

**BEN ROGERS' INSTRUMENTAL ASYLUM**



reverb rehab



**REVERB REHAB**

**Ben Rogers' Instrumental Asylum, Blazz**

The twang's the thang for guitarist Ben Rogers and his instrumental trio. In 2006 they released *Welcome to the Instrumental Asylum*, a stirring collection of guitar-driven instrumentals. Their second album treads the same ground, mixing reinventions (Jerome Kern's pining *All the Things You Are* via Django Reinhardt, John Lennon's *Strawberry Fields Forever*, with an outro peppered with Beatles quotations, the Zombies' *She's Not There*) and originals. Bassist Nikki Scarlett's parallel universe life as a scientist gets a nod with *First Light at the Aussietron*, which takes its inspiration from Melbourne's synchrotron. This is tough, punchy, guitars-astride-the-world stuff, not for the faint-hearted. The art design is by Mark Ferrie, bassist for the RockWiz Orchestra. Amusingly, or obsessively, the specs of every instrument played and amplifier used are listed.

**Key track:** The album opens boldly with *Mr P.C.*, jazz saxophonist John Coltrane's ode to the great bass player Paul Chambers. It recasts the piece as surf instrumental. Anyway, I'd like to draw attention to the existence of the brilliant Mr Chambers.

**Ken Williams**