

Evan Parker/John Edwards/Steve Noble

PEN

Dropa Disc CD/DL

Recorded in Antwerp in January 2015, *PEN* is the first live document of Evan Parker's trio with the crack rhythm section of John Edwards and Steve Noble. The saxophonist is in fine form, responding to his partners' woodpecker percussion and elastic bass snaps with warm, almost bluesy phrases. At several points, the saxophonist embarks on his trademark flurries of circular breathing, complemented by Edwards's gloopy bass glissandi and hummingbird vibrations, and Noble's rattlebox drum effects. Part two is particularly impressive, opening with scampering bass runs and strummed chords from Edwards before slowing to a crawl. Parker lays down deep, dark tones, moving into a series of pinched and slightly raspy phrases as Noble raises the tempo. At one point, the trio almost swing, with Parker playing boppish lines with a gnarled edge, as Edwards walks over crazy paving and Noble rumbles and rolls.