

THE TIMES

Jazz/World

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at Schloss Elmau



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The ACT label gives the Welsh piano wunderkind his head, sending him to record eight of his solo works at a cultural retreat in Bavaria. The results, full of soaring lyricism and advanced harmony, are more conservatory than jazz cellar, more Mozart than Monk. The obvious comparison is with Keith Jarrett and Simcock pays direct homage in the darting runs and gospel climax of *Northern Smiles*. Like Jarrett, there are times when you wonder where it is all going, but this record will only advance his cause.

John Bungey
(ACT; out Mon)