaron**

S. Victor Aaron is a CPA and mid-level data analyst for a Fortune 100 company by day, music opinion-maker at night. His musings are strewn out across the interwebs on [jazz.com](#), [AllAboutJazz.com](#), a football discussion board and some inchoate customer reviews of records from the late 1990s on Amazon under a pseudonym that will never be revealed. Contact Something Else! at [reviews@somethingelserreviews.com](mailto:reviews@somethingelserreviews.com).

## Leave a Reply

Name:  — required \*  Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Email:  — required \*  Notify me of new posts by email.

Website:

Message:

Submit Comment



Beatles, Peter Banks, the Band, Adrian Belew, Carcass, Led Zeppelin



'A real dripping, nighttime record': Daniel Lanois remembers Bob Dylan collaboration on Oh Mercy



Sparks Fly On E Street: Bruce Springsteen, "Waitin' On A Sunny Day" (2001)

**£27.99** **BID NOW**  
 Nikon D3100 **up to 92% OFF!**

**£20.56** **BID NOW**  
 Canon SX50 **up to 94% OFF!**

**£15.25** **BID NOW**  
 iPad mini 64GB **up to 96% OFF!**

**£84.06** **BID NOW**  
 MacBook Pro **up to 93% OFF!**

\*Prices of previously won items  
**Never Pay More Than Retail**  
 QuiBids

## Get Connected

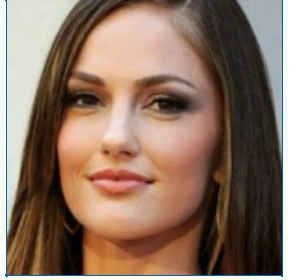
- Facebook**  
Friend us! Al Jardine just did
- Twitter**  
Follow us! MTV's Martha Quinn does
- RSS**  
Free emailed subscriptions!
- Email**  
Drop us a line!
- LinkedIn**  
Let's link up!
- Tumblr**  
Yeah, we're there, too

## Around the Internet





[The Most Disgusting Rock Stars](#)



[Daughters Of Rock Stars: The List May Surprise You](#)



### All-Time Most Popular

[Gimme Five: Songs where the Beatles, well, sucked](#) *129 comments*

[Move over, Rolling Stone!: Here are Mark Saleski's Top 10 Guitarists](#) *50 comments*

[Gimme Five: Beatles songs where Ringo Starr doesn't, you know, suck](#) *47 comments*

[Gimme Five: Solo Beatles records that, well, sucked](#) *43 comments*

[Gimme Five: Songs where Led Zeppelin, well, sucked](#) *40 comments*

['We are the real Beach Boys': Brian Wilson opens up after being ousted by Mike Love](#) *38 comments*

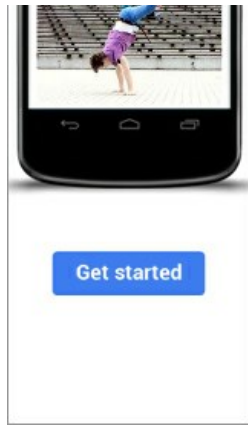
[Gimme Five: Songs where Bob Dylan, well, sucked](#) *36 comments*

[Gimme Five: Songs where the Beatles, well, sucked \(again!\)](#) *34 comments*

['I think it's really up to the guys': Adam Lambert's unsure how far Queen collaboration will go](#) *32 comments*

[Paul McCartney and Wings - <i>Wings Over America</i> \(1976; 2013 reissue\)](#) *31 comments*





## What We've Been Up To

'Worth whatever grief and stress we may have experienced': Eric Clapton on Cream's unlikely 2005 reunion *Something Else!*

'The ultimate stereo test record': How everything came together on Pink Floyd's *Dark Side* *Something Else!*

Readers' Top 10 for 2013: The Beatles, Peter Banks, the Band, Adrian Belew, Carcass, Led Zeppelin *Something Else!*

One Track Mind: The Zakary Thaks, "She's Got You" / "Jax Beer

Commercial" (2013) *Beverly Paterson*

'A real dripping, nighttime record': Daniel Lanois remembers Bob Dylan collaboration on *Oh Mercy* *Something Else!*

'We cherish you': Carlos Santana's emotional reunion with homeless former bandmate *Something Else!*

Sparks Fly On E Street: Bruce Springsteen, "Waitin' On A Sunny Day" (2001) *Mark Saleski*

On Second Thought: Black Rebel Motorcycle Club – *Specter at the Feast* (2013) *Mike Dostert*

'Didn't know you could do that': David Crosby never got over early preview of the Beatles' 'Day in the Life' *Something Else!*

'I'd have to lose 10 or 15 pounds': Ace Frehley contemplates reuniting with Kiss again *Something Else!*

## Something Else! Rewind

November 2013

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
« OCT						DEC »

## Recent Comments

**Barry:** Always loved this song. I was highly amused by the irony of...

**Jimmy Nelson:** So, "he will not come right out and tell us" about the song'...

**randy\_bottoms:** Funny that you wrote this comment before the album was even ...

**pw:** Rolling Stone Magazine panned this "record". Go figure. I o...

**Steve:** I could listen to this song if only I knew why Greg Lake say...

**JC Mosquito:** Stereo test record? Yeah, pretty much the only time I liste...

**ocpfsd1:** Nice! Thanks for sharing ... ..

## Blogroll

Canadian Audiophile: Jordan Richardson

NPR: A Blog Supreme

Volume Treble Bass

Cahl's Juke Joint: Rock, Blues and Jazz

Creative Loafing Charlotte: Patrick Moran

Bloggerhythms: Charlie Ricci

No Depression: Americana and Roots

MelodicRock.com

Kit O'Toole: Music and Popular Culture Writer

Ottawa Citizen Jazz Blog: Peter Hum

Popdose: Music

Destination: OUT

Hall of the Mountain King: Fred Phillips

Ted Gioia: Music, Books and Popular Culture

Expecting Rain

All About Jazz

## Search By Category

Select Category