

JAZZ, CLASSICAL AND BEYOND: JOHN STEVENSON'S 30 DISC REVIEW PART 2 MARCH 2004

CD Reviews / CD Reviews

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The Dave Berkman Quartet: Start Here, Finish There (Palmetto)

Pianist Berkman's fans have been waiting for a follow up to the wonderful "Leaving Home" of 2002. He does not disappoint, but comes with a pared down line-up of Nasheet Waits stoking up powerful fires in the percussive engine room, Dick Oatts flying the flag on saxophones and Ugonna Okegwo maintaining reliable support on acoustic bass. Berkman's ability to create a tune from almost fragmentary sources comes to the fore on "Cells". The Cleveland-born composer also wears his political consciousness on his sleeves with the bedevilling "Iraq", among other well-conceived compositions.