

**The Moho Collective** by [The Moho Collective](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Moho-Collective/363147206328?fref=ts) (Rochester, New York)

The Moho Collective are a proper jam band; one that’s put a serious amount of effort into producing a great sounding album. The Moho Collective is breezy, sweet, and downright fun. This is a great showcase of three musicians who have no trouble wrangling awesome sounds from an otherwise derivative power-trio setup. Though not the kind of album I would normally listen to, the downright pleasantness of The Moho Collective has won me over.

As the liner notes in the CD case make clear, there are no overdubs on The Moho Collective: what you get here is as good as live. Though this album does have some formidable licks, songs like ‘The Grand Ballet’ and ‘Milk Can’ are less about ego-driven power solos than they are about giving three musicians equal and ample space to wander around. Nothing on The Moho Collective is designed to turn heads – because why say something new when reiteration can be this sweet?

Though the album is firmly rooted in jazz pedagogy, guitar riffs on The Moho Collective are definitely more back room of a pub than they are jazz cat nightclub. That’s not to say that these are explicitly barroom rock songs. “Chrome Lady” sounds like it could fit right into an episode of Twin Peaks, and most of the album makes references to enough various traditions of music (Iroquois river dance, british indie, and NOLA jazz, to name a few) that the whole thing becomes amenable to almost any atmosphere.

Nothing on The Moho Collective is meant to be distant from the listener; in fact this is some of the most inviting instrumental music I’ve ever heard. Fans of more cynical jazz/rock interpolators like Robert Fripp or John Zorn might not have much to sink their teeth into on The Moho Collective, and part of this is because of the creative restrictiveness and bloated soloing that most jam bands are associated with, especially when compared to more innovative chops-heavy fare (think King Crimson vs. Phish). But look: a hamburger can be just as good as prime rib if you cook it right, and I think the The Moho Collective represent one of the very few jam rock groups that has managed to cook it right.

**@HemlockShaw**