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I leave you in the capable hands of **BABA SCHOLAE**, Anglo-French forgotten men whose album 69 (Ad Vitam) is titled thusly because it was recorded in '69 – so purge

your mind of sauciness at once, filthmongers. Amazingly, this is its first release, 43 years after its inception – is this some kind of record? (CD, actually. I'll get my coat.) Led by future Utopia synthesist M Frog under his birth name of Jean-Yves Labat de Rossi, the band betrayed any number of contemporaneous influences – King Crimson ('1984 – Melancolia Street'), The Pink Fairies ('Song My'), Jethro Tull ('Half Day') – but arrived at something uniquely bright, playful, vibey and peculiar regardless. And hey, a Rossi was involved – always a mark of quality. (Strolls quickly away, nervously whistling.)