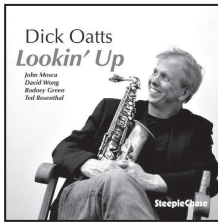




Black Nile
Lorenzo Lombardo
(MVD Audio)



Lookin' Up
Dick Oatts
(SteepleChase)

by Ken Dryden

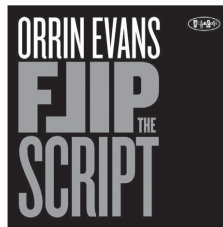
Since arriving in New York City in 1977, Dick Oatts has been an in-demand alto saxophonist, occasionally doubling on flute, tenor and soprano saxes. Joining the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra, he remained with the band after Jones' departure and has been an important player in the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra (VJO) as well. He has appeared on recordings by Joe Henderson, Joe Lovano, Jim McNeely, Red Rodney and others. In addition, Oatts is a talented composer.

Oatts plays several instruments on drummer Lorenzo Lombardo's debut *Black Nile*, which also includes pianist Gary Versace and bassist Cameron Brown. He's heard on soprano sax in George Cables' unjustly neglected postbop work "Think On Me". His exquisite flute adds luster to Dizzy Gillespie's lovely ballad "Con Alma" and a shimmering rendition of Wayne Shorter's "Ana Maria". Oatts plays alto on the other tracks, including two spirited takes of Shorter's "Black Nile", a lively setting of Monk's "Rhythm-A-Ning" and the jaunty "Ba-Lue Bolivar Ba-Lues Are". The opening and closing selections feature the rhythm selection. The trio delivers a hip treatment of Monk's

strident "San Francisco Holiday" and a leisurely stroll through Bud Powell's "I'll Keep Loving You".

On *Lookin' Up*, Oatts' sixth CD as a leader for SteepleChase, the saxophonist focuses on his compositions, joined by veteran pianist Ted Rosenthal (who played in the final edition of Gerry Mulligan's quartet), trombonist John Mosca (like Oatts, a long time VJO member), plus bassist David Wong and drummer Rodney Green, both of whom appeared on Oatts' *Two Hearts* from 2010. Opening the CD is an upbeat bop tune, "One For Benny", inspired by Benny Golson, with intricate soloing by the leader and Mosca. "Alaina's Song" is a cheerful, loping piece dedicated to Oatts' young daughter, showcasing Wong's sublime bass. The highlight of the ballad "Mood For Moody", for the late James Moody, is Rosenthal's lyrical piano. "Brook's Blues", a salute to Bob Brookmeyer, is an adventurous, well-disguised blues with the spotlight on Mosca's spirited trombone. Oatts' playful, rapid-fire solo and conversational exchange with Mosca in "The Auctioneer" wraps this rewarding CD.

For more information, visit mvd2b.com and steeplechase.dk. Oatts is at *Village Vanguard Mondays with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra*. See *Regular Engagements*.



Flip the Script
Orrin Evans (Posi-Tone)
by David R. Adler

Pianist Orrin Evans is on a hot streak. For evidence look to his recent Posi-Tone releases *Freedom*, *Faith In Action* and *Captain Black Big Band* or his work with the co-led group Tarbaby. On his new CD, the Philadelphia enlists bassist Ben Wolfe and drummer Donald Edwards for a mostly originals session of great depth and sustained focus, though "Question", the bracingly free opening salvo, is by Tarbaby's bassist Eric Revis.

While *Flip the Script* has its episodes of speed and ferocity, Evans and crew also do what the album title suggests by slowing way down. In the fragmented blues of "Big Small" and the meditative calm of the reharmonized "Someday My Prince Will Come" (the only standard), we hear control and invention at the most reined-in tempos - an essential element of jazz artistry. The ballad "When", guided by Edwards on subtle mallets, also highlights the trio's contemplative side. "TC's Blues", first recorded by Evans' group Seed in 2000, is a rhythmic test of another sort, with pauses and cues that guide the band through a maze of slow-to-fast transitions. It's a pivotal moment on the disc.

Along with the soaring waltzes "Clean House" and "The Answer" and the powerful title track - fine pieces of writing from Evans - we have two additional covers: "A Brand New Day", Luther Vandross' contribution to *The Wiz* soundtrack, and "The Sound of Philadelphia" by Philly soul legends Gamble & Huff. The latter, a lively 1974 disco hit remade for sparse solo piano, is decidedly bittersweet. This was once the theme from *Soul Train*; it's still played at the ballpark before Phillies' home games. Evans' version is like a poignant sigh, a nod to Philly in all its musical diversity and dysfunction. As the finale of one of his finest efforts to date, it's simply ingenious.

For more information, visit posi-tone.com. Evans is at *Smalls Aug. 8th with Patrick Cornelius* and 27th as a leader, *Metropolitan Room Aug. 28th with Allan Harris and Zinc Bar Tuesdays*. See *Calendar and Regular Engagements*.



