

John Damberg-Performance Reviews

Dan Mac Quartet "907 Central" 2013 CD

Pianist Dan MacElrath's new CD provides a bright roundup of Anchorage area jazz talent. McElrath himself is represented by his quirky, boogie-infused "Night in Spenard," winner of this year's Spenard Jazz Festival Alaska Song of the Year in the instrumental category, and "Smile Sayulita Smile," a contender in last year's competition. But the cuts also include music by the quartet's guitarist Mike Doolin, bass players Milo Matthews and Ray Booker, David Martin and **John Damberg whose vibe work is deliciously featured in Booker's sweet "Waltz BBT."**

Mike Dunham -Anchorage Daily News-June 25, 2013

John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet

"An accomplished be-bopper himself, Damberg combines the marimba, vibraphone and steel drum in the many noted harmonic style of Charlie Parker and his descendants with the rhythmic and melodic under girdings of the Samba. Damberg made a fine match with his chief cohort flutist and soprano saxophonist Herb Kloss.... Indeed, both have an excellent feel for placing notes in coherent patterns. Likewise, their improvisations are thematic; the listener doesn't feel lost in lines wrought be running all the notes in chord changes. **The blending of the instrument timbres is just about ideal.**"

Larry Spellens-Anchorage Daily News-November 2, 1996

"For the last five years, marimba man John Damberg has been a driving force on the Anchorage jazz scene."

Mike Dunham-Anchorage Daily News-May 17, 1996

"Herb Kloss' flute and Damberg's vibes carried the melody. Their harmonic blending was a soft Caribbean balm, yet they could drive like a hurricane when required." "Damberg is a fleet, melodic soloist who appreciates the importance of varied phrase and note length, and spacing to swing."

Larry Spellens-Anchorage Daily News-March 27, 1995

Human Hands, a Composers and Improvisors Ensemble 1993 CD

"Damberg's group had the ease, grace and wing of those West Coast groups, as well as the appealing sound blend of less voluminous instruments. Just as notable as the balance and sonority of the ensemble was the quality of the compositions, which were all originals. Most of these were Damberg's and were marked by lyricism and swing."

Larry Spellens-Anchorage Daily News-March 1, 1993