

# blow.cds

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## drum.jazz.cds

### STEVE HUNTER

Local World

ABC

Few jazz CDs this year will *match Local World* for its inventiveness, intelligence and warmth. In the main, it takes the psychedelic side of jazz, soul and funk and transforms them utterly into a very modern distillation; one that verges on Top 40 such is the open-armed attitude with which it seems to be approaching its audience. It also incorporates influences as diverse as African percussion, soul and country (Tina Harrod's singing and James Muller guitar on *Pray* is just short of orgasmic - and deliberately so), jazz fusion and post pop. It is

rife with improvisation, and for me one of its most amazing characteristics is that while it boasts very much a unique, holistic sound, it also is very much the sum of its parts, with each of its skilled protagonists having their own personalities represented here. Players like Phil Slater on trumpet and Matt McMahon on keyboards enrich *Local World* again and again. The songs are always vibrant, whether down or up tempo, with the latter being particularly invigorating. Modern jazz has rarely been so in touch with the heart, head and feet. Because even though the thought of dancing to this music is a bit strong, its underlying left-field funkiness is so ripe it might be a risk worth taking.