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Also stretching boundaries were the truly impressive quartet **SHIJIN**, definitely worth looking out for if they appear in the UK anytime soon. Appearing like a jazz ZZ Top with ample facial hair, their set veered from lyrical to angular with plenty of unexpected twists. A multinational group, Swiss keyboardist **Malcolm Braff** (pictured, top) boasted a Darwinesque beard and a delightfully rambling cross-rhythmic soloing approach, somehow with echoes of Zawinul. US saxist **Jacques Schwarz-Bart**'s rich tone and careful solo construction provided the melodic glue for the unit, before he too happily took to the stratosphere.

– *Adam McCulloch*

– *Photos by Michel Bertholet (Malcolm Braff); Jean-Marc Guélat (Lucia Cadotsch) and loOrent.com (http://loorent.com) (Jean-Luc Ponty)*

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