



Review: **Virtually – the Relatives / Phil Miller** – Platomania [www.platomania.nl](http://www.platomania.nl)

Already active for over ten years but only on their third album, The Relatives, an Anglo- Dutch band may possibly take a serious step forward with ‘Virtually’, because principal band members Jack Monck, (bass and vocals) and WillemJan Droog (keyboards) have brought in guitarist Phil Miller, known for his work with Robert Wyatt and Hatfield & the North, and the original singer of Caravan, Richard Sinclair, on this project. Their contributions certainly work very well on this album, but it is surely the less well-known but brilliant saxophone player Marc Hadlley who takes on the duties of ‘chef’ and creates the flavour.

‘Virtually’ is played with great skill and precision, and produced with crystal clarity. Of course, there are influences from the Canterbury scene, but fans of Steely Dan will also find their ears drawn here. The sound is sometimes a little bit clinical, because great attention has been paid to each detail . But you can really hear the band enjoying their work on this project, which displays so much successful ambition. (Wim Koevoet)