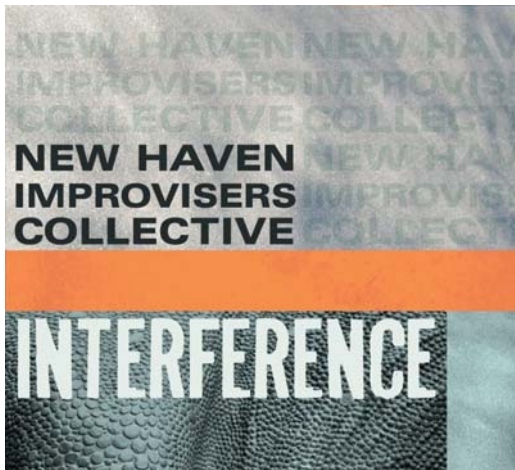




First Listen 10.01:

By: Craig Gilbert, Staff Writer
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New Haven Improvisers Collective, Interference -



Improvisational jazz is a tough row to hoe. It's hit or miss. And if you are on and you're hittin' it and totally in the moment and it's flowing, one slight "screw up" and the whole piece is shot; the moment ruined and gone. So a disc like this? With 22 tracks (albeit some are only half-a-minute long)? And it runs over an hour and 15 minutes (a full disc)? That's risky. Hee hee. I like that.

Recorded live at **Firehouse 12**, this seven piece collective kills it. With minimal bases and structured "songs," there is plenty of open space to ride the moment and see where it takes the musician. And all the journeys on this disc are fine and work. They even amusingly tweak out the **Thelonius Monk** tune **Straight No Chaser** a couple of times which is a very nice touch. There are starting points that the group recognizes and leads with each member. But there's lots of flexibility. And they all flex a lot in a good way.

This works. Top Notch.

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Standout Track: The disc

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