

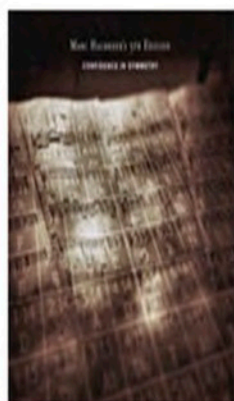


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Take five



Mark Halbheer's 5th Edition
Confidence in Symmetry
Textit Music ***

REVIEW

Swiss drummer Halbheer has been influenced by Los Angeles-based composer David Angel and his ideas linking numbers, notes, pitched intervals, ratios and polymeters running under the heading of "fifth structure". But there's little technical or off-putting about this quintet's prog-jazz improvising approach. Best known of the players is the veteran improviser guitarist Christy Doran joining Halbheer, bassist Heiri Känzig, reeds player Klaus Dickbauer, and trombonist Robert Bachner. Beautifully recorded at the Bauer studios in Germany last year, Halbheer's six compositions knit well together and the band plays as a band with a clever collective improvisational sense. Doran's woozy Frisellian opening to 'The Second Flat of a Minor Bee' (quite a title) and the fractured coming together of the rest of the band later in the tune is just one of the highlights of an album full of improvisational breadth subtly rendered.