



Phil Manzanera

★★★★★

The Sound Of Blue

EXPRESSION, CD/DL

Roxy Music guitarist Phil Manzanera publishes his global musical diary.

There will be no new Roxy Music album. How can there be when Bryan Ferry makes records that

sound so old, and Phil's so young? Of all the solo Manzanera albums post-Roxy Music, this is the most connected, the most likeable; guitars both proggy and jerkily post-punk, sexy, exotic electronic beats and the sort of melodies often absent from the multimillion-selling Floyd grand finale, *The Endless River*, which Manzanera played on and helped produce. Andy Mackay's here too, as is a new find, singer Sonia Bernardo. The beautiful opener *Magdalena*, named after his mother, is the album's most conventional moment; thereafter it's the spirit of early Roxy refracted through the prism of a multicultural life – the electro-heat of 1960 Caracas, the intoxication of Tramuntana and the witty *In Conversation With Andy Mackay*. It all ends with the only real vocal track, a riff-raiding cover of *No Church In The Wild*, the Jay-Z, Kanye West and Frank Ocean collaboration which had sampled Manzanera's own *K-Scope*.

David Buckley