Air – Le Voyage Dans La Lune (2012)

01 – Astronomic Club  02 – Seven Stars  03 – Retour Sur Terre  04 – Parade play  05 – Moon Fever  06 – Sonic Armada  07 – Who Am I Now  08 – Decollage play
09 – Cosmic Trip  10 – Homme Lune  11 – Lava

Personnel:  Jean-Benoit Dunckel – vocals; Mellotron; Wurlitzer; piano; synthesizer; organ bass, Solina; vibraphone; drums  Nicolas Godin – guitar; harpsichord; synthesizer; timpani; bass; vocals; piano; Mellotron; electric sitar; percussion; drums; banjo, electric guitar  Au Revoir Simone, Victoria Legrand – vocals  Vincent Taeger, Alex Thomas – drums  Isabelle Vuarnesson – cello

We could start this review by saying: "It's not every band who can make an album inspired by French director George Méliès's silent 1902 film A Trip to the Moon." But technically, every band could, if they wanted. They would just be a bit rubbish. Especially Viva Brother.

Unlike Viva Brother, however, Gallic duo Air are almost genetically suited to the task – them being French and space-obsessed. Plus, they've already been invited to compose a score for the restored film. This album sees them expand that project, and the decision to use live instruments gives their sci-fi soundscapes a warm, homemade feel, in keeping with the film. Surprisingly for the soundtrack to a 110-year-old sci-fi film, it's a niche listen. But, as proved on the sublime Seven Stars (with Beach House's Victoria Legrand), it can be a charming one, too.

--- Tim Jonze, guardian.co.uk

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