

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Steve Moore *Stebmo* (Southern Lord ***1/2)

Seattle-based pianist Steve Moore, who's also a trombonist and composer, likely has more cred in indie-rock circles than in jazz, having worked with the drone band Earth and Skerik's Syncopated Taint Septet.

But Moore's cool conglomeration from early 2008 combines the tunefulness of progressive rock with some jazzy grooves. Songs float along sweetened by their melodies. "Blind Ross" cooks with funky fervor, while "Majika" proves to be a sweet, mesmerizing ditty and "Work" is full of spirited doodling. The jazzy rock makes for something of a bastard genre, but it's a happy confluence, much like the birth of jazz itself.

The set, with bassist Todd Sickafoose and drummer Matt Chamberlain, among others, gains juice from the focus on mellow groove.

- Karl Stark