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**JAZZ CD OF THE WEEK.
(Features)**

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Liberty Ellman -Ophiuchus Butterfly

(Pi Recordings PI19)

The lineage is obvious from the first few seconds -guitarist Liberty Ellman has played in Henry Threadgill's band. Gruff, asymmetric funk rhythms, with tuba doubling the double bass, provide the cushion for quirky and strange melodies played with alto and tenor saxes, the leader's guitar chiming amongst them.

If the title track is very like a Threadgill piece, the follow-up, Aestivation, is far closer to a conventional ballad format than anything Ellman's former leader would put out. There is a simple joy here in the strange beauty of the harmonies, long held, between saxophones, tuba, bass and guitar' the only sound I can equate it to is that of Seb Rochford's writing for his band Polar Bear.

Some tracks hardly feature guitar at all, Ellman choosing to sample bell-like sounds in tandem with drummer Gerald Cleaver.

Overall, the guitarist creates an original sound world of dark charm.

For what it's worth Ophiuchus is the 13th zodiacal constellation - the only one not to translate into a sign of the zodiac.