
Jazz

DAVE HARTL QUARTET

Straight, A Head

(Foaming at the Ear Music ★★★½)

This devastating little CD was rehearsed at Chris' Cafe on Sansom Street and recorded at University of the Arts, where all but the quartet's drummer impart jazz lore to youth. Pianist Dave Hartl shows a knack for writing compelling tunes and fomenting percussive solos, while saxophonist Ron Kerber gives a bright and hip cast to his leads. His solo on "Scrupulectomy" is sprinkled with dying fireballs — tones that fade downward — just one of many winning touches.

Bassist Craig Thomas and drummer Mark Graham provide plenty of firepower for this hard-charging recording, which strives for the edge and gets there.

— K.S.

Ratings:

★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor