

to make one thirst for a duet album. In any case, this disc is worth checking out if you're a fan of this corner of the Jazz-piano literature; despite following well-worn stylistic paths these three players clearly have things of their own to say.

Nate Dorward

**SWINGIN' FIREBALLS,
IN THE MOOD FOR SWING,
MONS 874392.**

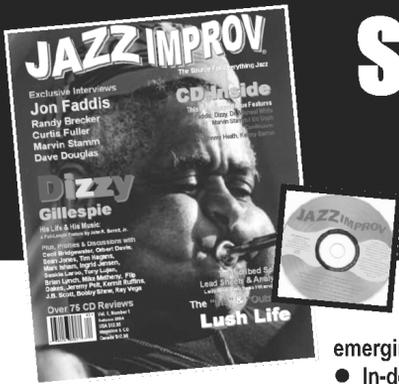
Azzurro / Goody Goody / After You've Gone / Lean Baby / I Still Love You All / What A Difference A Day Made / Little Ole Wine Drinker Me / Brazil / On The Street Where You Live / Swing It Mr. B / Love Your Spell is Everywhere / Olivera / The Lip / South of the Border / In the Mood / I Love Paris / Mr. Anthony's Boogie / Besame Mucho / In a Little Spanish Town / Teach Me Tonight / Danke Schoen. 69:38.

Andre Rabini, vcl; Matthias Schinkopf, ts, flt; Holger Becker, lead tpt; Joachim Refardt, p; Matthias Rambach, tpt; Micha Keding, b; Volker Bruder, as, bari s, flt; Friedemann Bartels, d. September 2004, Germany.

Big Band lovers are in for a treat. Here is a package of twenty-one songs harvested from before the days of television, cell phones, and the Internet. I remember my grandfather had one of those old console radios. I used to hear this kind of music pumping out of the tiny speakers into the family living room. Here is a rendition of the American Big Band era with a lead vocalist that may remind you of Dean Martin's memorable sound. The drummer, Friedemann Bartels, is pumping away with a Cozy Cole technique. Yes, Swing

dancers will want to add this to their collection. The *Swingin' Fireballs* CD is good, clean fun. There's nothing heavyweight to saddle this music and restrain the joy. This small ensemble gallops across the airwaves with genuine power. Surprisingly, there are only seven musicians creating all this excitement. They guarantee a good time will be had by all. The arrangements are pleasant, danceable, and bring back authentic portraits of a time gone-by. Pianist Joachim Refardt is to be complimented on his dynamic and danceable arrangements. Andre Rabini rides smoothly over the lush orchestration. His vocals are both classy and effortless. Every now and then you get a taste of the Glenn Miller or Cab Calloway days; especially when the orchestra breaks into song. For example on "(Drummin' Man) Swing It Mr. B," the ensemble answers the lead singer in unison voices. It's a technique labeled, Call and Response that heightens the energy and engages the audience. *Swingin' Fireballs* is the kind of CD you can listen to over and over again without ever becoming bored. There's not one poorly produced or poorly played tune in this entire seventy minutes of music. The engineer did a marvelous job of recording the ensemble. The separation is superb. You can clearly hear the big, thick sound of Micha Keding on contrabass. The harmonic horn section will delight you with the smooth way they support the singer, as well as using their precision playing to make these arrangements Swing. Bravo to a little ensemble with a big, beautiful, sound!

Dee Dee McNeil



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