



Richard Kamins
See! Hear!

The Youth Movement + New Music

CD Pick of the Week:



Inflection - New Haven Improvisers Collective

(NHIC Records) -The NHIC, organized in 2005 by guitarist **Bob Gorry** as a way to unite musicians from in and around the Elm City, is built along the lines of Chicago's AACM and the Black Artists Group out of St. Louis. The organization holds monthly workshops for musicians to try out new ideas, to connect with other like-minded musicians, and be non-judgmental.

"*Inflection*" is the ensemble's 2nd CD and is a loose-limbed collection of original material that ranges from funky blow-outs to vivid abstractions. On initial listening, the music reminded a bit of the Art Ensemble of Chicago in how some of the pieces go in many directions as if by whim and others seem a bit static. Guitarists Gorry and **Jeff Cedrone** provide much of the fireworks on "*Roger and Out*", a piece that has influences as varied as Jimi Hendrix, James "Blood" Ulmer and Miles Davis (in his "Bitches Brew" era.) The rhythm section of **Carl Testa** (bass) and **Steve Zieminski** (drums, percussion) are elastic, often giving the music a "funky yet progressive" feel, as on "*Schrodinger's Wolverine*" and "*You Me Who*", the 2 pieces that open the program. There are moments on "*Suspended in Amber*" when it feels like the music is falling apart but the track has so many diverse elements (**Barry Seroff's** mercurial flute work and **Anne Rhodes'** scat vocals) that one must listen many times to catch all the aural ingredients. "*Riff Randell's Revenge*" is a guitar-heavy piece with "heavy" rhythm strumming and a hard, edgy, drum beat. "*No Strings Attached*" features Testa on bass clarinet, high-pitched flute work from Seroff, soprano sax from **Paul McGuire** and Rhodes' versatile voice (and, of course, no guitars.) The CD closes with "*Nordic Lines*", that starts in a contemplative mood and has waves of sound but never loses control (Gorry and Cedrone do a masterful job of playing off each other in very different styles) - the piece has the feel of "*In A Silent Way*", the Josef Zawinul composition that Miles Davis popularized in the late 1960s.

In "*Inflection*", the New Haven Improvisers Collective has created a recording that is challenging and accessible, adventurous and melodic, and edgy and rhythmical. There are moments when one might turn away but many others when the listener is drawn into the sonic "new world" the ensemble creates. To find out more about the CD, go to www.nhic-records.com - to learn more about what the NHIC does and stands for, go to www.nhic-music.org.

2 ensembles from the Collective, the **Erasmus Quintet** and **Mayhem Circus Electric** (both featuring musicians who appear on the CD above), will perform on Saturday November 7 inn Firehouse 12. The first set begins at 8:30, the second at 10 p.m. Go to www.firehouse12.com to find out more.