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JAZZ

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Ivo Perelman

Children of Ibeji (Enja)

This gringo's ears took awhile to adjust to Perelman's raucous, ripping tenor sax, his leaping melody lines and his band's full-tilt jungle fever. The group — a shifting mix of North American avantists like Andrew Cyrille, Fred Hopkins and Paul Bley and fellow Brazilians like Flora Purim and Guilherme Franco — makes searing music not for the feint of heart. Dedicated to Brazil's millions of homeless children, this recording echoes rituals of spiritual possession common in the Bahia region: an attempt to combat tragedy with ecstasy. It's quite a package, reflecting both the terror and the transcendence of Brazil through the music of a fresh, challenging new artist. We can marvel at the extraordinary intensity; we can also, as the disc's notes urge, help the kids with a gift to UNICEF. ★★★★★

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Jim Dulzo