

THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 27 October 1987

○ DISTRICT SIX

To Be Free

(Editions EG EGED 53)

Named after a dissident section of Capetown, South African expatriate Brian Abrahams' project has enjoyed steady support on London's jazz circuit with their pleasingly vagrant blend of transplanted indigenous musical structures and fairly free improvisations. Commencing with a disrupted rhetorical chant, and ending with a carnival romp, side one's centrepiece "Into The Light" lurches in on drunken sax and trumpet before the electric bass and guest Chris McGregor's piano sweetly evokes a more harmonic order after the storm. Side two dedicates a suite of songs to Winnie Mandela. Ideologically lucid without succumbing to soft "right-on" options.