

Great creativity spurs a new slate of releases

By JON W. POSES

► "Start Here, Finish There,"

David Berkman (Palmetto). Erstwhile pianist David Berkman only makes good records. He's fearless, energetic and has a load of music housed within. He wrote nine of 10 compositions on this entry; the other is what would seem an oddity, a Woody Guthrie piece, unless you are familiar with Berkman, and then it fits. His works are fun and quirky, stark but note-filled.

His quartet fits like a glove and has been globetrotting for some time. Native Iowan

**s from the
last notes
ist Jason
group is a
ensemble
members
eat affinity
h other.**

and multi-instrumentalist Dick Oatts owns the front line here. Berkman's rhythm mates include bassist Ugonna Okegwo and drummer Nasheet Waits, a second-generation percussive powerhouse who

must have absorbed all kinds of music from his father, the late drummer Freddie Waits.

