

Saxophonist Mike Murley shows up again on a self-produced project featuring a fairly youthful-looking foursome of musicians probably working out of Canada. As is the case with these types of productions, the principal offers up no biographical info among his numerous thanks other than a mention of his mentors, some of whom (like Barry Elmes, Terry Clarke, and John Riley) might be recognizable to readers of this mag.

Zippering through a set of nine Cervini originals, these fellows display their technical prowess with a familiarity that shows a certain degree of rehearsal was done. The leader is discreet and unobtrusive throughout, seemingly content to establish a firm bedrock for the others to glide over. As with most drummer-led dates, there are plenty of trapset expositions but most are thoughtfully interwoven within the context of the numbers such as the ones on “Bust-Your-Butt Falls” and “Tune For Amy” where they are integrated into a continuing vamp laid down by the piano and bass. Jon Maharaj gets several upright spots, like the introduction to the first mentioned tune, and he plays the intro to soon-to-be clicking “TGV” with Murley’s fishhorn, which is utilized on four of the titles. Pianist Adrean Farrugia impresses in several places solo wise and performs on an uncredited electric model on “The Sneaky Two.” Drummers will want to keep an ear out for the upcoming Ernesto Cervini.

Larry Hollis – Cadence Magazine