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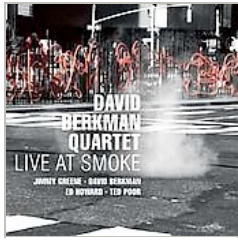
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David Berkman Quartet - Live At Smoke *

CD



PERFORMER David Berkman Quartet
TITLE Live At Smoke *
UPC 60891732822
GENRE Jazz Instrument
SUB GENRE Piano
RELEASED 07/14/2009

Track Listing - Click Icons To Preview Tracks In **Windows Media Player**.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 <i>Weird Knack</i></p> <p>2 <i>Mayor Of Smoke, The</i></p> <p>3 <i>Simple Pleasures</i></p> | <p>4 <i>Along Came Betty</i></p> <p>5 <i>Hidden Fondness</i></p> <p>6 <i>Carroll Street Pop Tune</i></p> |
|---|---|

Notes / Reviews

David Berkman Quartet: Jimmy Greene (saxophone); David Berkman (piano); Ed Howard (bass instrument); Ted Poor (drums).

A live album is usually not the way to make an impact in contemporary jazz, but pianist David Berkman's LIVE AT SMOKE might prove the current exception to the rule. Recorded at the well-regarded Upper West Side club (Smoke is the current name for the legendary Augie's), the set features not only the confident, neo-traditional stylings of Berkman himself (similar to that other brilliant traditionalist on the scene, Bill Charlap), but the equally impressive Jimmy Greene on tenor saxophone, whose nicely constructed, unfussy solos bear some comparison with current tenor master Joe Lovano. If the emphasis on tradition sounds like mild praise, it's only to suggest how this set might stand up to past masterpieces of live jazz, including another quartet at a famous New York club, Thelonious Monk's MISTERIOSO, recorded with tenorman Johnny Griffin at the Half-Note, as well as that summit of live piano jazz, Bill Evans's SUNDAY AT THE VILLAGE VANGUARD. And to make sure that the current post-bop tradition isn't neglected, the band stretches out into advanced Coltrane territory

during the 12-minute "Hidden Fondness" during which Greene coolly lets it all hang out in a logical and progressive sheets-of-sound statement. Bassist Ed Howard and drummer Ted Poor play on just as high a level as the two frontmen--they just don't call attention to it as other contemporary rhythm sections might. As for Berkman himself, he has the touch, the concept, and the compositional smarts of a major player. There are plenty of virtuosos around but so many overplay their hand--LIVE AT SMOKE demonstrates a rare confidence in the virtues of restraint.

Details

PERFORMERS	David Berkman Quartet
LABEL	Challenge Records
CATALOG #	73282
SPAR CODE	n/a
YEAR OF ORIGINAL RELEASE	2009
MONO/STEREO	Stereo
STUDIO/LIVE PERFORMANCE	Live
DISTRIBUTOR	Allegro (Distributor USA)
# OF DISCS	1

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