



Live at the Bushwick Series Kevin Murray/William Parker/ Dave Sewelson/Kaelen Ghandhi (Gaucimusic) by John Sharpe

Live at the Bushwick Series presents another slice of garrulous Monday night free jazz from the basement of Brooklyn's Bushwick Public House, programmed by saxophonist Stephen Gauci and released on his label. Neither the leader, drummer Kevin Murray, nor tenor saxophonist Kaelen Ghandhi shy away from performing as equals of the two veterans on the date, bassist William Parker and baritone saxophonist Dave Sewelson. Murray's entrée into the music was through a workshop run by Parker and the bassist's appearance may be interpreted as a deserved vote of confidence.

The interplay between grainy baritone and gruff tenor forms one of the strong points of this single-setlong escapade. Bass and drums initiate a relaxed but burly pulse, joined by immediately sparring saxophones in extemporized unison, fizzing riffs between them. Sewelson proves fond of anchoring figures while Ghandhi's multiphonic long tones enliven sequences of pithy obliquely angled abutting phrases. Their coruscating dialogue swerves from raucous honks to braided falsetto in an exciting give and take, part call and response and part simultaneous expression.

Parker's deep-rooted swing grounds the flow, allowing Murray the freedom to ply a multidirectional, tonally differentiated clatter that propels but doesn't constrict. Connections abound, such as that between Parker and Sewelson, the latter a stalwart of the former's Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra, apparent in the way the baritone picks up and propounds a rhythmic motif from the bass. Then later Ghandhi plays off of one of Sewelson's lines, further affirming cohesion, before stretching out into the upper register. They never hit a real blow-out, always moving along just a few degrees below boiling, avoiding cathartic resolution.

It's a challenge to sustain this level of creativity and consequently there's something of a lull before the end. Nonetheless it remains a terrific calling card for Murray and Ghandhi.

For more information, visit gaucimusic.com. Murray is at Bushwick Public House Mar. 16th. See Calendar.



Unknown Dameron Paul Combs (Summit) by Ken Dryden

Although Tadd Dameron was heralded to some degree as a composer during the early years of the bop era, he has been greatly overlooked for the most part following his death from cancer 55 years ago this month, aside from a few frequently recorded tunes like "Hot House", "If You Could See Me Now", "Good Bait" and "Lady Bird". Dameron wrote extensively for other bands, though opportunities to record under his

own name were sporadic. In the latter part of his career, Dameron was further hampered by his battle with drug addiction and imprisonment on drug charges.

Saxophonist Paul Combs spent a quarter-century working on his biography of the artist (*Dameronia: The Life and Music of Tadd Dameron*) and his research uncovered numerous Dameron compositions that had either never been recorded or were little known. These performances come from four different sessions with varying personnel. It becomes clear that these are not second tier works that were rejected or set aside. The live recording of "Conversation" has a choppy Raymond Scott-like rhythm, featuring Bill O'Connell's playful piano, the leader's gritty, hard-blowing baritone saxophone and Derek Cannon's expressive trumpet. The exotic air of "Moon From The East" has more emphasis on the ensemble, with brief solos featuring the leader, Cannon and pianist Kamau Kenyatta.

Many of Dameron's works deserve to have lyrics, though too few have been written. Vocalist Danielle Wertz, a singer worthy of wider recognition with an expressive voice and lots of self-confidence, is featured on several selections. She scats up a storm in "Taking A Chance On Spring", trading fours with Combs on alto saxophone (though he plays baritone elsewhere in the song), is a masterful ballad interpreter in the bittersweet "Never Been In Love" and converses with baritone in the upbeat "Weekend", both with lyrics by Irving Reid.

Combs' research and strong arrangements bear significant fruit throughout the CD and it is apparent that the musicians took time to get familiar with this forgotten music. Hopefully more Tadd Dameron gems will be revealed.

For more information, visit summitrecords.com

