Review of Twisted City from Sound On Sound magazine

"...Believe me, this is a major work worthy of close attention... My guess is that an intelligent and sympathetic blend of the very disparate elements of this CD will deliver a spectacular and original piece of music."

Awarded 4 out of 5

"This had been playing out in my kitchen stereo for 20 minutes before I felt confident enough to put fingers to keyboard. After an unpleasing demo (the sleeve says 'not for sampling' - a piece of advice with which I can only wholeheartedly concur) I was regaled with a barrage of drum patterns. Not for the faint-of-eared, these. Was it PunkJungle meets Half-Speed Garage? I finally settled for 'Thrash Jazz'. It's probably a yooof thing, but I found most of these beats just too big, bashy and boisterous. The patterns I actually could relate to first time around did sound pretty interesting, though. Tempos vary all the way from 60 to 1 70bpm.

Compression is a feature of most of the loops on offer here, though some compressed/uncompressed pairs were offered too. And when I say compressed, I mean COMPRESSED. Respectable engineers will wince at some of the ratios employed here! This made it hard to decide whether the drums were live, or sequenced, or somewhere in between. At least they never sounded stilted. Not until a sumptuous stand-up bass suddenly and unexpectedly kicked in was I able to appreciate the full significance of the word 'Twisted' in the title. This contrasted wildly with what had gone before - delicious tonality, excellent transparent engineering, and fresh playing with 'feel' stamped right through it.

The stand-up bass was immediately, and apparently illogically, followed by some wild distorted bass effects, then cleaner electric guitar chops. And then came the real surprise... Tucked right in the middle of this CD is a string section. Not your usual off-the-records, though, nor pads and tones straight out of a Kurzweil, JD800 or E111 either. What you have here is the real thing, as can be found on Peter Siedlaczek's CDs. Not so large a section, perhaps, and recorded dry this time, but just as spine-tinglingly brilliant. Interesting, mysterious, almost cliched cadences and riffs emanate unexpectedly from the speakers, along with tones and other accessories.

Believe me, this is a major work worthy of close attention. Twisted City isn't the longest sample CD in the history of the genre, but it is one of the very few to be genuinely surprising. In fact each section takes us into strikingly different territory. Those strings! Definitely not one of the many, and possibly not for the many either. But I for one will persevere until I get a tune or two out of it. My guess is that an intelligent and sympathetic blend of the very disparate elements of this CD (for an object lesson in how not to do this, look no further than the demo on track 1) will deliver a spectacular and original piece of music."