

New York New York

Cory Weeds

Cory Weeds, Vancouver musician, radio host, and owner of the city's premier jazz venue, The Cellar, is visiting New York City.

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Well a relatively early night in comparison . . . I went back up to Smoke tonight yet again and it was another fantastic night of music however a much different vibe than what I had seen the two previous nights. The club was full but a much more laid back vibe tonight. \$18 to get in and a \$10 drink minimum both of which they take right as you walk in. I had a nice chat with owner who is a great guy. I also got to speak with Dick Oatts and he is a really wonderful man. Very generous and sincere.

David Berkman is an amazing pianist, I mean really killing and his writing is beautiful but very introspective and moody.

The section was Ugonna Okegwo on bass, Nasheet Waits on drums and Dick Oatts on saxes and they were doing tunes from Berkman's brand new CD "Start Here, Finish There." The band all sounded wonderful but one got the impression that the group hadn't played for awhile and it showed. The tunes were harmonically difficult. So much so in fact that the band sounded the most comfortable with "Giant Steps," not exactly a breeze harmonically. Despite being a tad uncomfortable they still sounded beautiful. I would go up there tomorrow night to hear them but to much else to do.

It was a great night of music with very little space for the drummer and bass player but lots of blowing from Oatts and Berkman and these guys are great. Oatts weaves in and out of the changes in a very cool way, playing nothing that you would consider cliché. His lines are beautiful and very clever. Berkman is just a technical monster who never really got super intense but he didn't have to.

It actually feels nice to home early tonight. Busy day tomorrow. I'm heading to New Jersey.

I spent much of the day walking around New York with my discman listening to records that people have given me while I've been here. Trumpeter Jim Rotondi has a new electric group called FULL HOUSE and they have a record ready to go and it sounds incredible. A funky thing. I bought a George Robert / Kenny Barron duo CD that sounds so beautiful.