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Phil Manzanera/ Quiet Sun

Reissues *EXPRESSION*

Rockin' solo and side-album nuggets from Roxy axe hero.

The latest additions to Manzanera's own-label collector revisions are a duo recorded on the same day at Island Studios in December 1974 in two sessions – *Diamond Head* (midday-6pm) and Quiet Sun's *Mainstream* (6pm-midnight). And these time slots certainly reflect the moods. Debut solo album *Diamond Head* is a waggish and chirpy fandangle; Quiet Sun represent Manzanera's pre-Roxy art-prog, their 1970 jazz rock vectors thrumming toward the late-night drift of the mind's eye.

Diamond Head leads with *Frontera*, the Robert Wyatt-sung Tropicalian nonsense nugget (Ruth Is Stranger Than Richard's *Team Spirit* reworked), before textbook Eno vignettes (*Big Day* and *Miss Shapiro*) intervene to break up Manzanera's Latino party/shameless guitar exhibitionism. John Wetton and Doreen Chanter also guest alongside the Roxy backbone to create whimsical – and sometimes extraordinarily complex – orbits.

A critical favourite at the time, *Mainstream* beguiles with instrumental krauty sorcery, Canterbury playfulness and Gong-ish twinklings a-go-go – particularly on tracks like *Mummy Was An Asteroid, Daddy Was A Small Non-Stick Kitchen Utensil* and *Rongwrong* featuring Charles Hayward's wonky Syd-style vox (later to surface on Manzanera And Friends' *801 Live*, alongside tracks from *Diamond Head*, fact fans). Both releases carry demos (including some great Farfisa freak-outs from *Quiet Sun '71*) and a band interview, fold-out digipacks and photo-glorious luxe liner booklets.

... Head
Main...

Jo Kendall