

“...Mats Öberg and Morgan Ågren doing what they...have always done – best: playing beautifully complex music that fires the imagination and the soul. ... Although the music owes something to a bygone era...Jeff Beck and Mahavishnu Orchestra...it’s not crippled by that debt, instead emerging as an original sounding entity...

What’s remarkable throughout is the group’s equal blend of playfulness, humour and sense of serious musical dedication, the ability to fuse complex musical passages with heartfelt emotion, and courageous performances. This band...it’s certainly one of the rarest, most interesting groups that can and is at or very near the top of its rarefied class. ... [8 Stars]” - Jedd Beaudoin, *PopMatters*, January 12, 2012, www.popmatters.com

“... The Mats/Morgan Band recalls the heyday of jazz fusion and progressive rock and blasts that music into the modern day with great musical chops and a sense of humor. With the intricacy of some of Frank Zappa's more ambitious work along with the virtuosity of The Mahavishnu Orchestra and Return to Forever. ... Fans of progressive rock and roll or jazz fusion should enjoy this disc quite a bit...”

- Tim Niland, *Music and More*, November 27, 2011, jazzandblues.blogspot.com

“This is excellent keyboard and drum work full of inspiration and improvisation. ... [4 stars]”

-Mark Johnson, *Sea of Tranquility*, November 23rd 2011, www.seaoftranquility.org

“Mats/Morgan...their 2001 live album...released on Ultimate Audio Entertainment has been remastered by Morgan Argen... **The playing is awesome from what many consider to be the best line-up of the group** with no less than three keyboard players who do not in any way diminish the role of fluid bassist Tommy Thordson (listen to the...impossible syncopated interplay on ‘Guardian Pitch’ followed by the brief Zappa-like interlude then the furious, hyperactive rhythms of ‘Etage A41’ ...concert opener ‘Hollmervalsen’). Deceptively close to Canterbury jazz at its origin...assimilates a familiar riff...**stunning in execution, quirky, insane rhythms sounding like a classical study from another planet!** ...There is probably enough in that one track to satisfy the most ardent listener! ...” - Phil Jackson, *Acid Dragon*, May 2012

“Keyboardist Mats Öberg and drummer Morgan Ågren...are at their hyperactive best on this remastered recording...

Öberg and Ågren were on their way to becoming household names in their native Sweden. They'd already collaborated with both Frank and Dweezil Zappa, and Ågren even had his own television show, Trum...

At this point, the Mats/Morgan sound was mostly centered around its namesakes. ... Öberg's solos...are wondrously unlikely mashups of classical, avant-garde, gospel, and jazz. ...his sound has roots in George Duke's keyboard work from the early '70s—both with Zappa and on solo LPs... Ågren is a percussive marvel, making oddly syncopated patterns in odd time signatures flow and groove like the simplest 4/4 pattern.

Ågren's composing on "Hollmervalsen," "Etage A41," and "Jigsaw Variations" contains a dose of highly rhythmic minimalism of the sort espoused by composer Steve Reich. ... These pieces feature dizzying polymetric and polyrhythmic phrases, often in odd time signatures, that are repeated with a near-obsessive attention to detail and dynamics. ...

The Zappa influences are most evident in the melodic content of Öberg's "Ta Ned Trasan," "Min Hast," and "Igloo." Here, the band shows its lyrical side a bit, while executing oddly accented, dissonant, nearly impossible to play phrases and turnarounds with effortless grace and panache. ... A jazz-rock fusion marvel over a decade ago, the Mats/Morgan band has subsequently gone from strength to strength. Recent recordings reveal a more organic approach to music-making, and one less concerned with musical mathematics. ...**Live proves that fusion can be as entertaining as it is mindboggling.**”

- Dave Wayne, *All About Jazz*, February 22, 2013, www.allaboutjazz.com

“...Morgan Ågren and...Mats Öberg... formed this phenomenal ensemble that exercised a jaw-dropping mode of execution within the progressive-rock schema, amid some Zappa and jazz-centric influences. Revered for its otherworldly approach to the genre and superior technical faculties, Mats/Morgan Band is known for its exhilarating live performances and manifold approach to composition.

... Rooted in a multifaceted constitution, "En Schizofrens Dagbok," is entrenched with hyperactive funk grooves, ferocious exchanges, scorching guitars, tricky time signatures, and jovial melodic content. Serious-minded but sprinkled with quaint sensibilities, the musicians' divergent implementation tender split-second breakouts, polytonal treatments and fluent cartoonish escapades. The differentiator resides within the artists' penchant for merging a chops-heavy element with sustainable themes and passages that move along with the impetus of a fast-paced action thriller. Its progressive rock with a college education by an outfit that has few, if any, peers in the business.”

- Glenn Astarita, *All About Jazz*, December 7, 2011, www.allaboutjazz.com