

Fat-Suit - Atlas ****

Album-openers don't come much more attention-grabbing than Colours Burst Behind Closed Eyes, which kicks off Atlas, this third album from the gleefully inventive young Scots jazz-folk-funk-you-name-it fusion collective, Fat-Suit.

Starting as a winsome solo violin phrase, it swells to an awesome sci-fi-cinematic crescendo, cruising through stellar clouds of static before subsiding.

The two-dozen or more musicians go straight into the energetic faux-oriental pulse and beefy brass chorusing of Mr Hinomaru before a solo violin soars ecstatically.

Their big, vividly textured sound is exemplified in the dreamily expansive Poor Brooks' Humble Fish Farm, with its rich keyboards and glowing brass and strings. Mainstream jazzers may baulk at such rampant eclecticism, but it's hard not to smile at the extravagant synth excursions that hoot and slither their way through several tracks.

- JIM GILCHRIST