- Wed Aug 1 **CARMEN STAAF QUINTET 6PM**
Mat Maneri, Tammy Scheffer, Matt Aronoff, Dan Pugach
GABRIEL GUERRERO TRIO 8:30PM
Linda May Han Oh, Rudy Royston
- Thu Aug 2 **IRABAGON FEST: BARRY ALTSCHUL/JON IRABAGON TRIO 8:30PM**
Mark Helias
- Fri Aug 3 **IRABAGON FEST: BARRY ALTSCHUL GROUP 9PM & 10:30PM**
Jon Irabagon, Jake Saslow, Joe Fonda
- Sat Aug 4 **IRABAGON FEST: JON IRABAGON JAZZ QUARTET 9PM & 10:30PM**
Russ Lossing, Yashui Nakamura, Adam Nussbaum
- Sun Aug 5 **SCOTT TIXIER & ISOPROPYL BOP 8:30PM**
Frank Locrasto, Matt Parker, Burniss Earl Travis II
- Mon Aug 6 **ARTURO O'FARRILL TRIO 8:30PM**
Shawn Conley, Zach O'Farrill
- Tue Aug 7 **COLONY 8:30PM**
Daniel Wilkins, Benny Benack III, Angelo Di Loreto, Jeff Koch, Joe Peri
- Wed Aug 8 **GREEN SCREEN 8:30PM**
Jason Rigby, Daniel Fox, Kermit Driscoll, Shawn Baltazor
- Thu Aug 9 **SPOTLIGHT ON NEW TALENT - BOBBY AVEY QUARTET FT. MIGUEL ZENON 8:30PM**
Thomson Kneeland, Jordan Perlson
- Fri Aug 10 **MARY HALVORSON TRIO 9PM & 10:30PM**
John Hébert, Ches Smith
- Sat Aug 11 **THUMBSCREW 9PM & 10:30PM**
Mary Halvorson, Michael Formanek, Tomas Fujiwara
- Sun Aug 12 **PERCUSSION FEST, Dan Weiss, curator DAN WEISS & ARI HOENIG DUO 8:30PM**
- Mon Aug 13 **PERCUSSION FEST, Dan Weiss, curator TABLA TRIO 8:30PM**
Dan Weiss, Dibyarka Chatterjee, Stephen Cellucci
RAMON DIAZ RUMBA GROUP 10PM
- Tue Aug 14 **PERCUSSION FEST, Dan Weiss, curator NATE WOOD BAND 8:30PM**
- Wed Aug 15 **BRAZILIAN FEST: ROB CURTO AND BAND 8:30PM**
Billy Newman, host
BRAZILIAN FEST: BENJI KAPLAN 10PM
Seth Trachy
- Thu Aug 16 **BRAZILIAN FEST: BILLY NEWMAN SEXTET 8:30PM**
Ben Holmes, Michael Altias, Eric Schugren, Leco Reis, Matt Kane
- Fri Aug 17 **BRAZILIAN FEST: HELIO ALVES TRIO 9pm**
Peter Slavov, Alex Kautz; Billy Newman, host
GUILHERME MONTEIRO JORGE CONTINENTINHO GROUP 10pm
Anthony Pinciotti, Gary Wang
- Sat Aug 18 **GERALD CLEAVER & BLACK HOST 9PM & 10:30PM**
Darius Jones, Brandon Seabrook, Cooper-Moore, Pascal Nioggenkemper
- Wed Aug 22 **CHIVE, CD RELEASE PARTY 8:30PM**
Steven Lugerner, Matthew Wohl, Max Jaffe
- Fri Aug 24 **GLOBAL LIVING ROOM FEST: JULIA PATINELLA 9PM & 10:30PM**
- Sat Aug 25 **GLOBAL LIVING ROOM FEST: JEAN ROHE 9PM & 10:30PM**
Ilusha Tsinadze, Liam Robinson, James Shipp, Chris Tordini, Skye Steele
- Wed Aug 29 **VOXIFY FESTIVAL: NINA MOFFITT QUARTET 8:30PM**
Chris Pattishall, Jackson Hill, Alex Ritz; Nicky Schrire, host
SARAH ELIZABETH CHARLES 10PM
Jesse Elder, Burniss Earl Travis, John Davis
- Thu Aug 30 **VOXIFY FESTIVAL: CAMILA MEZA 8:30PM**
Glenn Zaleski, Sam Anning, Greg Ritchie; Nicky Schrire, host
VOXIFY FESTIVAL: SEFIRA 10:30PM
Sachal Vasandani, Sofia Rei, Malika Zarra, Mathias Kunzli, Keita Ogawa
- Fri Aug 31 **VOXIFY FESTIVAL: PETER ELDRIDGE & JO LAWRY 9PM & 10:30PM**
Matt Aronoff; Nicky Schrire, host

For our full schedule check out our website
www.corneliastreetcafe.com

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JAZZMINISTRY
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JAZZ VESPERS
Sundays at 5:00 P.M. — All Are Welcome — Free

- 5 Anna Dagmar
- 12 Ricky Rodriguez Quartet
- 19 Ken Simon Quartet
- 26 Marshall Gilkes Quintet

MIDTOWN JAZZ AT MIDDAY
Sponsored by Midtown Arts Common
Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M. — (\$10 suggested)

- 1 Jane Scheckter, singer
Tedd Firth, piano, Bucky Pizzarelli, guitar
Jay Leonhart, bass, Warren Vache, cornet
- 8 New York Jazz 9, John Eckert, leader
- 15 Lynne Jackson, pianist/singer
Mike Palter, bassist/singer, Jim Repa, sax/flute
- 22 Allen Farnham & Tomoko Ohno, Piano Duet
- 29 Carol Sudhalter, saxophones
Joe Vincent Tranchina, piano
Saadi Zain, bass, Rudy Lawless, drums

JAZZ ON THE PLAZA
Thursdays at 12:30 P.M. — Free

- 2 Jaleel Shaw (saxophone) Quartet
- 9 T. K. Blue Ensemble
- 16 Bruce Barth (piano) Quartet
- 23 Conrad Herwig Ensemble
- 30 Jazz Knights
18-piece big band from West Point

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 11 A Tribute to Abbey Lincoln — 7:00 P.M.
- 20 Jazz Memorial for Nabil Totah — 7:00 P.M.