

Mp3 Richard Ashby Quartet - Urban/r&b: Funk



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"...It's ambient yet energetic, and most spectators are visibly overcome with a pulsating groove, as if being driven by an uncontrollable internal force." Bernadette Clark, The Package, NZ 8 MP3 Songs URBAN/R&B: Funk, JAZZ: Acid Jazz Details: REVIEWS/DISCOGRAPHY Nick Batt New Zealand Musician Vol.12 No.1 Feb/March 2005: 'The Richard Ashby Quartet is a class act. Christchurch based, 24-year old, Ashby's debut album is a heady mix of groove-based jazz, funk and latin that keeps your head bobbing and feet tapping right to the very end. Ashby plays with an ability that is well beyond his years and is masterly assisted by fellow Christchurch musicians Gwyn Reynolds on saxophones, Dave Cooper bass and Ben Sayers drums. Thankfully he has had the insight to share the limelight and there are superb performances from each instrument, which widens the album's appeal. The eight original tracks were composed by Ashby and recorded by Ian McAllister. Groove is king and while there is plenty of soloing the strong underlying rhythm means the listener never feels abandoned. Sadly it all seems to end too soon - maybe its part of a plan to leave the listener wanting more - it certainly worked on me. The group plans to tour New Zealand over the summer so if they come to your town do your ears a favour and check them out - you won't be disappointed.' Patrick Shepherd Christchurch Press 30/10/2004 'Great to see more young Christchurch jazz talent going to disc in this Creative Communities funded album featuring the talents of Richard Ashby (guitar), Gwyn Reynolds (saxophones), Dave Cooper (bass) and Ben Sayers (drums). From the sleeve notes I suspect they haven't been together long but this does not show in their sound. The album kicks off with the funky Dig It Adell, with some great sax playing from Reynolds. There are similarly funky grooves on Booty Duty, with tight drum licks, and The Opium Song. You can hear all the influences here, from Michael Brecker through to Herbie Hancock, and for good measure the group does latin in Kenny and Rose and latin/funk/rock fusion in Plums for Jammin'. The

quartet shows it can swing with The Truffle Shuffle and the album ends on an attractive and introspective ballad, Dark Days. Production is clean and spacious, capturing a live-gig feel rather than an over-produced studio sound. Good listening for those who like their jazz upbeat, a little spicy and blending the best of several contemporary styles. Thoroughly recommended.' Bernadette Clark The Package Vol.203 7-13 August 2003 'Richard Ashby Quartet'. So many words that can describe them, but so few that can accurately and completely encompass the experience they deliver. These four talented guys have every angle covered. As a generalization you would call the music funky jazz. Yet it is so much more than just music. It is mood music to suit any mood. It can push you to the depths of mellow and draw you back to the heights of invigoration without a moment's notice. It's ambient yet energetic, and most spectators are visibly overcome with a pulsating groove, as if being driven by an uncontrollable internal force. Their enjoyment is clear as they tease you with a slight pause in the music (just long enough for appreciative cheering to start) but then with a cheeky grin or two launch into the rest of the song. The polished talent on display is blatant as Liam O'Toole (sax), Richard Ashby (guitar), Ben Sayers (drums) and Dave Cooper (bass) take their turns at solos throughout the set. Every instrument is mastered seemingly completely effortlessly, and every song leaves the ears tingling, expectantly wanting more as the echo lingers within your mind. For someone who usually isn't into jazz, I would consider myself converted. When you are listening to this band, it isn't just the music you sign up for. With the most people I've ever seen out on a Tuesday night continually returning to watch them, let's hope that the Richard Ashby Quartet continue their unparalleled monopoly of Tuesday night entertainment for a long time to come.' Media archives: nzmusician.co.nz thepress.co.nz thepackage.co.nz

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