

Midwest Record

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ALEXIS CUADRADO/Puzzles: Hey, it almost seems that contemporary jazz was born in Rudy Van Gelder's parent's living room so why should this next wave be any different? After a year of playing together, the bass ace and his pals recorded a set in his living room and basically used it as the jumping off point to start a new label and possibly new jazz movement as well. You know these cats got down with "Right Off" when they were in their bar band phases and they use that as a basis to create their own millennial fusion that kicks ass. Very strong set that melds the past and the future in a seamless style.

4 (BJU)

ANNE METTE IVERSEN/Best of the West: A Euro bass chick that straddles the jazz and classical worlds knowing how to create jazz as art, but in a good way. A double cd set that finds her quartet in two refined settings, there's a lot of shades of young Carla Bley pushing the limits woven through Iversen's work. Bursting with creativity, it sometimes seems like it might hopelessly veer into wine and cheese jazz and never come back, but it sounds like her roots don't grow in that soil. A nice ear opener for fans looking for a challenging, new composer.

2 (BJU)

BERNARD EMER LACKNER FERBER/Night for Day: These cats tried doing it the major label way before the system was broken and it didn't work for them then. Powered by former students of Charlie Haden, this four piece progressive crew doesn't seem to believe in rules so it doesn't seem like there are nay for them to break. Very much with the jazz in the basement vibe where there might only be 20 people in the audience, anyone in touch with the outer limits will enjoy what's on tap here. Just when you think they're ready to go too far, they find their way back to Billy Strayhorn and all is well with the world.

3 (BJU)

Volume 31/Number 144

March 23, 2008

MIDWEST RECORD

830 W. Route 22 #144

Lake Zurich, IL., 60047

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