

Carlos Bica

11:11

CLEAN FEED



11:11 plays like a seamless web of variable moods, almost all of them in or bordering a gentle, ethereal vibe. Bassist Bica wrote most of the music, yet he plays a mostly supportive role here; this is not a music that lends itself to serial solo work,

but instead is played as if arrangements were everything. In fact, as the press release states, “The arrangements of the songs on this album are the result of collective work by the band.” In real time, no doubt.

That’s not how it all starts, however. Neto’s urgent, if subdued, guitar work kicks things off with what feels like an intro to fireworks with “Roots.” *11:11* bears an uncanny resemblance to Tom Van Der Geld’s 1979 album *Path*, where vibes predominate with guitar and reeds. “Blue In Grey” has that kind of lighter-than-air quality with Cardinho’s vibes that made *Path* a novel keeper. The mesmerizing melody floats, resting on Bica’s selective bass lines, everyone moving in and out as in a dream. The emotive “A Noite” features the “disembodied voice” of singer-songwriter, actor and activist José Mário Branco, while Neto’s “Love Boat” closes out this set with a return to meditative solemnity momentarily hijacked by a splash of ferocity.

—John Ephland



11:11: Roots; Lucky; Blue In Grey; Pentimenti; Paris; Nao Estas Aqui Por Acaso; Half Step; A Place You Will Never See; 11:11; Motiv; A Noite; Love Boat. (61:13)

Personnel: Carlos Bica, bass; José Soares, alto saxophone, voice; Eduardo Cardinho, vibraphone; Gonçalo Neto, guitar, banjo.

Ordering info: cleanfeed-records.com