



Reverb Rehab

BEN ROGERS'
INSTRUMENTAL
ASYLUM
(MGM)

(GUITAR INSTRUMENTAL)

REVIEWED BY
PHIL BENNETT

With its heart firmly in the garage and its feet dangling in the surf, Instrumental Asylum's second album is a dynamite exploration and dissection of jazz, twang and thumping rock'n'roll.

Ben Roger's snarling but sophisticated guitar lines are scribbled all over it and his humour and imagination take these tracks to some very interesting places indeed, while Nikki Scarlett and Denis Close snap and bounce together like one rhythmic rubber band.

No one, it appears, is safe as they remold John Coltrane, Rod Argent and Bert Weedon numbers into curious melanges of styles and sounds. Strawberry Fields Forever, for instance, is marked by some superfine vibrato, matched with tougher than tough distortion, sounding like Hank Marvin struggling with an unfamiliar melody and an out of control amplifier. The walrus, we can only assume, must have been Ben.

The original numbers on display here are first rate too, with tracks like the mildly hallucinogenic Paisley Daze and the yearning Wet Suit Dream blending in nicely with the cover material.

At the end of the day, it doesn't seem to matter where these tunes originate. Once they've been through the Asylum doors, they come out with that same quirkily brilliant aural stamp.

A mind-twisting compound of guitars, genre-swapping, echo and a garden frog, *Reverb Rehab* is, well, quite mad.

Love it.