

Top-drawer, high-energy, rollicking rhythms

Vancouver Sun
April 27, 2010

PANDEMONIUM -- CANEFIRE

Rating 4 out of 5

If Dizzy Gillespie were still with us, he would love Cane-Fire. The Toronto-based septet, led by pianist Jeremy Ledbetter, is everything the late trumpeter stood for: top-drawer musicianship, high-energy music and rollicking Latin-American rhythms.

In the case of CaneFire, the Southern flavour is as much Caribbean as Afro-Cuban, with Mark Mosca playing steelpan drums.

For Pandemonium, the band's second CD, the musicians are joined by guest players: the Trinidadian vocalist David Rudder, the Brazilian multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal, and vocalist Eliana Cuevas, who happens to be Ledbetter's wife.

Things get off to a rollicking start with The Madman's Jig, a song with an outrageous time signature (I lost count, but discovered later it's in 27/4).

Two Cousins is one part reggae and one part hard bop, with Braxton Hicks's saxophone soaring over the jazz part.

Baptism By Fire opens with gospel-style piano, then quickens the pace for a scorching solo by trumpeter Alexis Baro. Pascoal contributes harmonica on his guest track, and Rudder delivers a strong vocal on Trini to the Bone.

All but two of the dozen tracks move at a high intensity, and when calypso meets bebop on Donna Lee (Goes South), you wish Gillespie could be up on stage with the band.

CaneFire plays The Cellar Jazz Club at 3611 W. Broadway tonight.

See cellarjazz.com or call 604-738-1959 for details.

Marke Andrews, Vancouver Sun
© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun

- * E-mail this Article
- * Print this Article
- * Share this Article