



OF TIME

Rating: ★★★★★

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Album and Artist Details

Artist/band:	Underground Spiritual Game
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Ethio-jazz- and Afrobeat-inspired groups are a ubiquitous presence at music festivals these days, with new album releases appearing year after year, although such acts can be hard to differentiate, with similar line-ups and overlapping sounds. So, against this backdrop, it was very refreshing to hear this debut album by Brooklyn-based trio Underground Similar Game, who approach the music from a different angle. The stripped-down line-up of bass, drums and baritone sax gives the music space to breathe, while the concise track lengths ensure ideas are fully expressed without descending into monotonous grooves, a common problem for many albums in this field. A track like 'Above Ground' is perfectly structured and paced, with a memorable groove and haunting sax melody that doesn't outstay its welcome, at just three and a half minutes. A standout is 'Two Bees', with its shuffling beat, propulsive bass and truly gorgeous playing from veteran baritone player Eden Bareket. The absence of guitars and keyboards allows his horn to really come into focus, standing out beautifully. This is a very fresh first release from a trio worth following closely.



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