

Buffalo News, Oct. 24, 2013

Jazz

1032K

Live in Buffalo and Rochester

[Passin' Thru Records]

3½ stars

An impressive recorded sample of the kind of avant-garde jazz that passes through Hallwalls on a semi-regular basis, courtesy of various people including patron David Kennedy. 1032K (which is written as 10 to the 32ndK power) is a trio consisting of Ku-umba Frank Lacy on trombone and “flumpet” (think trumpet with fluegelhorn DNA), bassist Kevin Ray and drummer Andrew Drury.

Albert Ayler’s “Ghosts” was recorded at Hallwalls, and the rest at Tale Vera in Rochester. Among the other compositions played are “Give It Some Thought” by Buffalo-born tenor saxophonist Joe Ford, along with tunes by Air’s Steve McCall and Henry Threadgill and Mingus’ “Ecclusiastics.” Just as Air used to, Ray and Drury are more than powerful enough to obviate the need for a pianist or guitarist.

It is often the province of most of the great avant-garde trombonists to harken back to the trombone sonorities of New Orleans jazz and Lacy is no exception, which is why “Ecclusiastics” is such a natural part of the group’s repertoire. The group’s name is explained thus on the disc: “The Planck Temperature. The temperature at which matter ceases to exist and conventional physics breaks down. According to Nova, at this point, ‘strange things, unknown things, begin to happen to phenomena we hold near and dear, like space and time.’ ”

A nicely scientific/poetic exaggeration of what goes on here.

– Jeff Simon